

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on
Thursday, 20 May 2021 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Anna Bradnam – Chair
Councillor Peter Fane – Vice-Chair

Councillors: Henry Batchelor, John Batchelor, Paul Bearpark, Dr. Martin Cahn,
Nigel Cathcart, Grenville Chamberlain, Graham Cone,
Dr. Claire Daunton, Sue Ellington, Corinne Garvie, Neil Gough,
Jose Hales, Bill Handley, Sally Ann Hart, Geoff Harvey,
Dr. Tumi Hawkins, Pippa Heylings, Mark Howell, Steve Hunt,
Tony Mason, Peter McDonald, Brian Milnes, Dawn Percival,
Deborah Roberts, Bridget Smith, Dr. Ian Sollom,
Dr. Aidan Van de Weyer, Bunty Waters, Fiona Whelan,
Heather Williams, John Williams, Dr. Richard Williams, Eileen Wilson
and Nick Wright

Officers: Liz Watts Chief Executive
Rebecca Dobson Democratic Services Manager
Peter Maddock Head of Finance

1. Election of Chair of the Council for 2021- 22

The Chief Executive asked for nominations for the Chair of the Council.

Councillor Bridget Smith, Leader of the Council, nominated Councillor Anna Bradnam.
Councillor Peter Fane seconded the nomination.

By secret ballot, Councillor Bradnam was elected unopposed as Chair of Council for the
municipal year 2021/22.

Councillor Bradnam read out and signed her declaration of acceptance of office.

The Chair proposed that Standing Order 21.2, which required Councillors to stand when
speaking, be suspended. The motion was seconded by the Leader, and Council

resolved by affirmation to suspend Standing Order 21.2.

The Chair invited Members to join her in a moment of silence to reflect on the new
municipal year. She then welcomed all those present to the meeting and made a number
of housekeeping announcements.

2. Appointment of Vice Chair of the Council for 2021- 22

The Chair nominated Councillor Peter Fane as Vice Chair of Council.

Councillor Tumi Hawkins seconded the nomination.

A secret ballot being conducted, Councillor Peter Fane was elected unopposed as Vice Chair of Council for the municipal year 2021/22.

Councillor Peter Fane read out and signed his declaration of acceptance of office.

3. Apologies

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Shrobona Bhattacharya, Ruth Betson, Tom Bygott, Clare Delderfield, Sarah Cheung-Johnson, Alex Malyon, Judith Rippeth and Nick Sample.

4. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members that they were required to declare the existence and nature of any interest which affected or related to any item of business to be considered. If the interest became apparent during the meeting, the Member should bring it to the attention of officers at that time.

5. Register of Interests

The Chair reminded Members that they should keep their register of interests up to date and that they should inform Democratic Services of any changes.

6. Minutes

The Chair noted the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2021 were not yet available. The Minutes would be considered at the next meeting.

7. Announcements

The Chief Executive thanked Democratic Services for their hard work in arranging this meeting at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford.

Members indicated their appreciation by way of applause.

8. Returning Officer's return of Councillors elected

The Chief Executive presented the return of Councillors elected in by-elections held on 6 May 2021, as set out on the agenda.

New Councillors Paul Bearpark, Corinne Garvie, Sally Ann Hart and Fiona Whelan were welcomed and invited to speak.

Councillor Paul Bearpark said he was delighted to join the Council and, speaking on behalf of all four new Members, that they were proud to represent their communities.

9. Political Proportionality, allocation of seats on committees and other appointments - 2021- 22

Council considered a report on political proportionality, allocation of seats on committees

and other appointments. The Democratic Services Manager presented the report, which the Chair then proposed, and the Vice Chair seconded.

Councillor Heather Williams said the nomination to the Joint Local Plan Advisory Group would be Councillor Dr Richard Williams, in place of Councillor Nick Wright.

Councillor Deborah Roberts thanked the Liberal Democrat Group and Conservative Group for each giving her a place from their allocated seats on committees. She was glad to be able to play a part on the Planning and Licensing committees.

Council **resolved** to allocate the following seats on committees:

Committee Seat Allocation

	No. of seats	Liberal Democrat	Conservative	Labour
Civic Affairs	9	6 (6.341)	2 (2.250)	1 (0.409)
Audit and Corporate Governance	7	5 (4.932)	2 (1.750)	0 (0.318)
Employment and Staffing	7	5 (4.932)	2 (1.750)	0 (0.318)
Licensing	14	9* (9.864)	3 (3.500)	1 (0.636)
Planning	11	7 (7.750)	3* (2.750)	0 (0.500)
Scrutiny and Overview	14	9 (9.864)	3 (3.500)	1 (0.636)
Total	62	44 (43.682)	15 (15.500)	3 (2.818)

*It was noted that the Liberal Democrat Group gave one seat from the Licensing Committee to Councillor Deborah Roberts, as a Member who was not aligned with a political group and that the Conservative Group gave Councillor Deborah Roberts one seat on the Planning Committee.

Joint Committee and Advisory Committee Seat Allocation

	No. of seats	Liberal Democrat	Conservative	Labour
Joint Development Control Committee	6	4 (4.227)	2 (1.500)	0 (0.273)
Climate Change and Environment Advisory Committee	7	5 (4.932)	2 (1.750)	0 (0.318)
Grants Advisory Committee	5	4 (3.523)	1 (1.250)	0 (0.227)

Council **received** the Group Leaders' nominations to seats on Committees:

Ordinary Committees

Body	Liberal Democrat	Conservative	Labour	Independent
Audit and Corporate Governance Committee	1. Tony Mason 2. Nick Sample 3. Jose Hales 4. Fiona Whelan 5. Geoff Harvey Substitutes: 1. Steve Hunt 2. Henry Batchelor	1. Mark Howell 2. Heather Williams Substitutes: 1. Nick Wright 2. Bunty Waters 3. Tom Bygott 4. Grenville Chamberlain 5. Graham Cone		
Civic Affairs Committee	1. Anna Bradnam 2. Claire Daunton 3. Martin Cahn 4. Bridget Smith 5. Aidan Van de Weyer 6. Henry Batchelor Substitutes: 1. Bill Handley 2. Geoff Harvey 3. Steve Hunt 4. Eileen Wilson	1. Heather Williams 2. Mark Howell Substitutes: 1. Bunty Waters 2. Nick Wright 3. Richard Williams 4. Sue Ellington 5. Graham Cone	1. Nigel Cathcart Substitute: 1. Gavin Clayton	

Employment and Staffing Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Henry Batchelor 2. Dawn Percival 3. Sally Ann Hart 4. Claire Daunton 5. John Williams <p>Substitutes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jose Hales 2. Peter McDonald 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mark Howell 2. Heather Williams <p>Substitutes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sue Ellington 2. Graham Cone 3. Nick Wright 4. Bunty Waters 5. Grenville Chamberlain 		
Licensing Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anna Bradnam 2. Eileen Wilson 3. Clare Delderfield 4. Fiona Whelan 5. Jose Hales 6. Alex Malyon 7. Geoff Harvey 8. Steve Hunt 9. Peter McDonald <p>Substitutes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nick Sample 2. Bill Handley 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shrobona Bhattacharya 2. Graham Cone 3. Mark Howell <p>Substitutes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sue Ellington 2. Nick Wright 3. Bunty Waters 4. Heather Williams 5. Ruth Betson 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gavin Clayton <p>Substitute:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nigel Cathcart 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deborah Roberts <p><i>Note: seat has been gifted by Liberal Democrat Group</i></p>

Planning Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pippa Heylings 2. Henry Batchelor 3. Martin Cahn 4. Peter Fane 5. Tumi Hawkins 6. Judith Rippeth 7. Geoff Harvey 8. Eileen Wilson <p>Substitutes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Claire Daunt 2 Anna Bradnam 3 Brian Milnes 4 Jose Hales 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Heather Williams 2. Richard Williams <p>Substitutes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nick Wright 2. Sue Ellington 3. Grenville Chamberlain 4. Mark Howell 5. Shrobona Bhattacharya 6. Graham Cone 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deborah Roberts <p><i>Note: seat has been gifted by Conservative Group.</i></p>
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Body	Liberal Democrat	Conservative	Labour	Independent
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Scrutiny and Overview Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Judith Rippeth 2. Anna Bradnam 3. Martin Cahn 4. Sarah Cheung Johnson 5. Claire Daunton 6. Peter Fane 7. Aidan Van de Weyer 8. Geoff Harvey 9. Steve Hunt 10. Sally Ann Hart <p>Substitutes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Henry Batchelor 2. Alex Malyon 3. Jose Hales 4. Ian Sollom 5. Paul Bearpark 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grenville Chamberlain 2. Richard Williams 3. Graham Cone <p>Substitutes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Heather Williams 2. Mark Howell 3. Sue Ellington 4. Bunty Waters 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nigel Cathcart 	
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Joint Committees

Body	Liberal Democrats	Conservatives	Labour
Joint Development Control Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anna Bradnam+ 2. Claire Daunton 3. Tumi Hawkins 4. Steve Hunt <p>Substitutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Peter Fane 2. John Williams <p>+ Spokesperson</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tom Bygott 2. Grenville Chamberlain <p>Substitutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Graham Cone 2. Mark Howell 	

Joint Local Plan Advisory Group	1. Tumi Hawkins 2. Aidan Van de Weyer	Richard Williams	
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Advisory Committees

Climate and Environment Advisory Committee	1. Pippa Heylings 2. Martin Cahn 3. Geoff Harvey 4. Peter Fane 4. Paul Bearpark Substitutes: 1. Eileen Wilson 2. Judith Rippeth	1. Graham Cone 2. Grenville Chamberlain Substitutes: 1. Heather Williams 2. Shrobona Bhattacharya 3. Nick Wright 4. Tom Bygott 5. Ruth Betson	
Grants Advisory Committee	1. Jose Hales 2. Claire Daunton 3. Bill Handley 4. Peter McDonald Substitutes: 1. Martin Cahn 2. Sarah Cheung-Johnson	1. Sue Ellington Substitutes: 1. Bunty Waters 2. Shrobona Bhattacharya 3. Mark Howell 4. Heather Williams 5. Tom Bygott	

Council **agreed** to appoint the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the following Committees:

Committee	Chair	Vice Chair
Audit and Corporate Governance	Tony Mason	Nick Sample
Civic Affairs	Anna Bradnam	Claire Daunton
Employment and Staffing	Henry Batchelor	Dawn Percival
Licensing	Anna Bradnam	Eileen Wilson
Planning	Pippa Heylings	Henry Batchelor

Scrutiny and Overview	Grenville Chamberlain	Judith Rippeth
Grants Advisory	Jose Hales	Sue Ellington
Climate Change and Environment Advisory	Pippa Heylings	Vice-Chairman (Environment): Martin Cahn Vice-Chairman (Climate Change): Geoff Harvey

Council **agreed** to re-appoint Grant Osbourn as the Council's lead Independent Person and Gillian Holmes as the Council's deputy Independent Person for a further term of two years.

Council **agreed** to re-appoint Grant Osbourn as a member of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel for a further 3-year term and appoint Jane Phillips as a member of the Independent Remuneration Panel for a 3-year term.

10. **Notification by Leader of the Council of the membership of the Cabinet for 2021-22**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Bridget Smith, announced the membership and roles of her Cabinet and said Councillor Dr Aidan Van de Weyer had stepped down from the Cabinet. She expressed sincere thanks for the support he had given.

Council **noted** the Leader's appointment of the following councillors to Cabinet for 2021-22:

Deputy Leader and Lead Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport and Transformation & Projects: Councillor Neil Gough

Lead Cabinet Member for Community Resilience, Health & Wellbeing: Councillor Bill Handley

Lead Cabinet Member for Finance: Councillor John Williams

Lead Cabinet Member for Housing: Councillor John Batchelor

Lead Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Delivery: Councillor Dr Tumi Hawkins

Lead Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Licensing: Councillor Brian Milnes

Lead Cabinet Member for Business Recovery and Skills: Councillor Peter McDonald

11. **Appointments to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority**

Council considered a report seeking appointments to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for the municipal year 2021/22 and authorising the Chief Executive to make any amendments to the appointments if required before the next Combined Authority council meeting.

The Chair drew Members' attention to a correction notified by the Combined Authority following publication of the agenda, indicating that the political proportionality had been revised. The change meant the recommendation in respect of nominations to the Combined Authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be for two members of the Liberal Democrat party.

The Chair proposed the motion as amended by the supplementary report circulated to Members. The Vice Chair seconded the motion.

By affirmation, Council **resolved**

1. to make the following appointments to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority:

Appointment	Member(s) nominated
Combined Authority	Bridget Smith Substitute: Neil Gough
Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee	1. Peter Fane 2. Judith Rippeth Substitute: Ian Sollom Substitute: Aidan Van de Weyer
Combined Authority Audit and Governance Committee	1. Tony Mason Substitute: Peter Fane

2. To authorise the Chief Executive to make any amendments to the appointments to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Audit and Governance Committee in consultation with the political group leaders, if the political balance were to be amended by the Combined Authority before the next council meeting.

12. **Appointments to outside bodies**

Council considered the report on Outside Bodies appointments.

In response to a question from Councillor Heather Williams, Councillor Claire Daunton said the nomination to the remaining vacancy on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Police and Crime Panel was Councillor Anna Bradnam.

The Chair proposed a motion to agree the nominations as set out in the report with this addition. The motion was seconded by the Vice Chair.

By affirmation, Council **resolved** to appoint Councillors to the following Outside Bodies for 2021/22.

Name	Current Representative(s)
Bassingbourn Village College Centre	Nigel Cathcart

Management Committee	
Cambridge & District Citizens' Advice Bureaux Management Committee Trustee Board	Jose Hales
Cambridge Airport Consultative Committee	John Williams
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CAPALC)	Peter Fane
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Waste Partnership	Brian Milnes Sub: Peter Fane
Cambridgeshire and District Blue Plaque Scheme	Corinne Garvie
Cambridgeshire Community Covenant Board	Jose Hales
Cambridgeshire County Council Health Committee	1. Corinne Garvie Sub: Alex Malyon
Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Board	1. Corinne Garvie Sub: Alex Malyon
Cambridgeshire Horizons Board	John Williams
Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel (Must be a Liberal Democrat)	1. Claire Daunton 2. Anna Bradnam
Carers Trust Cambridgeshire	Pippa Heylings
Comberton Village College Governing Body Sub-Committee	Ian Sollom
Conservators of the River Cam	Peter Fane
County Advisory Group on Archives & Local Studies	Claire Daunton
East West Rail Consortium	Neil Gough
Emmaus Cambridge Community	Judith Rippeth
Ermine Street Housing Ltd	1. Peter Fane 2. Ian Sollom
Farmland Museum Trustees	Anna Bradnam
Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board	1. Neil Gough Sub: 1. Bridget Smith
Local Access Forum	Martin Cahn

Natural Cambridgeshire	Pippa Heylings
Needingworth Quarry Liaison Committee	Bill Handley
North Herts & District Citizens Advice Bureau	Vacant
Old West Internal Drainage Board	1. Bill Handley 2. Neil Gough 3. Eileen Wilson
Over & Willingham Internal Drainage Board	Bill Handley
Responsive Repairs Partnership Management Board	1. Bunty Waters 2. Jose Hales 3. Eileen Wilson
Sawston Patient Reference Group	Clare Delderfield
Shifting Offered Furniture Around (SOFA)	Peter Fane
Swaffham Internal Drainage Board	John Williams
Swavesey Byeways Advisory Committee	1. Sue Ellington 2. Tumi Hawkins
Swavesey Internal Drainage Board	1. Bill Handley 2. Alex Malyon
Swavesey Village College Community Committee	Sue Ellington
Waterbeach Level Internal Drainage Board	1. Anna Bradnam 2. Vacancy

13. **Designation of Scrutiny and Overview Committee as crime and disorder committee**

Council considered the proposal as set out on the agenda.

The Chair proposed a motion to approve the motion, which was seconded by the Vice Chair.

By affirmation, Council **resolved** to designate the Council's Scrutiny and Overview Committee as its crime and disorder committee in accordance with sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.

14. **Agreement of scheme of delegation of Council functions**

Council considered the recommendation to agree the Council's scheme of delegation, as set out in the Constitution.

The Chair proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Peter Fane.

Councillor Heather Williams proposed an amendment to powers and functions delegated by the Planning Committee, in relation to Part 3, Table 5.

Councillor Heather Williams said whilst the existing scheme of delegation might be the right option, it should have been brought in after first consulting, in the interest of rebuilding trust.

Councillor Heather Williams tabled a written copy of her amendment, as follows:

that after the sentence in Table 5 “Applications for consent or permission under the Town and Country Planning Acts and listed Building and Conservation Area Acts shall be dealt with under delegated powers unless”, the following words at the end of the first paragraph be deleted “and sound planning reasons are given for why this is considered necessary and the request is accepted by the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development, in consultation with the Chair of Planning Committee (or Vice Chair in their absence), and that the following words be inserted: “and the officer’s recommendation is in conflict with that of the parish council or the local Member who has made the request”;

the words in brackets be deleted “(Footnote: Notwithstanding any decision is ultimately one for the officer themselves, the committee’s guidance in terms of decisions made in accordance with the delegation rules is that in cases which raise issues which are sensitive or controversial, the committee would expect the officer normally to refer the matter to committee)”;and

that after the words “The request by Parish Councils should be made within 21 days of the date of registration and by local Members not later than 28 days of the date of registration of the application, or within 14 days of receipt of any subsequent significant amendment to a current proposal”, the following words be deleted: “If the Joint Director, in consultation with the Chair, declines a request, a written explanation shall be given to the Parish Council and copied to the local Member.”

Councillor Dr Richard Williams seconded the amendment.

Councillor Deborah Roberts said she supported the amendment as she was aware of disquiet among parish councils that their concerns were brought to the Planning Committee, and that they felt these were being disregarded.

Councillor Dr Tumi Hawkins, Lead Cabinet Member for Planning, said whilst she was not surprised to see this amendment, she was disappointed. This was a forward-looking council. She could not accept this amendment to the process which the Council had put in place for working with parish councils, and she did not recognise the disquiet Councillor Roberts had mentioned. The Council had been holding quarterly meetings with parish councils and none had said they were unhappy with this current process.

Councillor Dr Tumi Hawkins said officers made their decisions based on material considerations. The minutes of the senior officers’ meetings were published and the parish councils were contacted to let them know the outcomes. She valued the input the District’s parish councils provided. A review would happen when appropriate.

Councillor Neil Gough, Deputy Leader, said there was no need for this amendment, and the Council had committed to looking at this process at the appropriate time.

Councillor Dr Richard Williams said Members said they would serve their communities,

and if this amendment were to result in slightly longer Planning Committee meetings, then so be it. Reference had been made to a review at an appropriate time, but it would be good to have certainty about the timing. The council should respect the requests of parish councils and he could not see why the Council would not approve this amendment.

A vote was taken on the amendment of Councillor Heather Williams and votes were cast as follows:

In favour (9):

Councillors Grenville Chamberlain, Graham Cone, Sue Ellington, Mark Howell, Deborah Roberts, Bunty Waters, Heather Williams, Richard Williams, Nick Wright

Against (27):

Councillors Henry Batchelor, John Batchelor, Paul Bearpark, Anna Bradnam, Martin Cahn, Nigel Cathcart, Claire Daunton, Peter Fane, Corinne Garvie, Neil Gough, Jose Hales, Bill Handley, Sally Ann Hart, Geoff Harvey, Tumi Hawkins, Pippa Heylings, Steve Hunt, Tony Mason, Peter McDonald, Brian Milnes, Dawn Percival, Bridget Smith, Ian Sollom, Aidan Van de Weyer, Fiona Whelan, John Williams, Eileen Wilson.

Abstain (0)

The amendment was therefore declared to have fallen.

A vote was taken on the original motion and votes were cast as follows

In favour (27):

Councillors Henry Batchelor, John Batchelor, Paul Bearpark, Anna Bradnam, Martin Cahn, Nigel Cathcart, Claire Daunton, Peter Fane, Corinne Garvie, Neil Gough, Jose Hales, Bill Handley, Sally Ann Hart, Geoff Harvey, Tumi Hawkins, Pippa Heylings, Steve Hunt, Tony Mason, Peter McDonald, Brian Milnes, Dawn Percival, Bridget Smith, Ian Sollom, Aidan Van de Weyer, Fiona Whelan, John Williams, Eileen Wilson.

Against (9):

Councillors Grenville Chamberlain, Graham Cone, Sue Ellington, Mark Howell, Deborah Roberts, Bunty Waters, Heather Williams, Richard Williams, Nick Wright

Abstain (0)

Council

RESOLVED to

agree the scheme of delegation of Council functions as set out in Table 3, Part 3 of the Constitution, setting out the Committees established, with the respective composition of members as set out, with responsibilities to carry out the functions as set out.

15. Questions From the Public

The Chair said no questions from the public had been received, but that

representatives from Histon and Impington Parish Council were present, and she would allow them the opportunity to speak at the start of the item on the agenda relating to the Histon and Impington Local Plan.

15 (a) Business Plan 2020-25 (Cabinet 22 March 2021)

Council considered the 2020-25 Business Plan. Councillor Neil Gough, Deputy Leader and Lead Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport and for Transformation and Projects, presented a report. He highlighted the fact that delivery of actions was in the context of the pandemic, and moved the recommendations as set out.

Councillor Peter McDonald, Leader Cabinet Member for Business Recovery and Skills, seconded the motion. He said the allocation of grants to businesses had been done effectively and had provided a lifeline to businesses. He said the council was one of the best performing councils in the county and that it had passed the threshold to secure future Government grants. He thanked all officers involved for their support for ensuring rapid deployment of grants.

Councillor John Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance, said he supported this strong business plan and that the council needed a strong financial base. He referred to progress over the last three years and the income from investment and business rates. He said the council had delivered a sound financial base for this business plan and commended colleagues and officers for their work to produce it.

Councillor Bill Handley, Lead Cabinet Member for Community Resilience, Health and Wellbeing, said the communities team had worked extremely hard in delivering much of the work arising from Covid-19. He commended the fantastic service they had given.

Councillor John Batchelor, Lead Cabinet Member for Housing, said he had taken on the housing portfolio only recently, but had been impressed. He highlighted the fact that from its significant housing asset base the council still provided affordable housing and support for tenants. He welcomed the measures being taken to green the housing stock, including a trial with Southampton University. The words "Green to our Core" were apt, as the council had been recognised in the public sector transformation awards. He highlighted the dedicated officer role for climate change which had been set up, and a number of other initiatives and the aspiration of the council to conduct air quality monitoring through the district.

Councillor Deborah Roberts said it was the government to whom people should be grateful, for providing the money to councils to help people through the pandemic. She referred to the history of her having fought to keep housing under the authority's control, which she said the current administration was now taking the credit for. She referred also to risks of a fall in value of the commercial property investments the council was making, which she considered was being conducted without transparency and openness, and to the need for the authority's accounts to be audited.

Councillor Grenville Chamberlain said the Business Plan contained much that was good, but investment in commercial property was risky. There was in his view no doubt the market was debating whether to reduce space requirements, with break clauses for some in the future. He had grave concerns at the prospect of such investments.

Councillor Grenville Chamberlain referred to the liaison meetings being run to minimise disruption and help new residents settle in but said the approval of the Bourn Airfield planning application maximised disruption. The range of traffic calming measures should

not have been approved.

Councillor Heather Williams said the Opposition had challenged each year the lack of reference to pubs, so she was grateful that they had now been included in the Business Plan. She recognised there might be much merit in the Business Plan, and that her Group would be willing to work collaboratively where it felt it could. However, she was not able to support all that was in this Business Plan, and referred to a number of concerns, including Bourn Airfield, the percentage of homes which were affordable to live in and the financial basis for the business plan, which she noted was a political document and not one which reflected on officers. Councillor Heather Williams went on to express concern that in order to achieve the stated income from the Council's investment strategy, the Council had to have a high risk appetite, with which she was uncomfortable given this was taxpayers' money. The business plan contained too much that she could not support.

Councillor Nick Wright said this business plan was based on that of the Conservative Group, with additions. He supported the greening plans and said ambitious targets had been set, which he would expect to be met. He had concerns at the level of risk to achieve the level of growth stated in the plan and at the quality of life for residents facing growth in housing development and transport.

Councillor Mark Howell supported the comments made earlier by Councillor Deborah Roberts in respect of housing. He acknowledged the need to look forward, but shared the reservations expressed by others regarding commercial pressures.

Councillor Dr Richard Williams welcomed the inclusion of the mobile warding scheme and said he shared many of the green ambitions. He expressed concern regarding the amount of borrowing which could not be referred to in an open meeting. He supported the proposals for supplementary planning documents and hoped more attention would be paid to them than had been the case for Waterbeach New Town.

Councillor Nigel Cathcart said this was on the whole a good plan. There was a balance of risk and reward of investment to keep in mind, particularly in changing circumstances. He fully supported financing the green agenda. He agreed the importance of recognition of supporting the District's pubs.

On behalf of Councillor Gavin Clayton, who had thought it would be possible to join the meeting online, the Chief Executive said Councillor Clayton wished to make the following points:

- Regarding A1, the Encompass and Safe Space, to ensure badging of hospitality businesses for championing equality of access for the LGBTQ community;
- Regarding B1 – to add Universal Credit as an ongoing objective and as a more general point, he hoped cultural provisions could be built into this plan. To add what percentage of total homes built would be Council Houses over the coming year
- To add the achievement of funding of renewed Benefits and Welfare Advisor position
- Whether any of the plastic recycling collected by South Cambs residents was sent abroad and burned

Councillor Neil Gough responded to the points raised in the debate. In response to the points passed on by the Chief Executive on behalf of Councillor Gavin Clayton, he said he would look into the question of Encompass training and into the other matters. The reference regarding the Benefits Adviser would be incorporated into the Plan. To the best of his knowledge, all the plastic recycled from this district was treated in the UK.

In response to Councillor Deborah Roberts, Councillor Neil Gough said the source of the Covid relief funding was unimportant, it was for this council to allocate it appropriately and with care. He thanked Councillor Nigel Cathcart for his comments and said the investment decisions were not entered into lightly but were closely scrutinised first. This was an ambitious business plan and one which aimed to support residents.

A vote being taken, votes were recorded as follows:

In favour (27):

Councillors Henry Batchelor, John Batchelor, Paul Bearpark, Anna Bradnam, Martin Cahn, Nigel Cathcart, Claire Daunton, Peter Fane, Corinne Garvie, Neil Gough, Jose Hales, Bill Handley, Sally Ann Hart, Geoff Harvey, Tumi Hawkins, Pippa Heylings, Steve Hunt, Tony Mason, Peter McDonald, Brian Milnes, Dawn Percival, Bridget Smith, Ian Sollom, Aidan Van de Weyer, Fiona Whelan, John Williams, Eileen Wilson.

Against (9):

Councillors Grenville Chamberlain, Graham Cone, Sue Ellington, Mark Howell, Deborah Roberts, Bunty Waters, Heather Williams, Richard Williams, Nick Wright

Abstain (0)

Council **resolved**

- A)** To approve the 2020-25 Business Plan at Appendix A to the report (with the Action Plan primarily focused on delivery 2021-22); and
- B)** Authorise the Chief Executive to make any minor wording changes required to the final draft, in consultation with the Deputy Leader, including the percentage of total homes built that will be Council houses over the coming year.

16. Scrutiny and Overview Committee annual report 2020-21

Members considered the Scrutiny and Overview Committee's annual report for 2020-21. Councillor Grenville Chamberlain, presenting the report, thanked the Chief Executive and other officers for helping the committee focus on the significant issues and to achieve manageable agenda packs. He thanked the Committee's members and in particular those who had served on the Committee's Task and Finish Groups and paid tribute to Councillor Judith Rippeth as Vice Chair of the Committee for her support.

Councillor Grenville Chamberlain said the Committee had looked closely at the planning process and he was delighted to hear the Planning Service had achieved an aware for delivery of large applications. He asked that they continue to take care with small applications, referring to a resident having complained recently of waiting 14 months for a certificate of lawful development.

The Chair thanked Councillor Grenville Chamberlain for his even handedness in chairing the Committee.

The Chief Executive thanked Councillors Grenville Chamberlain and Judith Rippeth, and to Councillor Brian Milnes who had been the previous Chair of this Committee, for their having provided a safe pair of hands in a non-political way, as this had significantly contributed to the operation and policy of the council.

The Council noted the report.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at this point for a 10 minute break until 4pm.

17. Civic Affairs Committee annual report 2020-21

Members received the report of the Civic Affairs Committee for 2020-21. Councillor Claire Daunton, presenting the report, said the Committee had addressed a number of significant matters during the year and she wished to record her thanks to the Committee and to its former Chair, Dr Douglas de Lacey.

Council noted the report.

18. Constitution amendments

Members considered the report on Constitution amendments.

The Monitoring Officer highlighted the main points of the report.

The Chair proposed a motion to accept the recommendations, which was seconded by the Vice Chair.

Council **resolved** to adopt the changes to the Constitution outlined as Appendix A and authorise the Chief Executive to make the necessary changes.

19. Write Off of Outstanding Debt 2020-21

Council received a report on the write off of outstanding debts, presented by Councillor John Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance.

Council noted the report.

20. Adjustment to Council Tax resolution to correct the precepts for the parishes of Heydon and Wimpole

Council considered a report seeking a correction to an error in setting the precept and council tax charges for the parishes of Heydon and Wimpole. Councillor John Williams, presenting the report, apologised for the error.

The Chair proposed a motion to accept the recommendation. The motion was seconded by the Vice Chair.

Council **resolved** to approve a correction to the precept and charges for the parish councils of Heydon and Wimpole, as set out at paragraph 5 of the report.

21. Making of the Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan

Council received a report on the making of the Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan.

The Chair invited Councillor Neil Gough, as one of the ward Members for Cottenham, to read out a statement on behalf of the Chair of Cottenham Parish Council, Councillor Peter Hewitt. He said the Parish Council wished to record its thanks for the hard work which had gone into achieving the Neighbourhood Plan, to all those involved, including the former Chair of the Parish Council, Councillor Frank Morris, and to the parishioners, 88% of whom had voted in favour of the Plan.

Councillor Dr Tumi Hawkins, Lead Cabinet Member for Planning, said Neighbourhood Plans were an important tool for development. She emphasised how important local democracy was in the planning process. Eighteen more areas had been designated for neighbourhood plans. She proposed a motion to support the recommendation.

Councillor Eileen Wilson said she was delighted to second the motion. This Neighbourhood Plan gave a voice to the community to ensure Cottenham remained a good place to live. She thanked all involved for this achievement which had already brought about a new village hall.

Councillor Heather Williams welcomed the Neighbourhood Plan which gave an invaluable means of giving weight to the views of communities.

Council **resolved** by affirmation to

- A)** Note that the referendum for the Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan took place on 6 May 2021;
- B)** that as it was a successful referendum, to “make” (adopt) the Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan; and
- C)** Delegate to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development in liaison with the Lead Cabinet Member for Planning and the Parish Council Chair, the making of minor non-material changes and updates to the Referendum versions of the Neighbourhood Plan (Appendix 1) to enable preparation of a final made (adopted) Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan.

22. Making of the Histon and Impington Neighbourhood Plan

Council considered a report on the making of the Histon and Impington Neighbourhood Plan.

At the invitation of the Chair, Councillor Denis Payne, Chair of Histon and Impington Parish Council addressed the meeting. He said there had been challenges but acknowledged the support of the District Council throughout the engagement process, in particular, the Senior Planning Policy Officer. He thanked Parish Councillor David Jenkins who had led the Working Group, and residents, over 91% of whom who had voted in favour.

Councillor Dr Tumi Hawkins said the Histon and Impington Neighbourhood Plan area had been designated in 2014, so it had been a long journey. The Plan would create business growth and the opportunity to protect the local character of the area. She moved the recommendation.

Councillor Pippa Heylings seconded the motion, and congratulated all those involved, referring to the designation of open space in particular where it had been impacted by the works to the A14 and was to be regenerated. She encouraged all those communities working on neighbourhood plans to look at how Histon and Impington's Neighbourhood Plan was helping to shape that regenerated green space.

Councillor Steve Hunt said neighbourhood plans were not about setting villages in stone, but aimed to protect them from the threat of suburbanisation. This was a remarkable document and a fantastically dedicated team, whom he saluted.

Councillor Heather Williams congratulated the parish council. She said one size did not fit all in planning, and this neighbourhood plan had her full support.

By affirmation, Council **resolved** to

- D)** Note that the referendum for the Histon & Impington Neighbourhood Plan took place on 6 May 2021;
- E)** that as it was a successful referendum, to “make” (adopt) the Histon & Impington Neighbourhood Plan; and
- F)** Delegate to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development in liaison with the Lead Cabinet Member for Planning and the Parish Council Chair, the making of minor non-material changes and updates to the Referendum versions of the Neighbourhood Plan (Appendix 1) to enable preparation of a final made (adopted) Histon & Impington Neighbourhood Plan.

23. Oxford-Cambridge Arc Update

Councillor Bridget Smith, Leader of the Council, gave an update on the recent activities of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc. She referred to the forthcoming plenary meeting with the Minister, on which she would report further to Members.

24. Leader of the Opposition's annual statement

Councillor Heather Williams made a statement as Leader of the Opposition.

Firstly, I would like to say how wonderful it is to see so many familiar faces at the meeting today safe and well.

I recall a conversation right at the start I had with Councillor Bridget Smith and the most important thing we said to each other is “stay safe.” I would also like to welcome the new members of Council, and I wish them all the best as they start their new term. The Covid pandemic has challenged us all both collectively and individually, I would like to congratulate officers not only in the way they responded to the pandemic but also how quickly we were running business as usual and virtual meetings. The devotion that the public sector workers give whether they are Council, NHS, care workers or emergency services can never be measured or thanked enough, including those in the room with us today. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to them and collectively we would like to say thank you.

As individuals we have all faced our own challenges, for some that may have been

adapting to new technology, naming no names for a few virtual meeting blunders, home-schooling, and caring for loved ones. Personally, potty training during a pandemic has led to some very interesting exits from virtual meetings and Councillor Cone having to dramatically interrupt and take over the chair of one of our group meetings. Inevitably there will always be times when we disagree as we have already experienced today, we have not always agreed about planning or how best to spend the Council's finances but as a group we do not oppose for opposing's sake. I am pleased we have found agreement on issues such as addressing the effects of climate change, tackling racism and discrimination, and supporting our communities during the pandemic. This is the first time I am giving the leader of the opposition annual statement and that is quite a mouthful, and I would like to thank members of the Conservative Group of the trust they have given myself and Councillor Cone in our leadership. The support they have given us has led us to be where we are today, and we are grateful for the time and confidence they have shared with us. In our group one key piece of advice is given to us all which is "your priorities are in this order, your family, your residents, your Council, your party and your party is last" when we all come to face the ballot box next year we will be able to look our residents in the eye and know we have put them first, and I do wonder how many other Councillors, Chairman, will have a clear conscience that they also have always put people before party politics.

25. Questions From Councillors

25 (a) From Councillor Dr Richard Williams

Councillor Dr Richard Williams asked a question as follows:

Will the administration of the Council commit to expanding the resources allocated to managing Tree Protection Order applications, Conservation Area matters and Trees works applications in the Council by employing an additional Trees Officer?

Councillor Dr Tumi Hawkins, Lead Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Delivery, responded as follows:

The Shared Planning service currently has two officers employed in managing the tree works programme.

Recognising the increased workload, we recently employed additional administrative support on a temporary basis. This temporary support is focused on administration of Tree Protection Order and tree works applications so that we can make best use of the expertise of the two tree officers.

In addition, and as part of a service wide program, we are reviewing how such administration can be handled effectively in the future so that we can maximise the skills and capabilities of our officers.

In the meantime, we will continue to keep a close eye on the effectiveness of the support we have just put in so we can use the learning in the wider service.

Councillor Dr Richard Williams said the level of work for Tree Officers was huge, and over the preceding 12 months, approximately 1000 applications for tree works had been received. Trees were vital for communities and for climate change objectives. He asked again whether an additional Tree Officer could be employed.

Councillor Dr Tumi Hawkins said with the support provided to the Tree Team, processing of tree applications was much quicker and the software to enable faster processing was nearly ready for use. She would be happy to discuss progress with Councillor Dr Richard Williams over the next few months.

26. From Councillor Nick Wright

Councillor Nick Wright asked a question as follows.

In a recent meeting between our MP, Anthony Browne with East West Rail for those parishes north of the A428, Will Gallagher, director of strategy from EWR was questioned as to why the station north of Cambourne was preferred. He pointed the finger at local government bodies, namely South Cambs District Council and the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership. Please could you tell me what the process was used to reach this conclusion?

Councillor Dr Tumi Hawkins said she was puzzled by this assertion as no such indication had been given by East-West officials at any of the meetings she had attended. The question was vague in respect of the phrase “pointing the finger”. The Council’s response to the consultation in 2018 had been published and the response to the current one was due to be considered at the meeting of Cabinet next week. In neither case had reference been made to a preference for a “North Cambourne” station. She recalled statements made by the previous Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mayor and in the campaign of the MP.

Councillor Heather Williams said, as a point of information, that the reference made regarding the former Mayor suggested he had supported a station north of Cambourne, but that he had instead supported one on the southern approach at Bassingbourn.

Councillor Deborah Roberts said, as a point of order, that the question was not about the MP but about what, if anything, the Council had done in this regard.

Councillor Nick Wright, as a supplementary question, said his question had not been answered and he asked what process had caused the official in question to give this opinion. Had there been secret meetings?

Councillor Dr Tumi Hawkins said the response had been published and was in the public domain and in neither response was reference made to a preference to north of Cambourne. There had been no secret meetings. The one person she was aware of who had expressed this view had been the MP.

27. From Councillor Sue Ellington

Councillor Sue Ellington asked a question as follows.

Why are the sheltered housing residents of Thistle Green in Swavesey not allowed to use their communal rooms until the end of June, when they are paying for them? They are doubly vaccinated and are very able people who have taken advice.

Councillor John Batchelor, Lead Cabinet Member for Housing, replied that a risk assessment for the sheltered housing communal areas was being finalised and that it needed to take account of the fact the areas had been closed for 12 months. Cases of the new Covid variant were on the rise and the Council was taking a cautious approach

following government guidelines. Events could take place out of doors and information would be circulated in the June Housing newsletter.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Sue Ellington said residents wished to have communal areas available which was important where so many had had experience of loneliness in the past year.

Councillor John Batchelor said the council was doing all it could to protect its residents. He had spoken with the Chair of the tenants' forum to make him aware of the approach being taken. Of the 41 sheltered housing schemes, this was the only one which had raised this matter.

28. Dates of Council meetings 2021-22

Council agreed to move the date of its meeting on 21 April 2022 to **23 March 2022**.

29. Chair's Engagements

Council noted the attendance of the Chair whilst in her capacity as Vice Chair of the Council at the inaugural meeting of the Interim Council for Northstowe Town Council.

Councillor Bridget Smith, Leader of the Council, congratulated Councillor Anna Bradnam and Councillor Peter Fane for their conduct of the annual meeting.

The Meeting ended at 5.08 p.m.
