

## Council

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### **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20 JULY 2021 AT THE LANSDOWN HALL, CIVIC CENTRE, TROWBRIDGE**

#### **Present:**

Cllr Stuart Wheeler (Chairman), Cllr James Sheppard (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Phil Alford, Cllr Liz Alstrom, Cllr Helen Belcher, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Nick Botterill, Cllr David Bowler, Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Steve Bucknell, Cllr Clare Cape, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Daniel Cave, Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Zoë Clewer, Cllr Mark Connolly, Cllr Caroline Corbin, Cllr Brian Dalton, Cllr Kevin Daley, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Matthew Dean, Cllr Dr Monica Devendran, Cllr Nick Errington, Cllr Sarah Gibson, Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Ross Henning, Cllr Sven Hocking, Cllr Nick Holder, Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Peter Hutton, Cllr Tony Jackson, Cllr Mel Jacob, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr Bob Jones MBE, Cllr Johnny Kidney, Cllr Carole King, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Edward Kirk, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Kathryn Macdermid, Cllr Dr Brian Mathew, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cllr Charles McGrath, Cllr Dominic Muns, Cllr Nabil Najjar, Cllr Kelvin Nash, Cllr Christopher Newbury, Cllr Andrew Oliver, Cllr Stewart Palmen, Cllr Bill Parks, Cllr Antonio Piazza, Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney, Cllr Tony Pickernell, Cllr Horace Prickett, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Nic Puntis, Cllr Tamara Reay, Cllr Rich Rogers, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Tom Rounds, Cllr Paul Sample JP, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr Martin Smith, Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cllr Ian Thorn, Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall, Cllr Jo Trigg, Cllr Tony Trotman, Cllr Mark Verbinnen, Cllr David Vigar, Cllr Iain Wallis, Cllr Derek Walters, Cllr Philip Whitehead, Cllr Suzanne Wickham, Cllr Christopher Williams, Cllr Graham Wright and Cllr Robert Yuill

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#### **16 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mary Champion, Ernie Clark, Mark Connolly, Caroline Corbin, Jane Davies, Adrian Foster, Jacqui Lay, Ian McLennan, Dr Nick Murry, Ashley O'Neill, Jack Oatley, Paul Oatway QPM, Mike Sankey, Tim Trimble, Bridget Wayman and Mary Webb.

#### **17 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2021 were presented for consideration, and it was,

#### **Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2021 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.**

## 18 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of disclosable interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.

## 19 Announcements by the Chairman

Through the Chairman there were the following announcements:

### Recent Engagements:

16 June 2021 - Opening of the Honorary Consulate Office of the Republic of Poland by the Polish Ambassador, His Excellency Prof. Arkady Rzegocki, accompanied by the Consul General, Mateusz Stasiek and other consular officers, Waterworks Road, Trowbridge.

4 July 2021 – Vice-Chairman virtually attended the Mayor of Trowbridge’s Civic Service, St. James’ Church, Trowbridge

### HM The Queen’s Birthday Honours

The Chairman congratulated Wiltshire residents listed in the Queen’s Birthday Honours:

#### Officers of the Order of the British Empire (OBE)

- Mr. Allan Bennett, Salisbury, OBE for services to Microbiology in the Covid-19 response;
- Mr. Keith Lever, Wanborough, OBE for services to Volunteering during Covid-19;
- Dr. Christopher Timperley, Salisbury, OBE for services to UK Defence and Security;

#### Members of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)

- Mr. Clegg Bamber, Swindon, MBE for services to Education.
- Mrs. Anita Seaton, Chippenham, MBE for services to the Environment and Vulnerable Communities;

#### Medallists of the Order of the British Empire (BEM)

- Mr. Louis Edwards, Corsham, BEM for services to Defence and for Voluntary Service;
- Mr. Colin Elford, Salisbury, BEM for services to Forestry;
- Mr. Peter Lamont, Melksham, BEM for services to Young People

### South West Challenge

Wiltshire Council staff had again won the South West Challenge in which 8 teams competed, in playing the part of an executive team dealing with and turning around the poor performing fictional Isle of Boroshire authority. The winning team included: Henry Powell, Ella Crerar, Katrina McJannet, Laura Young, Rachel Finlay and Kirsty Rose.

### Recorded Votes

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by the Vice-Chairman, it was

### **Resolved:**

**That Council suspend paragraphs 22.6.2 and 22.6.4 of Part 4 of the Constitution in respect of recorded voting.**

## 20 **Petitions**

The Chairman moved and presented the report by the Head of Democratic Services, which gave Council details of the one petition received for the period since the last Council meeting.. This was seconded by Councillor Sheppard.

### **Resolved:**

**That Council note the report, the petition received, and the actions being taken in relation to them, as set out in the report.**

## 21 **Public Participation**

There were no public statements or questions submitted.

## 22 **Annual Treasury Management Outturn Report**

Councillor Pauline Church, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement, Commissioning, IT, Digital and Commercialisation, introduced and moved the recommendation as detailed in the report. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Richard Clewer.

The council was required by regulation to provide an Annual Treasury Management Review of activity and credential treasury indicators for the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. A variation of the report had been presented to Cabinet.

The council continued to finance capital expenditure through maximising the use of capital receipts, capital grants and internal borrowing, overall enabling the council to under borrow by £176.5m and avoid interest costs of £3.8m.

It was stated that the council undertakes capital expenditure on long term assets and investments, financed immediately through capital or revenue resources with no impact on the Council borrowing need, or if insufficient in ternal funding was available or a decision was taken not to use internal resources, this would give rise to borrowing need.

A summary of the council's borrowing position on 31 March 2021 was detailed in appendix 1. The council's treasury position was intrinsically linked with the Capital Programme. When placing treasury transactions in the market, consideration would be given to investments with environmental and social benefits.

The Chairman then invited Group Leaders to comment on the report and presentation.

Councillor Richard Clewer thanked Councillor Church and noted that the report had been approved by Cabinet.

Councillor Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, thanked officers for enabling attendance at Council in a safe way and Trowbridge Town Council for hosting the meeting at the Civic Centre. He then noted that it would be helpful to understand the administration's view in terms of how to ensure the investments were as ethical as possible, in terms of investments with institutions and loans to local authorities. He hoped for a Business Plan which was more specific, and output driven so that we can measure performance in specific ways.

Councillor Graham Wright, on behalf of the Independent Group, thanked Councillor Church for her report.

Councillor Ricky Rogers, Leader of the Labour Group, noted that it was financially reassuring to hear that the Capital Programme would be back on track with future projects and developments.

The item was then opened for general debate.

During debate, there was a request for future reports to set out the criteria relating to social policy objectives.

Other issues raised included the loan repayment rates of 4,5, & 6% in relation to the base rate of 0.1%, and whether there was scope to re-negotiate. The focus on capital borrowing and expenditure was also welcomed.

Councillor Church noted that as much effort as possible was made to ensure that investments were ethical. The Capital Programme needed to be deliverable and have the correct focus for the authority. She was keen for future reports to include a link to the Social Policy Objectives and would liaise with Officers to take this forward.

With regards to high loan rates, those were the rates at the time the loans were taken out, work to establish if it would be viable to come out of the high interest loans and to re-borrow had been undertaken, however, to come out of a long-term borrowing position involved quite high costs, therefore to take that option would negate any savings.

At the conclusion of debate, and after hearing from the Cabinet Member, it was

**Resolved:**

**That Council note the contents of the report are in line with the Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21.**

## 23 **Wiltshire Council's Response to the Climate Emergency: Update Report**

Councillor Nick Botterill, Cabinet Member for Development Management, Strategic Planning and Climate Change introduced and moved the recommendation as detailed in the report This was seconded by Councillor Richard Clewer.

Councillor Botterill paid tribute to his predecessor for By Brook Division, former Councillor Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE for her role in forming and shaping a newly formed authority from 2009 and to the previous Cabinet Member former Councillor Toby Sturgis, for his keen mind and steady hand in his role on the portfolio.

The authority resolved in 2019 to seek to make Wiltshire Council carbon neutral by 2030 and made a commitment in providing 6 monthly updates. Significant progress had been made over the past 6 months despite the pressures of the Covid-19 pandemic. Almost £92m of revenue and capital expenditure had been approved to be spent on reducing carbon emissions.

Wiltshire was a large rural county which presented many additional challenges in carbon reduction; however, the council had set out ambitious plans in producing deliverable reductions in carbon output and from biggest sources of emissions.

Adapting society to a low carbon future over the coming years would not be an easy task and would likely not happen at all if there were a weak faltering economy and a broken society. That was why it was imperative to ensure that the economy grows, and communities thrive.

The Chairman then invited Group Leaders to comment on the report and presentations received.

Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, thanked Councillor Botterill and the Carbon Reduction team, noting that this was a critical year for the country in terms of getting strategies and plans in place for reduced carbon. The government's Decarbonising Transport Plan had recently been published, which started to set out what would need to take place, on working towards decarbonisation of transport.

The council's Climate strategy was up for consultation and intended to be considered for approval later in 2021. He noted that the approach was impressive, and that the council had already achieved an 80% reduction on figures for 2016. Government policy would need to change to enable further movement, which the council was ready to act upon.

The Leader had also taken over as chairman for the Countryside Climate Network, a group of mostly rural authorities coordinating work to help achieve net zero and improve resilience of communities. He had recently visited Europe's largest battery storage centre in Minety, noting that it was good to be playing a part, particularly as a rural authority, in solar and other technologies.

Councillor Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, also conveyed his thanks to officers and those Members who were present when the council voted for the Climate Emergency motion which set the council on its path to achieve its objectives.

He went on to note that a challenge of the initiative was how to engage, involve and work with communities across the county. The first step would need to ensure joined up working to achieve the objectives.

One of the greatest impacts on the environment could be the council's emerging Local Plan, in recognising legislation and national guidance and reflecting the climate objectives.

With regards to the council's Business Plan, he felt it was important to set clear unambiguous targets to be able to measure achievement and show leadership.

Councillor Graham Wright, representing the Independent Group, welcomed the report and endorsed the comments of Councillor Thorn, adding that the council should not underestimate the task in hand and to recognise that there was still a long way to go.

Councillor Ricky Rogers, Leader of the Labour Group, welcome the report, noting that the council had made a great step forward so far. He highlighted the importance of meeting objectives and to be transparent with residents. He noted that there would be substantial costs involved in implementing the plans, and that the provision of a timeline setting out the plan would be well received. He also noted that the council would need to make sure that all of the contractors across the service provision were working in line with the plan.

The item was then opened for general debate where it was noted that the report regularly made reference to the word carbon as opposed to carbon dioxide and the difference between the two.

Other issues raised included carbon emissions from residual household waste, and the approval of an incineration plant by the Strategic Planning Committee. The issue of outdated or inadequate levels of public electrical vehicle charging points across the county was raised, and the impact of solar farms on rural farming with a request to look at more natural approaches within the countryside and whether it would be possible for Wiltshire to have a food recycling programme. It was also noted that any plans or programmes should be considered for the whole of Wiltshire rather than individual areas.

Whether it may be practicable to host an event with Wiltshire Climate Alliance, town and parish councils, and local organisations to engage together was also raised.

Councillor Botterill thanked Members for their comments and stated that the council would use its democratic mandate to maximum effect to be an agent of change. The Local Plan would include many areas of consideration in terms of Climate Change and that the target of 2030 was a hard objective.

He stated that the council currently rated quite high in terms of electric vehicle (EV) charging provision; national guidance on the standards on this was awaited, it was accepted that there had been a lag on rolling out EV charging points.

At the conclusion of debate, it was:

**Resolved:**

**That Council note the actions taken in response to the climate emergency following the last update in February 2021.**

24 **Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report**

Councillor Graham Wright, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, moved and presented the report

He noted it had been a difficult year due to the pandemic, requiring the council to restructure its ways of working to enable Scrutiny to continue in new ways.

The Covid-19 Response Task Group had been formed during the year, comprising a group of 7 members who met regularly with the Leader and Corporate Leadership Team regarding any Covid-19 related issues.

Across the year the Management Committee had continued to hold public meetings online, whilst the Children's, Environment and Health Select Committees had undertaken work on a more informal basis, feeding into the Management Committee.

Following the elections in May 2021 Councillor Wright welcomed new Chairmen for Environment and Health Select Committees, and a new Vice-Chairman for the Management Committee. He paid tribute to the work of previous Chairmen across a difficult period, in particular the long service of the outgoing Vice-Chairman of the Management Committee, former Councillor Alan Hill.

Councillor Wright noted the national recognition of Wiltshire Council as providing effective scrutiny, and in particular the work of the Financial Planning Task Group.

Chairmen of the Select Committees were then given the opportunity to comment, with Councillor Jon Hubbard, Chairman of the Children's Select Committee, noting changes to regular briefings to the committee, which would be open to all Members and recorded for future availability.

The Chairman of the Council then moved that the annual report of Overview and Scrutiny be noted. This was seconded by the Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman then invited Group Leaders to comment on the report and presentations received.

Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, thanked Overview and Scrutiny for its work over a challenging year, complimenting the way it had functioned with remote arrangements.

Councillor Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, thanked all those who had participated in Overview and Scrutiny. He noted the importance of engaging as many as possible in discussion and decisions, including through use of online methods, and emphasised the importance of Cabinet decisions being taken through the appropriate scrutiny process.

Councillor Ricky Rogers, Leader of the Labour Group, thanked those members who had taken part in Overview and Scrutiny activity. He highlighted it was an opportunity for all Members to enhance their knowledge of how the council worked in specific areas.

Following opportunity for debate, it was

**Resolved:**

**That Council note the contents of the report.**

25 **Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel**

Councillor Ian Blair-Pilling, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Libraries, Governance, Facilities Management and Operational Assets, introduced the background to the report.

It was a legal requirement to review Members' allowances at least every 4 years. In 2021 the council convened an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to review the Members Allowance Scheme. The council was asked to consider the recommendations of the IRP, the views of Members and the financial implications of the proposals, as set out in the report.

The Chairman of the IRP, Mr John Quinton, presented the report and appendices in the agenda.

The IRP had met seven times and consulted with a total of 36 Members in addition to surveying for views and had also carried out comparison work other local authorities and their allowances pre and post pandemic and after. Mr Quinton emphasised that the IRP was not responsible for financial implications of the recommendations and could not consider these when determining what they felt was appropriate to recommend for any roles or activity. He noted that the purpose of allowances was to provide reasonable compensation for time spent on a specific role and was not a salary replacement scheme.

Some key findings and conclusions were noted. In previous years the allowances were increased in line with the staff pay award. As this had not yet been agreed, the Panel had factored in an increase for 2021/22, to bring it in



line with an expected incremental pay rise and to the added requirements of working from home due to the pandemic.

Each Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) position was considered on its own merits due to the varying level of input and requirement each afforded. In addition, some decrease in allowances were recommended for posts such as the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council and a removal of an allowance for the Chairman of the Health & Wellbeing Board.

Other recommendations included the implementation of an increase to the Carers allowance, as well as the inclusion of a Sickness and Parental Leave policy, which it was noted would help to remove perceived barriers to those considering standing for election.

Councillor Blair-Pilling thanked Mr Quinton for his report and noted that it was clear that the IRP had applied a great detail of reasoning and research towards the task. However, in particular due to the financial implications of the proposals and difficulty in extracting other elements from within the recommendations, he could not support the proposals. Accordingly, he moved the following motion:

*That council notes the recommendations of the IRP, and the requirement to consider these in the context of their financial implications, outlined in the covering report;*

*The council retains for the council term 2021-25, the entire Councillor Allowance Scheme as set out in Part 13 of the Constitution and continued to apply the staff pay award (NJC terms and conditions) as the index by which annual adjustments apply to allowances, with effect from 1 April 2021; and the Members' Allowance Scheme be amended accordingly.*

This was seconded by Councillor Laura Mayes.

The Chairman then invited Group Leaders to comment on the report and the proposal of the Cabinet Member.

Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, thanked the IRP for its work but stated that the proposals would increase the overall remuneration by 5.5%. With the NHS was looking at a 1% increase, and Wiltshire Council staff a possible 2% increase, he therefore did not feel it was appropriate for Members to take an increase above that.

As there was not a simple way to make individual changes, he agreed with the suggestion of continuing the existing scheme, adopting an annual increase in line with the staff pay award once this was known.

Councillor Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, added his thanks to the Panel and agreed that the proposal for a 5.5% increase could not be accepted and supported the motion of the Cabinet Member.

Councillor Graham Wright, representing the Independent Group, supported the motion.

Councillor Ricky Rogers, Leader of the Labour Group, thanked the IRP for the report and noted that no elected Member put themselves forward to represent their community for a salary. He noted that as with other Members he had separate job and a business to run, and felt that the allowances had to be in context as they were a reflection of the lost earnings incurred when representing his community and all Members made sacrifices to carry out their roles in some way. He went on to add that the report was honest, and a suggested way forward, however he agreed with the motion of the Cabinet Member.

The item was then opened for general debate. A comment was made that the 5.5% increase recommended was of the maximum possible under the proposed scheme and did not represent the reality of what would be paid, as for example some SRA positions would not be able to be claimed due to the limits on the number held by each Member.

Councillor Jon Hubbard then moved an amendment to the motion that:

*Council REJECTS the recommendation of the IRP in full but does ask that the following elements of the report are adopted:*

- *Revisions to payments for Special Responsibility Allowances*
- *Payments to co-opted members of the council*

*The figures below were based on if ALL remunerated posts were filled (which they were not) and assumed that the current Employers offer of 1.5% rise for public sector workers was finally adopted. The figures had been accepted by the Section 151 Officer as accurate.*

*Total cost in 2020/21 - £1,981,998*

	<i>Proposal from IRP</i>	<i>Reject IRP</i>	<i>Proposed Amendment</i>
<i>Total Cost in 2021/22</i>	<i>£2,065,000</i>	<i>£2,011,503</i>	<i>£2,019,969</i>
<i>% Increase against 2020/21</i>	<i>4.2%</i>	<i>1.5%</i>	<i>1.9%</i>
<i>£ Increase against 2020/21</i>	<i>£83,002</i>	<i>£29,505</i>	<i>£37,970</i>

*Total additional cost of implementing Proposed Amendment against option of rejecting the IRP was £8,465.*

The amendment was seconded for debate by Councillor Ricky Rogers.

Councillor Blair-Pilling in response stated he did not support the proposed amendment. He did not consider it appropriate to seek to unpick elements of the overall recommendations and did not consider any proposals over the staff pay award should be accepted.

The Chairman then invited comments from group leaders.

Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, did not support the amendment, noting that some SRAs would increase by 15% and that a pay rise above staff was not appropriate at the moment.

Councillor Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group did not support the amendment, noting that members on the basic allowance would enjoy an increase of around 1.5% but those members with several SRAs would receive higher increases.

Councillor Graham Wright, representing the Independent Group, noted the logic in the yes or no approach to the report, and confirmed that he would not support the amendment.

Councillor Ricky Rogers, Leader of the Labour Party thanked Councillor Hubbard for raising the issue and the plight for carers, and noted that the recommendations of the IRP did have some positive elements in that respect. In relation to SRA allowances, he noted that it was optional to take the higher increase and Members could individually refuse a higher increase be paid to them, should that be their preference.

The amendment was then opened for general debate.

During debate the level of increase for staff against the proposed higher increase for Members was questioned. Support for an increase to the Carers allowance was raised. Some considered that that the issue of Members Allowances would best be decided nationally by central Government.

As mover of the amendment Councillor Hubbard responded to the debate, stating that the 5.5% figure was not a true reflection of the amount that would be paid. With the increase to the basic allowance removed through his amendment this reduced the increase significantly. He noted that If the amendment was rejected, the highest earning Members not face the reductions had the IRP proposals been adopted. He stated that he was always open and transparent with the electorate on any increase in remuneration.

At the conclusion of debate a recorded vote was requested and supported by the requisite number of Members.

The amendment to the motion was rejected with 2 votes in favour, 74 against and 3 abstentions, with the details attached to these minutes.

Councillor Christopher Newbury then raised a new amendment to incorporate elements of the IRP with regards to dependents carers allowance:

*The Dependants' Carers' Allowance shall be paid at actual cost (up to a maximum rate of £30 per hour) or set at the National Minimum Wage hourly rate when informal care is provided by a friend or family member.*

*The period of duty is calculated on a 'door-to-door' basis, i.e. from the time a Member or co-optee leaves their place of residence to carry out the council duty to the time they return.*

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Bob Jones MBE.

The Chairman invited comment from Group leaders.

Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, noted that whilst he had sympathy with the recommendation, he considered whether it would be better to ask the IRP to look at the topic and report back in a year's time.

Councillor Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, supported the amendment.

Councillor Graham Wright, representing the Independent Group, supported the view that the IRP could look at specific matters further in future.

Councillor Ricky Rogers, Leader of the Labour Party, supported the amendment.

The item was then opened for general debate.

During debate the needs of carers to be supported to best enable them to also carry out duties as a Member was raised.

During the course of debate, Councillor Blair-Pilling and the seconder of the original motion determined to accept the amendment.

At the conclusion of debate, it was there:

**Resolved:**

- 1) That Council notes the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, and the requirement to consider these in the context of their financial implications, outlined in the covering report;**
- 2) That Council retains, for the council term 2021-25, the entire Member Allowance Scheme as set out in Part 13 of the Constitution, with the addition of the carers allowance recommended as detailed in recommendation 19 of the report, para 93:**

**The Dependants' Carers' Allowance scheme shall be amended to be paid at the actual cost up to a maximum rate of £30 per hour or set at the**

**National Minimum Wage hourly rate when informal care is provided by a friend or family member.**

- 3) **That Council continues to apply the staff pay award (NJC terms and conditions) as the index by which annual adjustments apply to allowances, with effect from 1 April 2021; and the Members' Allowance Scheme be amended accordingly.**

26 **Proposed Changes to the Constitution**

Councillor Ian Blair-Pilling, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Libraries, Governance, Facilities Management and Operational Assets, moved and introduced the recommendation to amend the Constitution in respect of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Governance Reporting Arrangements of the agenda. This was seconded by Councillor Simon Jacobs.

The Chairman then invited Group Leaders to comment on the report. There were no comments.

The item was then opened for general debate, where no comments were received.

It was therefore:

**Resolved:**

**That Council approves the proposed changes to Part 3B and Protocol 10 of the Constitution.**

27 **Area Board Naming: Amesbury area**

Councillor Ian Blair-Pilling, as Chairman of the Electoral Review Committee, introduced and moved the report, which set out the proposal that Amesbury Area Board be re-named Stonehenge Area Board. Councillor Gavin Grant, Vice-Chairman of the Electoral Review Committee, seconded the proposal.

The Chairman then invited Group Leaders to comment on the report and presentations received.

Councillor Graham Wright, representing the Independent Group noted that in his capacity of Chairman of the Area Board in question, he welcomed the proposals.

The item was opened for general debate, where the proposals were supported.

At the conclusion of debate, it was:

**Resolved:**

**That Council approve that Amesbury Area Board be renamed Stonehenge Area Board, and to delegate any necessary constitutional changes to the Monitoring Officer.**

28 **Notice of Motion No.2021-01: Members' Allowances Scheme**

A motion was moved by Councillor Philip Whitehead regarding proposed amendments to the Members' Allowance Scheme. The motion was seconded by Councillor Graham Wright.

Councillor Whitehead considered there was currently an anomaly where the payment of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) stopped from the end of the previous council term until the first meeting of Full Council, despite work ongoing during that time for many SRA holders, if they were re-elected. He proposed that the Scheme be amended to recognise the ongoing work that took place and to permit remuneration to continue for that period.

A point of order was raised, which asked for clarification on whether, at the point of an election, the council was then dissolved, and as such those appointed in positions with SRA's were also dissolved until new council formed.

The Monitoring Officer, Perry Holmes, clarified that the term of office for councillors ended four days after an election, when the new council term initiated for those who had been elected or re-elected. The Members' allowances scheme could be amended to retain SRA payments up to the first meeting of Full Council, should Members be re-elected.

The relevant Cabinet Member, Councillor Ian Blair-Pilling, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Libraries, Governance, Facilities Management and Operational Assets supported the motion.

The Chairman moved that the motion be debated, this was seconded by the Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman the invited Group Leaders to comment on the motion.

Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, noted that meetings and work did continue during the period between the election and the first Full Council and as such he supported the motion.

Councillor Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, shared the view that it was an anomaly in the arrangements and that Members with SRAs should be focused and working for the council during the period mentioned and therefore supported the motion.

Councillor Ricky Rogers, Leader of the Labour Group stated he was not against the motion in principle, however as he had not consulted with residents in his

Division, many of whom were financially struggling, and would wish to take their views in to consideration.

The motion was then opened for general debate.

Points raised during debate included noting that not all committees elected a chairman at the first meeting of Full Council, but at the first meeting of the committee, which could be a significant time afterwards.

Councillor Jon Hubbard therefore moved an amendment include the words 'or relevant committee' to ensure those roles appointed by Committee were also covered by the motion. This was accepted by the mover and seconder of the original motion.

At the conclusion of debate, it was therefore:

**Resolution:**

**That the Members' Allowances Scheme be amended to include provision that in an election year the SRAs for all SRA holders continue until the new SRA holders are appointed by Full Council or relevant Committee. This to apply from 7 May 2021 onwards, providing the Member was re-elected.**

29 **Announcements from Cabinet and Committees**

There were no announcements by Cabinet Members or Chairmen of Committees.

30 **Appointments to the Local Pension Board and Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee**

Councillor Pauline Church, Cabinet Member for Finance, Procurement and Commercial Investment, presented a report and recommendations on appointments to the Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee and Local Pension Board. This was seconded by Councillor Richard Clewer.

The Chairman then invited Group Leaders to comment on the report, there were no comments.

The item was then opened for general debate.

During debate it was noted that the motion fell in to two parts, the first to confirm the appointment to the Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee, the second to delegate to the monitoring officer to appoint a representative to the Local Pension Board and that there were two meetings of the Standards Committee before October 2021. It was suggested that if there were more than one nomination for the post, the appointment to be made by the Standards Committee in accordance with procedure. If there was nomination the delegated authority would be exercised to appoint to the position.

At the conclusion of debate, it was therefore:

**Resolved:**

**That Council:**

- a) Appoints Claire Anthony to the Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee for a four-year term as an Employer Member Representative;**
- b) Delegates to the Monitoring Officer to appoint a representative to the Local Pension Board once a nomination is made by the employer group.**

31 **Membership of Committees**

The Chairman invited Group Leaders to request any membership changes.

Group leaders proposed changes to committee membership as detailed in the resolution.

The Chairman moved the proposed membership changes. This was seconded by the Vice-Chairman. It was:

**Resolved:**

**To make the following appointments to Committees:**

- **Councillor Mary Webb to be removed from the Environment Select Committee, and removed as a substitute from the Licensing Committee, Children's Select Committee, Police & Crime Committee, and Staffing Policy Committee.**
- **Councillor James Sheppard to be appointed to the Environment Select Committee as a substitute.**
- **Councillor Jerry Kunkler to be appointed to the Licensing Committee as a Substitute.**
- **Councillor Jonny Kidney to be appointed to the Children's Select Committee as a Substitute.**
- **Councillor Stuart Wheeler to be appointed to the Police & Crime Committee as a Substitute.**
- **Councillor Tamara Ray to be appointed to the Staffing Policy Committee as a Substitute.**
- **Councillor Liz Alstrom to be removed from the Environment Select Committee**
- **Councillor Mel Jacobs to be appointed to the Environmental Select Committee.**
- **Councillor Ian Thorn to come off Audit and Governance Committee**
- **Councillor Adrian Foster to be appointed to Audit and Governance Committee.**
- **Councillor Liz Alstrom to be removed from the Environment Select Committee**
- **Councillor Mel Jacobs to be appointed to the Environmental Select Committee.**



- **Councillor Ian Thorn to come off Audit and Governance Committee**
- **Councillor Adrian Foster to be appointed to Audit and Governance Committee.**

## 32 Councillors' Questions

Two questions were received from Councillors, as set out in Supplement 1 to the agenda. Written responses had been provided in Appendix 2 to the report.

Questions 21-01 - Progress update on implementation of Service Delegation & Asset Transfer Policy - Councillor Ruth Hopkinson

A supplementary question was made regarding if the policy had been shelved and what involvement there had been from Overview and Scrutiny. The Leader responded that during the Covid-19 pandemic resources had needed to be reallocated, but that work would be starting up again for a programme soon.

Questions 21-02 - Planning Conditions - Councillor Edward Kirk

There were no supplementary questions.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 2.00 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Lisa Moore of Democratic Services, direct line 01722 434560, e-mail [lisa.moore@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.moore@wiltshire.gov.uk)

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**Full Council Meeting – 21 September 2021 – Members Attendance**

<b>Councillor Name</b>	<b>Time In</b>	<b>Time Out</b>
Phil Alford	10:30	14:00
Liz Alstrom	10:30	14:00
Helen Belcher	10:30	14:00
Chuck Berry	10:30	14:00
Ian Blair-Pilling	10:30	14:00
Nick Botterill	10:30	14:00
David Bowler	10:30	14:00
Richard Britton	10:30	14:00
Allison Bucknell	10:30	14:00
Steve Bucknell	10:30	14:00
Clare Cape	10:30	14:00
Trevor Carbin	10:30	14:00
Daniel Cave	10:30	14:00
Mary Champion	Apologies	Apologies
Pauline Church	10:30	14:00
Ernie Clark	Apologies	Apologies
Richard Clewer	10:30	14:00
Zoë Clewer	10:30	14:00
Mark Connolly	Apologies	Apologies
Caroline Corbin	Apologies	Apologies
Kevin Daley	10:30	14:00
Brian Dalton	10:30	14:00
Jane Davies	Apologies	Apologies
Andrew Davis	10:30	14:00
Matthew Dean	10:30	14:00
Dr Monica Devendran	10:30	14:00
Nick Errington	10:30	14:00
Adrian Foster	Apologies	Apologies
Sarah Gibson	10:30	14:00
Gavin Grant	10:30	14:00
Howard Greenman	10:30	14:00
Ross Henning	10:30	14:00
Sven Hocking	10:30	14:00
Nick Holder	10:30	14:00
Ruth Hopkinson	10:30	14:00
Jon Hubbard	10:30	14:00
Peter Hutton	10:30	14:00
Tony Jackson	10:30	14:00
Mel Jacob	10:30	14:00
Simon Jacobs	10:30	14:00
George Jeans	10:30	11:45
Bob Jones MBE	10:30	14:00
Johnny Kidney	10:30	13:15

Carole King	10:30	14:00
Gordon King	10:30	14:00
Edward Kirk	10:30	14:00
Jerry Kunkler	10:30	14:00
Jacqui Lay	Apologies	Apologies
Kathryn MacDermid	10:30	14:00
Dr Brian Mathew	10:30	14:00
Laura Mayes	10:30	14:00
Dr Mark McClelland	10:30	14:00
Charles McGrath	10:30	14:00
Ian McLennan	Apologies	Apologies
Dominic Muns	10:30	14:00
Dr Nick Murry	Apologies	Apologies
Nabil Najjar	10:30	14:00
Kelvin Nash	10:30	14:00
Christopher Newbury	10:30	14:00
Ashley O'Neill	Apologies	Apologies
Jack Oatley	Apologies	Apologies
Paul Oatway QPM	Apologies	Apologies
Andrew Oliver	10:30	14:00
Stewart Palmen	10:30	14:00
Bill Parks	10:30	14:00
Sam Pearce-Kearney	10:30	14:00
Antonio Piazza	10:30	14:00
Tony Pickernell	10:30	14:00
Horace Prickett	10:30	14:00
Nic Puntis	10:30	14:00
Tamara Reay	10:30	14:00
Pip Ridout	10:30	14:00
Rich Rogers	10:30	14:00
Ricky Rogers	10:30	14:00
Tom Rounds	10:30	14:00
Paul Sample JP	10:30	14:00
Mike Sankey	Apologies	Apologies
Jonathon Seed	10:30	14:00
James Sheppard	10:30	14:00
Martin Smith	10:30	14:00
Caroline Thomas	10:30	14:00
Ian Thorn	10:30	14:00
Elizabeth Threlfall	10:30	14:00
Jo Trigg	10:30	14:00
Tim Trimble	Apologies	Apologies
Ton Trotman	10:30	14:00
Mark Verbinnen	10:30	14:00
David Vigar	10:30	14:00
Iain Wallis	10:30	14:00

Derek Walters	10:30	14:00
Bridget Wayman	Apologies	Apologies
Mary Webb	Apologies	Apologies
Stuart Wheeler	10:30	14:00
Philip Whitehead	10:30	14:00
Suzanne Wickham	10:30	14:00
Christopher Williams	10:30	14:00
Robert Yuill	10:30	14:00

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**Item 10 - Recorded Vote - Amendment – Jon Hubbard/Ricky Rogers 2 For, 74 Against, 3 Abstentions**

First Name	Surname	Vote
Phil	Alford	Against
Liz	Alstrom	Against
Helen	Belcher	Against
Chuck	Berry	Against
Ian	Blair-Pilling	Against
Nick	Botterill	Against
David	Bowler	Against
Richard	Britton	Against
Allison	Bucknell	Against
Steve	Bucknell	Against
Clare	Cape	Against
Trevor	Carbin	Against
Richard	Clewer	Against
Daniel	Cave	Against
Pauline	Church	Against
Richard	Clewer	Against
Zoë	Clewer	Against
Kevin	Daley	Against
Brian	Dalton	Against
Andrew	Davis	Against
Matthew	Dean	For
Dr Monica	Devendran	Against
Nick	Errington	Against
Sarah	Gibson	Against
Gavin	Grant	Against
Howard	Greenman	Against
Ross	Henning	Against
Sven	Hocking	Against
Nick	Holder	Against
Ruth	Hopkinson	Against
Jon	Hubbard	For
Peter	Hutton	Against
Tony	Jackson	Against
Mel	Jacob	Against
Simon	Jacobs	Against
Bob	Jones MBE	Against
Johnny	Kidney	Against
Gordon	King	Against
Carole	King	Against
Edward	Kirk	Against
Kathryn	MacDermid	Against
Dr Brian	Mathew	Against
Laura	Mayes	Against
Dr Mark	McClelland	Against
Charles	McGrath	Against
Dominic	Muns	Against
Nabil	Najjar	Against
Kelvin	Nash	Against

Christopher	Newbury	Against
Andrew	Oliver	Against
Stewart	Palmen	Against
Bill	Parks	Against
Sam	Pearce-Kearney	Against
Antonio	Piazza	Against
Tony	Pickernell	Against
Horace	Prickett	Against
Nic	Puntis	Against
Tamara	Reay	Against
Pip	Ridout	Against
Ricky	Rogers	Abstain
Rich	Rogers	Against
Tom	Rounds	Against
Paul	Sample JP	Against
Jonathon	Seed	Against
James	Sheppard	Abstain
Martin	Smith	Against
Caroline	Thomas	Against
Ian	Thorn	Against
Elizabeth	Threlfall	Against
Jo	Trigg	Against
Tony	Trotman	Against
Mark	Verbinnen	Against
David	Vigar	Against
Iain	Wallis	Against
Derek	Walters	Against
Stuart	Wheeler	Abstain
Philip	Whitehead	Against
Suzanne	Wickham	Against
Christopher	Williams	Against
Graham	Wright	Against
Robert	Yuill	Against