

CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
held on 19 May 2021 at 7pm

PRESENT:

The Mayor (Councillor J A Deakin)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor L A Mascot)

Councillors A Davidson, C Davidson, S Dobson, R Gisby, M Goldman, M Mackrory, R Massey, L Millane, R Moore, G H J Pooley, I C Roberts, S J Robinson, M Sismey, M S Steel

1. Apologies for Absence

Owing to the need to restrict to a quorum the number of members who could attend the meeting, the Mayor said that she would regard those not present as having submitted their apologies.

2. Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor

The Chief Executive explained that the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic had meant that it had not been possible for the current Mayor and Deputy Mayor to have a normal year in office. The Groups on the Council had therefore agreed to extend their terms of office by another year.

Election of Mayor

On the nomination of Councillor S J Robinson, seconded by Councillor I C Roberts, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor J A Deakin be elected Mayor of the City of Chelmsford for the ensuing year.

Appointment of Deputy Mayor

On the nomination of the Mayor, seconded by Councillor S Dobson, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor L A Mascot be appointed as the Deputy Mayor of the City of Chelmsford for the ensuing year.

3. Declarations of Acceptance of Office

Councillor Deakin made the declaration of acceptance of office as Mayor and took the chair. Councillor Mascot then made the declaration of acceptance of office as Deputy Mayor.

4. Mayoress and Deputy Mayor's Consort

The Mayor introduced to the Council her Mayoress for her year in office, her daughter, Helen Deakin. The Deputy Mayor introduced her Consort, her husband, Ian Mascot.

5. Address by the Mayor

The Mayor thanked the Council for electing her, this being only the second time a Mayor of Chelmsford had been elected to serve consecutive terms of office. Despite the restrictions resulting from the pandemic, the Mayor has carried out 179 engagements during the previous year, 66 of them online.

6. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor referred to the death in April of Councillor Malcolm Watson. She paid tribute to his dedicated service to the Council and the people of Chelmsford and asked that those present join her in observing a minute's silence in his memory.

The Mayor congratulated Councillor Robert Gisby on his recent election to the Council and welcomed him to the meeting.

The Council was informed that Canon Tom Page would continue to act as the Mayor's Chaplain for the ensuing year and that the Mayor's Charities would continue to be Helping Hands Essex, Mid and North Essex MIND and Sanctus. Despite the difficult circumstances, £9,000 had been raised for those charities over the past year and the Mayor thanked all those who had contributed so generously. She also thanked all those in her fund-raising team and everyone who had helped to support her and the Deputy Mayor during their first terms of office.

7. Leader's Scheme of Delegation

RESOLVED that the Leader's Scheme of Delegation of executive functions be noted.

8. Arrangements for and Appointments to City Council and Outside Bodies

RESOLVED that:

1. The appointment by the Leader of the Council of the following as the members of the Cabinet for 2021/22, and the function areas of those members of Cabinet indicated below, be noted:

Deputy Leader and Connected Chelmsford – Councillor M C Goldman
Fairer Chelmsford – Councillor C K Davidson
Greener and Safer Chelmsford – Councillor R J Moore
Sustainable Development – Councillor M J Mackrory

2. The members of the Council indicated below be noted as the opposition spokespersons on the Cabinet functions referred to:

Leader's responsibilities:

Conservative Group – Councillor R T Whitehead

Chelmsford Independents Group – Councillor I C Roberts

Deputy Leader's responsibilities and Connected Chelmsford:

Conservative Group – Councillor J Galley

Chelmsford Independents Group – Councillor W Daden

Fairer Chelmsford:

Conservative Group – Councillor M Sismey

Chelmsford Independents Group – Councillor R J Hyland

Greener and Safer Chelmsford:

Conservative Group – Councillor S Dobson

Chelmsford Independents Group – Councillor W Daden

Sustainable Development:

Conservative Group – Councillor M S Steel

Chelmsford Independents Group – Councillor K Bentley

3. The following Committees and the Treasury Management and Investment Sub-Committee be appointed for the year 2021/22 with the membership and Chairs indicated:

Audit and Risk Committee:

Councillors D Clark, N Dudley, J Galley, G B R Knight, J Raven, E Sampson, A Sosin, M Sismey, N Walsh (Chair),

Chelmsford Policy Board:

Councillors H Ayres, D Clark, W Daden, I Fuller (Chair), J Galley, N Gulliver, G B R Knight, G H J Pooley, R J Poulter, A Sosin, N Walsh, R T Whitehead, T N Willis

Employment Committee:

Councillors M Goldman, R J Moore, J A Potter, S Robinson, R T Whitehead (Chair to be elected at meeting)

Governance Committee:

Councillors H Ayres (Chair), K Bentley, N Chambers, N Dudley, D Jones, N Walsh, I Wright

And three Parish and Town Council Co-opted (non-voting) Members and two Independent Persons, Clarissa Gosling and Paula Mills

Licensing and Regulatory Committee:

Councillors R Ambor, L Ashley, D Clark, A Davidson, J Frasca, P V Hughes, A John, D Jones, R Lee, L Mascot (Chair), L Millane, I C Roberts, T E Roper

Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Councillors L Ashley, M Bracken, W Daden, I Fuller, J Galley (Chair), R Gisby, I Grundy, J Lager, C Shaw, M Sismey, M S Steel, C Tron, S Young (Vice Chair)

Planning Committee:

Councillors L Ashley, S Dobson, P Hughes, R J Hyland, J Lardge, R Lee, G H J Pooley, R J Poulter, T E Roper, E Sampson, C Shaw, J A Sosin (Chair), I Wright
Designated Substitutes – Councillors H Ayres, J Frasca, and S J Rajesh (Liberal Democrats), L Millane (Conservative) and K Bentley (Chelmsford Independents)

Treasury Management and Investment Sub-Committee:

Councillors M Bracken, D Clark, C Davidson (Chair), J Galley, G B R Knight, A B Sosin, R T Whitehead

Local Staff Joint Committee:

Councillors M Goldman, R Massey, R J Moore, I C Roberts, S J Robinson (Chair to be elected at meeting)

4. Councillor M J Mackrory be appointed as the Council's representative on the South Essex Parking Partnership Joint Committee.
5. The following be appointed as Equality and Diversity Champions: Councillors L Ashley, A Davidson and J Deakin and Councillor T N Willis as Climate Ambassador.
6. The persons named in Schedule C and shown in Appendix 1 to these minutes be appointed to represent the Council on the outside bodies referred to for the period indicated.
7. Part 3.2.3 of the Constitution be amended to reflect the changes to the number of places on the bodies referred to in Schedule B.
8. The Legal and Democratic Services Manager, after consulting the relevant Group Leaders, be authorised to:
 - (a) make appointments to an Employment Appeals Committee should the need for that Committee arise; and
 - (b) make appointments to or approve other changes to the representation of other non-Executive bodies that become necessary during the municipal year, provided that the political balance of those bodies continues to be observed.
9. The Legal and Democratic Services Manager, after consulting the political Groups, be authorised to finalise, amend or add to the appointments to Outside Bodies and to make any changes to them during the municipal year.

9. Chelmsford North-East By-Pass Bridge – Forward Funding

The Council was requested to approve a proposal that it forward fund the additional cost of the construction of a permanent multi-modal highway bridge across the Chelmsford North East Bypass.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Council agrees to provide a sum not exceeding £1.5m to Essex County Council in 2021/22 to forward fund the additional construction cost of a permanent multi-modal highway bridge across the Chelmsford North-East By-Pass on the condition that Essex County Council as Highways Authority and Countryside Zest as relevant developer enters into a satisfactory Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which sets out the funding recovery commitments outlined in Section 4 of the report to the meeting.
2. The Director of Sustainable Communities be given delegated authority to agree the MOU in consultation with the Director of Financial Services, Legal and Democratic Services Manager, Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development and the Cabinet Member for Fairer Chelmsford.

10. Contingency Arrangements for Decision Making

The Mayor said that she had agreed to accept as an additional item of urgent business a motion on contingency arrangements which would allow the Council to continue to make decisions if it was not possible to hold in-person meetings. She had agreed to do so on the grounds that the Council was the only body that could give the authority needed to put those arrangements in place and that they may be needed before the next scheduled meeting.

On the motion of Councillor S J Robinson, seconded by Councillor S Dobson, it was RESOLVED that:

“This Council takes the view that the continuing uncertainty over the spread and effect of the Covid-19 virus makes it necessary, in the interests of the health and safety of councillors, employees of the Council and the public, to consider contingency arrangements that provide for the business of the Council to be conducted without the need for in-person meetings.

To that end, and bearing in mind that the Regulations that allowed for decisions of local authorities to be taken via remote meetings have now expired, the Council resolves to authorise the Chief Executive, after consulting the Group Leaders, to implement the following arrangements if he considers that circumstances require them:

1. Member bodies will hold remote meetings for the time being. Whilst formal decisions will not be taken at those meetings, where it is necessary that action is required in respect of a particular matter, the relevant member body will give to the Chief Executive an indication as to how he might exercise his authority under paragraph 3.4.2.7 of the Constitution (authority to take urgent decisions) in respect of the matter in question.
2. The Notice of Executive Decisions published in accordance with Regulations 9 and 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 shall be regarded as giving notice of the Chief Executive's intention to take any Executive decisions referred to in that document.
3. The decisions of the Chief Executive will be published within two working days of being taken and, in the case of Executive decisions, may be subject to call in.

4. The Legal and Democratic Services Manager be authorised to amend the temporary amendments to the Constitution relating to the conduct of remote meetings agreed by the Council on 13 May 2020 to reflect the arrangements set out above and, so amended, they be extended until further notice and reviewed at each meeting of the Council.”

The meeting closed at 7.32pm

Mayor

Appendix 1

Body	Term of Office	No. of Representatives	Representatives
Chelmsford Age Concern	1 year	1	Councillor A Davidson
Chelmsford Business Board	1 year	1	Councillors M Goldman and S Goldman
Chelmsford Business Improvement District	1 year	1	Councillor S Goldman
Chelmsford CAB Trustee Board	1 year	4	Councillors Ashley, Ayres, Rajesh and Tron
Chelmsford Council for Voluntary Service	1 year	1	Councillor Young
Chelmsford Cultural Development Trust	1 year	1	Councillor Frasca
Chelmsford Educational Foundation	3 years commencing 1 st May 2020	2	Councillor Frasca and Liz Ahmed
Chelmsford Fairtrade	1 year	1	Councillor Dudley
Chelmsford Local Highways Panel	1 year	4	Councillors Lager, Lardge, Shaw, Steel
Chelmsford United Charities	4 years	3	Councillors Dudley and Willis and Mr Ron Alcock from October 2019 Councillor Jones, Mrs F B Mountain and one Conservative Group nominee from October 2020
Chelmsford YMCA	1 year	1	Councillor Shaw
Chelmsford Youth Strategy Group	1 year	1	Councillor Frasca
Danbury Lakes Country Park Forum	1 year	2	Councillors Hyland and Willis

Essex Countywide Traveller Unit Joint Committee	No fixed term	1	Councillor J Sosin
Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel	1 year	1	Councillor Lager (Councillor M Goldman, sub)
Essex Waste Partnership IAA Member Working Group	1 year	1	Councillor Lardge
Essex Waste Partnership Member Board	1 year	1	Councillor Moore
Fields in Trust	1 year from February 2021	1	Councillor Lee
Flood Partnership Board	1 year	1	Councillor Mackrory
Galleywood Heritage Centre	1 year	1	Councillor Hyland
King Edward VI Grammar School Historic Foundation Governors	3 years commencing 1st July 2020	4	Councillors Galley, Shepherd, A Sosin and Whitehead
Local Government Association – Assembly and Conference - Delegate	1 year	1	Councillor Robinson
Local Government Association – District Councils Network	1 year	1	Councillor Robinson
Marsh Farm Country Park Forum	1 year	2	Councillors Roberts and Walsh
One Chelmsford Partnership Strategic Board	1 year	1	Councillor Robinson (Substitute – Councillor Pooley)
PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulations)	1 year	1	Councillor Mackrory

Outside London) Adjudication joint Committee.			
South Woodham Ferrers Swimming Pool Steering Group	1 year	2	Councillors Bentley and Massey
Springfield United Charities	4 years commencing May 2019	3	Councillors Fuller and Tron and Mr R Stevens
Success Essex (formerly the Essex Business Board)	1 year	1	Councillor M Goldman
Tech Ambassadors	1 year	2	Councillors Bracken and M Goldman
The Barge Susan Trust	2 years commencing 1 st May 2021	1	Mrs F B Mountain
William de Ferrers Centre Users Committee	4 years from September 2020	1	Mr R Denston to continue

Bradwell Local Community Liaison Council	1 year	1	Director of Public Places or representative	Director of Public Places or representative
Essex Society for Archaeology and History	1 year	1	Director of Connected Chelmsford or representative	Director of Connected Chelmsford or representative