

**COUNCIL MEETING**

18 July 2019

7.00 pm – 10.25 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

3**Minutes****Membership:**

Martin Baxendale	P	Nick Hurst	P	Nigel Prenter	P
Dorcas Binns	A	George James	P	Skeena Rathor	P
Catherine Braun	P	Julie Job	P	Sue Reed	P
Chris Brine	P	Haydn Jones	P	Mark Reeves	P
Miranda Clifton	P	John Jones	P	Steve Robinson*	P
Nigel Cooper	P	Norman Kay	P	Mattie Ross	P
Doina Cornell	P	Darren Loftus	P	Tom Skinner	A
Gordon Craig	P	Stephen Lydon	P	Nigel Studdert-Kennedy	P
Rachel Curley	P	John Marjoram	P	Haydn Sutton	P
Stephen Davies	P	Phil McAsey	A	Brian Tipper	P
Paul Denney	A	Karen McKeown	A	Chas Townley	P
Jim Dewey	P	Jenny Miles	P	Jessica Tomblin	A
Jonathan Edmunds	P	Dave Mossman	P	Ken Tucker	P
Chas Fellows	A	Gill Oxley	P	Martin Whiteside	A
Colin Fryer	P	Keith Pearson	A	Tim Williams	A
Lindsey Green	P	Simon Pickering	P	Tom Williams	P
Trevor Hall	P	Gary Powell**	P	Debbie Young	P

**Chair *Vice-Chair P = Present A = Absent

Officers Present:

Chief Executive	Democratic Services & Elections Manager
Director of Development Services	Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Interim Director of Resources & Section 151 Officer	Democratic Services & Elections Officer

CL.014 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Binns, Denney, McKeown, Pearson, Skinner, Tipper and Whiteside.

CL.015 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 8ci, Unite Construction Charter, Councillor Cornell stated she and Councillors Fryer, Curley, and Hall were members of Unite the Union and did not consider that they had an interest under the Council's Code of Conduct which would

prevent them from taking part in this matter. Nevertheless, in the general interests of being open and transparent, they asked that it be noted.

CL.016 MINUTES

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Council's AGM held on 16 May 2019 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.

CL.017 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair made the following announcements:-

- 24 October 2019 was originally a provisional date for an Environment Committee and this date has now been confirmed.
- At the National Recycling Awards, the Council won the Overall Service Change Award for Cutting Waste and Landfill. Councillor Pickering, Chair of Environment Committee accepted the award on behalf of the Council and thanked residents in the district, officers and particularly the workers of UBICO.
- Councillor Ross congratulated the Museum Development Manager for the Museum in the Park receiving a 5 star accessibility rating from Accessible Gloucestershire.
- Councillor Ross invited those present to contribute to the charity collection for Allsorts, the Council's charity of the year, following the charity rounders tournament the previous evening.

The Leader confirmed that the final version of the Council's Corporate Delivery Plan had been published and copies had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

CL.018 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Questions were submitted from Wotton-under-Edge Town Council and also Kingswood Parish Council regarding Agenda Item 6, the Community Governance Review. They were answered by Councillor Davies. Supplementary questions were also answered. (Refer to the [Council's webcast](#) and Agenda Item 5.)

The Chair confirmed that Agenda Item 8ci, The Unite Construction Charter would be taken after the next item.

CL.019 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Councillor Davies, a member of the Community Governance Review Working Group presented the above report that contained 11 recommendations. He proposed that Members first took recommendations 1 – 10 and then discussed Wotton-under-Edge and Kingswood separately. He thanked the other Working Group Members and the Democratic Services and Elections Manager for all of their work.

Councillor Ross reminded Members that the Council could make a recommendation but the final decision for a number of the recommendations would be made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

Councillor Davies made reference to how Parish and Town Councils had worked together during the review process to acknowledge the views and requests of their residents.

Councillor Cooper seconded the proposal, which was subsequently agreed unanimously by Members.

- RESOLVED 1. To approve the final recommendations in relation to each Parish/Town Council within the Stroud District, with the exception of the recommendation for the boundary amendment to Kingswood Parish Council and Wotton-under-Edge Town Council;**
- 2. To authorise the Democratic Services and Elections Manager to request the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to make related alteration orders to change District Wards and county divisions to reflect the changes made to parish boundaries; and**
 - 3. To authorise the Interim Head of Legal Services to make a Reorganisation of Community Governance Order to implement the changes agreed by Council, subject to receiving the necessary consents from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.**

The Council then moved on to deal with Wotton-under-Edge and Kingswood separately. Councillor Davies replied to Members' questions reiterating that the Boundary Commission may or may not accept the Council's recommendations.

Councillor Braun proposed an amendment which was seconded by Councillor Tucker so that the substantive motion would read:

- "a) An amendment is made to the boundary of Kingswood Parish Council and Wotton-under-Edge Town Council to transfer Wotton-under-Edge South Ward into Kingswood Parish with the exception of the hamlet of Wortley as shown on Map 6 and the land highlighted in red on the map (see attachment), which includes Wotton Community Sports Foundation and Katharine Lady Berkeley's School;
- b) Wotton Road (B4060) and the associated adjacent footway (but excluding the OK Footpath), from the access track for Hawpark Farm to the existing Kingswood Parish boundary, would also transfer to Kingswood Parish Council;
- c) The number of Parish Councillors for Kingswood Parish is increased to EIGHT;
- d) Wotton-under-Edge Town Council retains THIRTEEN Councillors and there are no longer any warding arrangements in place for the Town Council; and
- e) The Council will make a consequential recommendation to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for related alterations to the district ward boundary between Kingswood and Wotton-under-Edge so that the hamlet of Wortley is transferred to Wotton-under-Edge District Ward."

The proposer outlined her reasons for the amendment which was the integrity of the site and not the division of sports facilities. A map showing the amendment to retain Wotton Community Sports Foundation and Katharine Lady Berkeley School in Wotton-under-Edge Town Council was displayed.

In reply to a question the Democratic Services and Elections Manager confirmed that the ownership of the land could be addressed within the consequential matters of the Reorganisation of Community Governance Order. Upon both parties agreement, the ownership of the land would remain the same.

During debate the following points were made by Members:-

- Three electors within the area next to Wotton Community Sports Foundation and Katharine Lady Berkeley's School was not a good enough reason to move the boundary resulting in the transfer of these facilities to Kingswood Parish.

- The concerns of Wotton-under-Edge Town Council were not raised early enough for the Working Group to consider them; however as per public question responses they were available for deliberation by Council when coming to its decision on whether to support the Working Group's recommendation.
- Community cohesion needed to be considered.
- The amendment had been previously considered by the Working Group.

Councillor Tucker read out a statement in support of the amendment outlining the history of Katharine Lady Berkeley's School and the surrounding land. In his opinion, the proposed amendment was the best solution to enforce the boundary change.

In summing up Councillor Braun outlined the strong ties that existed between the School and Wotton Community Sports Foundation and asked Members to support the amendment as a compromise.

When put to the vote the amendment was LOST.

Councillor Reeves put forward a further amendment which was seconded by Councillor Haydn Jones, so that the substantive motion would read:

"11.4.6 It is RECOMMENDED that the following community governance and electoral arrangements be approved;-

- a) An amendment is made to the boundary of Kingswood Parish Council and Wotton-under-Edge Town Council to transfer Wotton-under-Edge South Ward into Kingswood Parish with the exception of the hamlet of Wortley and Wotton Community Sports Foundation as shown on Map 6 the attached map;
- b) Wotton-under-Edge South Ward is absorbed in to Kingswood Parish and the Parish would not be warded;
- c) The number of Parish Councillors for Kingswood Parish is increased to EIGHT;
- d) Wotton-under-Edge Town Council retains THIRTEEN Councillors and there are no longer any warding arrangements in place for the Town Council; and
- e) The Council will make a consequential recommendation to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for related alterations to the District Ward boundary between Kingswood and Wotton-under-Edge so that the hamlet of Wortley is transferred to Wotton-under-Edge District Ward."

The Proposer also outlined the history of Katharine Lady Berkeley's School and how Kingswood had been pro-active in dealing with traffic issues in their Parish.

Councillor Braun confirmed that both facilities were working well at the moment and the split may create issues.

The Proposer confirmed that the two facilities would continue to be run by their existing parties.

Councillor Braun acknowledged that there was a small amount of disagreement between the two Parishes. A further option could be to have further time and not go forward with making a decision.

Councillor Davies stated that there had already been consultation as part of the process. The two Parishes failed to agree a way forward and deferring was not a realistic option.

There was no debate and when put to the vote the amendment was LOST.

Councillor Davies thanked Members for their patience in seeing democracy in action. He explained what Members would be voting for.

When put to the vote the Motion was CARRIED.

- RESOLVED 1.** To approve the final recommendations in relation to the boundary amendment between Kingswood Parish Council and Wotton-under-Edge Town Council;
- 2.** To authorise the Democratic Services and Elections Manager to request the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to make related alteration orders to change district wards and county divisions to reflect the changes made to parish boundaries; and
- 3.** To authorise the Interim Head of Legal Services to make a reorganisation of community governance order to implement the changes agreed by Council, subject to receiving the necessary consents from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

It is **RECOMMENDED** that the following community governance and electoral arrangements be approved:-

- a)** An amendment is made to the boundary of Kingswood Parish Council and Wotton-under-Edge Town Council to transfer Wotton-under-Edge South Ward into Kingswood Parish with the exception of the hamlet of Wortley as shown on Map 6;
- b)** Wotton-under-Edge South Ward is absorbed in to Kingswood Parish and the parish would not be warded;
- c)** The number of Parish Councillors for Kingswood Parish is increased to EIGHT;
- d)** Wotton-under-Edge Town Council retains THIRTEEN Councillors and there are no longer any warding arrangements in place for the Town Council; and
- e)** The Council will make a consequential recommendation to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for related alterations to the district ward boundary between Kingswood and Wotton-under-Edge so that the hamlet of Wortley is transferred to Wotton-under-Edge district ward.

CL.020 RECOMMENDATION FROM STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 11 JULY 2019

Unite Construction Charter

Councillor Cornell outlined the above report that the Monitoring Officer had presented at Strategy and Resources Committee and had been debated at length. Fifty-four other local authorities had already signed up to the Charter, including Bristol and Birmingham. A copy of both reports (the full report from Strategy and Resources Committee which formed background papers for the Council report and the Council report itself) had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting. The Charter would avoid bad practice, ensure workers on our sites were skilled and reinforce health and safety. The Motion was seconded by Councillor Hall.

In reply to Members' questions, Councillor Cornell confirmed the following:-

- Exceptions could be made on a case by case basis.

- If a contractor did not want to work with our policies then we did not want to work with them.
- The reports from Strategy and Resources Committee are in the public domain.

Councillor Hurst proposed an amendment, for the inclusion of a new paragraph 3:-

“3. Agrees that the Charter should NOT be applicable to any work required to deliver the Brimscombe Port project.”

This amendment was seconded by Councillor Davies.

Councillor Hurst stated that he was worried that the Charter may affect the Brimscombe Port project going forward, which was crucial for our Council. He did not have a problem with the Charter, but felt it was inappropriate for this particular project.

Councillor Cornell asked what evidence did Councillor Hurst have to draw him to this conclusion. Other Councils had signed the Charter.

Councillor Hurst would have liked feedback from the other 54 Councils who had signed the Charter. A discussion ensued whereby Councillor Hurst stated that the Council already had clear protocols in place when working with developers, eg policies and the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Councillor Braun read out the legal implications from the report (p.77).

During debate some Members stated that a contractor should be prepared to support the Charter. As a Council we are looking for partners who share our values.

The seconder, Councillor Davies acknowledged that we already had laws on Health and Safety and Fraud. This was not a unique amendment and fitted in with paragraph 1.4 of the Strategy and Resources Committee's report.

Councillor Hurst in summing up confirmed that he had spent 45 years in the construction industry and most contractors are reputable, with a few exceptions. These reputable contractors would possibly be removed from potentially bidding due to an extra layer of administration which would add extra cost to the contract. Brimscombe Port is a flagship project and we do not want another layer of control that might compromise viability.

Prior to voting Councillor Hurst read out his amendment:-

“3. Agrees that the Charter should NOT be applicable to any work required to deliver the Brimscombe Port project.”

On the amendment being put to the vote, the amendment was LOST.

Councillor Davies asked the question why we were adopting the Charter, outlining his reasons and suggested that we move into debate.

Councillor Hall supported the Motion which was for fairness, dignity and respect at work, and health and safety at work.

Councillor Cornell, in summing up stated that there was no evidence why Members should not support the Charter and felt that the Council would be sending out a poor message if the Charter was not supported.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED 1. To adopt the Unite Construction Charter, and
2. Request the Leader to sign the Charter on behalf of the Council.**

CL.021 MINCHINHAMPTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Councillor Pickering, Chair of the Environment Committee presented the above report and thanked the people of Minchinhampton for working together on their Neighbourhood Development Plan. This was seconded by Councillor Hurst.

During debate Members supported the Plan.

Councillor Hurst encouraged all parishes to sit down with their communities and shape their future by producing a neighbourhood plan. At Minchinhampton there had been significant debate whilst shaping this Plan.

In summing up, Councillor Pickering stated that the Plan allocated areas where Minchinhampton wanted to see future development and urged Members for their support.

On being put to the vote the Motion was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED 1. That the Minchinhampton Neighbourhood Development Plan is made part of the Development Plan for Stroud District.
2. To delegate to the Director of Development Services, in agreement with the Qualifying Body, the correction of any further minor spelling, grammatical or typographical errors together with any improvements from a presentational perspective.**

CL.022 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

a Housing Committee – 11 June 2019

ai Annual Report to Council

Councillor Townley, the Chair of Housing Committee presented the first Annual Report to Council from Housing Committee, as outlined in the Council's Constitution. This was seconded by Councillor Miles.

Councillor Cornell thanked the Housing Committee and Officers for all of their work.

On being put to the vote the Motion was unanimously CARRIED.

RESOLVED That the Annual Report is approved.

At 9.45 pm the Chair announced that the meeting would adjourn and it reconvened at 9.52 pm.

In accordance with the Council's Constitution (Section 3: paragraph 6) Members voted unanimously to continue with the meeting.

b Strategy and Resources Committee – 13 June 2019**bi Adoption of the Revised Procurement Strategy**

Councillor Cornell confirmed that the report had been discussed at Strategy and Resources Committee and thanked the Principal Procurement Officer for a good clear and concise strategy. This was seconded by Councillor Townley.

In reply to questions from Councillor Studdert-Kennedy, Councillor Cornell confirmed that the Modern Slavery Charter 2015 had been agreed at Council following the submission of a Motion. Regarding European law, if we left the European Union, the Council would continue to follow best practice and adhere to relevant legislation.

During debate Councillor Studdert-Kennedy welcomed the Revised Procurement Strategy which was clearly set out and would be easy to audit and check.

On being put to the vote the Motion was unanimously CARRIED.

RESOLVED That the revised Procurement Strategy is adopted.

bii Community Services Vehicle Replacement

Councillor Cornell confirmed that with the switch over to electric vehicles there would be long term savings, with no road tax, reduced fuel bills and lower servicing charges. This was seconded by Councillor Pickering.

In reply to Member's questions confirmation was given that:-

- All monies saved would be ring fenced and used for replacement vehicles.
- In the future the Council would be looking at battery storage and solar panels at EV charging points.
- It would take between 5-10 years to install more electric points.
- Smart technology is developing at a fast pace.
- There will be co-ordination around the District with partner organisations' installations.

In summing up Councillor Pickering stated that this was a wise use of Council money and also would contribute to our carbon neutral ambitions.

On being put to the vote the Motion was unanimously CARRIED.

RESOLVED That a Capital Budget of £257k is approved, funded from the Business Rates Reserve, to purchase a new low carbon fleet.

biii Military Covenant – Member Champion

Councillor Cornell confirmed that a lot of work had been undertaken by the Head of Housing Services, who had circulated an email to all Members outlining the role of the Member Champion.

Councillor Cornell proposed an amendment to the recommendation, recognising that this role would more appropriately continue to be a civic duty and should be undertaken by either the Chair or Vice-Chair of Council. The amendment was seconded by Councillor Townley.

Councillor Davies thanked the Head of Housing Service for all of his work and supported the amendment.

In summing up Councillor Cornell stated that after serving for their country ex-service personnel may need that extra support.

On being put to the vote the amendment was CARRIED.

The substantive Motion was voted upon and was also CARRIED.

RESOLVED To appoint the Chair and Vice-Chair of Council as the Member champion(s) to support the Military Covenant.

CL.023 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

Questions were submitted by Councillors Davies and Marjoram. They were answered by the Leader, Councillor Cornell. Supplementary questions were also asked and answered. (Refer to the [Council's webcast](#) and Item 9).

The meeting closed at 10.25 pm.

Chair