

Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council, held in the Council Chamber at County Hall, Chelmsford on Tuesday, 10 May 2022

Present: Chairman: Councillor E C Johnson
Vice-Chairman: Councillor J M Reeves

B Aspinell	C Guglielmi	R Playle
T Ball	D Harris	C Pond
L Barber	A M Hedley	S Robinson
S Barker	I Henderson	P Schwier
K Bentley	J Henry	L Scott
L Bowers-Flint	P Honeywood	L Shaw
A Brown	M Hoy	A Sheldon
M Buckley	J G Jowers	C Siddall
G Butland	S Kane	M Skeels
M Cory	D King	K Smith
S Crow	D Land	J Spence
T Cunningham	D Louis	W Stamp
J Deakin	J Lumley	M Steel
M Durham	L Mackenzie	M Stephenson
B Egan	M Mackrory	M Steptoe
J Fleming	B Massey	P Thorogood
M Foley	A McGurran	M Vance
P Gadd	J McIvor	L Wagland
M Garnett	L McKinlay	C Whitbread
A Goggin	A McQuiggan	H Whitbread
M Goldman	Dr R Moore	A Wiles
R J Gooding	J Newport	
I Grundy	M Platt	

Not present but attended the meeting online (this member did not vote on any item):

P May

Chairman's Welcome and Introduction

The Chairman informed those present that the meeting would be broadcast live over the internet by way of the ECC Democracy YouTube Channel.

The opening remarks, together with the broadcast of the entire meeting may be found on the ECC Democracy YouTube Channel.

Prayers

The meeting was preceded by prayers led by Councillor Spence, a lay Canon in the Church of England

Councillor Johnson formally opened the meeting.

1. Election of Chairman

It having been proposed by Councillor Gooding and seconded by Councillor Platt and there being no other nominations it was

Resolved:

That Councillor Johnson be elected Chairman of the County Council for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

Councillor Johnson made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

It having been proposed by Councillor Barker and seconded by Councillor Egan and there being no other nominations it was

Resolved:

That Councillor Reeves be appointed Vice-Chairman of the County Council for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

Councillor Reeves made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Lissimore, Souter, Hardware, Scordis and Blackwell.

4. Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded by the Chairman of the need to declare any interests and to do so immediately or at the start of the consideration of any relevant item of business.

5. Confirmation of the minutes of council meetings held on 10 February 2022**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. Public Speaker

There were none.

7. Chairman's Announcements and Communications**Honorary Aldermen**

The Chairman noted that at the meeting held in October 2021 and at the extraordinary meeting directly preceding the Annual meeting, Council had resolved to create Honorary Aldermen. In recognition of this, the Chairman welcomed eight former members to the meeting and presented certificates and badges to Mr David Finch, Mrs Theresa Higgins, Mr Anthony Jackson, Mr Dick Madden, Mr John Roberts, Mrs Anne Turrell, Mr Simon Walsh and Ms Julie Young.

The Chairman noted that Mr John Aldridge and Mrs Elizabeth Webster were not available to attend this meeting, so their badge and certificate would be presented at a future meeting.

Awards**The Charter for Councillor Development**

The Chairman informed members that following the announcement at the last meeting, the Council had now received the award and certificate for Councillor Development. The chairman invited the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Reeves, as Chairman of the Member Development Steering Group to present the award.

PQ of the Year Award

The Chairman invited Councillor Whitbread, the Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Corporate Affairs to present an award won by one of the Council's Graduate Finance Trainees, Katie Harwood, for 'PQ of the Year'. This award was presented by PQ magazine, a publication for accountancy students. Katie was competing with other part-qualified (PQ) students from across the UK and a range of accountancy bodies.

National Social Value Award for Public Sector Leadership

The Chairman invited Councillor Whitbread, the Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Corporate Affairs to present the National Social Value Award for Public Sector Leadership that the Council had won the previous month.

National iTEC Transformation Award

The Chairman invited Councillor Spence, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health to present an award won by Essex County Council in March 2022 which was the national iTEC Transformation Award for the Council's care Technology Programme.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, congratulated everyone who had been involved in all the work in relation to these awards.

Queen's Green Canopy

The Chairman informed members that in March, he had planted an oak tree at Thorndon Country Park (South) as part of the Queen's Green Canopy, Plant a Tree for the Jubilee. He thanked the staff and rangers who had made it possible. The Chairman noted that hundreds of trees had been planted as part of this initiative by Essex residents, children at school and in their community to mark her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in addition to the trees as part of the Essex Forest Initiative, he wished to thank everyone who had been involved in planting and watering the trees.

Ukraine

The Chairman acknowledged the difficult situation in the Ukraine and noted that all members of the Council stood by democracy. He noted that the Council was still flying the Ukrainian flag and lighting county hall in blue and yellow each evening and would continue to do so. The chairman paid tribute to the families in Essex who were able to sponsor Ukrainian families and individuals and welcome them to the county. He also thanked all of the officers of the Council and partners who are supporting the process, particularly those in social care, housing and education, in what were again challenging times.

8. Petitions

The Chairman invited Councillor Thorogood to present a petition relating to introducing traffic calming measures through the parish of Stisted. Councillor Scott responded to receive the petition.

The Chairman then invited Councillor Barber to present a petition relating to Boxted Bridge. Councillor Scott responded to accept the petition and advised that he could not comment further due to it being part of a current planning application.

9. Return of Members Elected and Proportionality

The Executive Director for Corporate Services presented a report on behalf of the Chief Executive confirming the result of the by election for the Rayleigh North division which was held on 3 March 2022. Cllr James Newport was elected and had joined the Liberal Democrat Group.

It was confirmed that the effect of the by election meant that the composition of the Council remained:

The Conservative Group:	52
The Non-Aligned Group:	10
The Liberal Democrat Group:	8
The Labour Group:	5
Total:	75

It having been proposed by Councillor Bentley and seconded by Councillor McKinlay it was

Resolved:

That there be no change to the allocation of committee seat places which remain as determined by the Council at its annual meeting in May 2021.

10. To note the Political Group's appointments to Committees

It having been proposed by the Leader, Councillor Bentley and seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor McKinlay, it was

Resolved:

That members be appointed to committees as set out in the report circulated to members prior to the meeting.

11. Appointments of Chairmen of Committees

It having been proposed by the Leader, Councillor Bentley and seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor McKinlay, it was

Resolved:

That chairmen of committees be appointed as set out in the report

12. Other Appointments

The Chairman clarified that the appointments to approved bodies contained within the report and Order paper were only the appointments made since the last annual meeting.

It having been proposed by the Leader, Councillor Bentley and seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor McKinlay, it was

Resolved:

That:

1. The three County Council nominations to the Health and Wellbeing Board and one named substitute, be appointed as set out in the report.
2. The County Council's representative on the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel be appointed as set out in the report.
3. The County Council's representative on the Essex Pension Fund Advisory Board be appointed as set out in the report.
4. That the full list of Approved Bodies be received and the changes to appointments to Outside Bodies since the last Annual Meeting, as set out in the report and Order paper, be noted.

13. Executive Statement

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Bentley, The Leader of the Council gave a statement entitled 'Everyone's Essex one year on: and now the future'.

The Executive Statement is published on the ECC website and the broadcast of the meeting may be found on the ECC Democracy YouTube Channel.

14. Motions

1. Mental Health Services for Young People

Moved by Councillor Foley and seconded by Councillor Gadd

'Council gratefully recognises the work of schools, charities, mental health professionals and our own officers, and notes the important role they play in the lives of young people.

Council however acknowledges there has been an increase in the number of mental health problems and illness including self-harm in some of our schools...despite the Everyone's Essex aspiration, demand for mental health support services for this age group now greatly exceeds supply.

Council therefore:

- Calls on the Government to increase funding to local government and health services for young people's issues
- Asks Cabinet to review available budgets and wherever possible to redistribute funds to provide the support needed
- Refers this subject formally to the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee and the Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee with a request they conduct an urgent review of mental health services for young people and report back during 2022.'

It was moved by Councillor Ball and seconded by Councillor Spence that the motion be amended to read as follows:

'This Council gratefully recognises the work of schools, charities, mental health professionals, social workers, family support workers and our own officers and notes the important role they play in the lives of children and young people.

This Council acknowledges there has been an increase in the number of mental health problems and illness including self-harm in some of our schools and demand for mental health support services for this age group is now placing a great deal of strain on current capacity.

This Council also acknowledges that this is a complex issue with no single solution and therefore formally refers it to the relevant Cabinet Members as well as to the Scrutiny Board so that arrangements for a joint review by the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee & the Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee can be arranged with a request that they report back to this Council by the end of the calendar year with their recommendations to address this issue.'

The amendment moved by Councillor Ball and seconded by Councillor Spence was put to the meeting and was **carried** and became the substantive motion.

Having been put to the meeting the motion was **carried**.

2. Bus Back Better

Moved by Councillor Playle and seconded by Councillor Barber

‘This Council recognises the benefits to the economy and environment that increasing bus usage across the County would bring, including, contributing to the priorities set out in the adopted Everyone’s Essex plan.

The Council also welcomes the proposed Enhanced Partnership Plan which will “level-up” the bus network across the county and make buses a more accessible and attractive travel option for residents in Essex.

This Council therefore:

- (1) Supports the measures and ambitions set out in the Enhanced Partnership to increase bus usage in Essex.
- (2) Calls on the Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport to write to the Department for Transport, asking them to provide additional support and resources to ensure that the full objectives of the Enhanced Partnership can be met’

It was moved by Councillor Henderson and seconded by Councillor McGurran that the motion be amended to read:

‘This Council recognises the benefits to the economy and environment that increasing bus usage across the County would bring, including, contributing to the priorities set out in the adopted Everyone’s Essex plan.

The Council also welcomes the proposed Enhanced Partnership Plan which will “level-up” the bus network across the county and make buses a more accessible and attractive travel option for residents in Essex.

This Council therefore:

- (1) Supports the measures and ambitions set out in the Enhanced Partnership to increase bus usage in Essex.
- (2) Calls on the Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport to write to the Prime Minister Boris Johnson, asking him to honour his pledge to provide substantial financial support and resources to ensure the residents of Essex have access to cheaper, faster, greener, and more reliable bus services’.

The amendment moved by Councillor Henderson and seconded by Councillor McGurran was put to the meeting and was **lost**.

Having been put to the vote the motion was **carried**.

15. Adjournment

With the agreement of Council, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:47. The meeting reconvened at 13:24.

16. Motions (continued)

3. School Streets

Moved by Councillor David King seconded by Councillor Mike Mackrory.

‘The physical and mental health of Essex children has markedly worsened in recent years. Many are obese or overweight (4 in 10 by Year 6). 1 in 6 are likely to have a mental health problem. Under half are active enough and that number is declining.

This is unacceptable when we know active children are less overweight, happier, more resilient, more trusting, and less likely to have mental health issues.

Active Travel, and as part of that, School Streets, would help significantly with these issues. School Streets incorporates exercise into daily routines, as well as reducing congestion and improving air quality. But we are failing the children of Essex as not enough School Streets are underway. Some areas are not seen as a priority, and most are not properly funded.

This Council therefore calls on the Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport to ensure existing School Street projects are prioritised and fully funded and delivered at pace. We also ask the Cabinet Member to commit to invest in safe cycle and pedestrian routes to connect these and future School Streets to the communities they serve and to work with the NHS and the DfT, to secure their help and funding to the benefit of our community’s and the physical and mental health of our children.’

It was moved by Councillor McIvor and seconded by Councillor McQuiggan that the motion be amended to read:

‘The physical and mental health of Essex children has worsened in recent years, with 4 in 10 obese or overweight by Year 6, 1 in 6 likely to have a mental health problem and under half active enough which is declining. In contrast, active children are less overweight, happier, more resilient, more trusting, and less likely to have mental health issues.

This Council believes that this is a complex problem, with no single solution, although initiatives such as “School Streets” and the work being undertaken by Active Essex can certainly play a role.

Building on the successful work already underway for safer streets and its commitment to sustainable and active travel, this Council calls on the Cabinet to bring forward its ambitious plans to further improve health, wellbeing, and the environment for all residents, to the October 2022 Full Council’

The amendment moved by Councillor McIvor and seconded by Councillor McQuiggan was put to the meeting and was **carried** and became the substantive motion.

Having been put to the meeting the motion was **carried**.

17. Council Issues

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Bentley, the Leader of the Council, presented the report and it having been moved by Councillor Bentley and seconded by Councillor McKinlay it was

Resolved:

1. Code of Conduct

1. That Essex County Council adopts the LGA Model Code of Conduct (including appendices A and B to the Code with effect from 1 June 2022 and that the code is inserted into part 24 of the Constitution.
2. That the Monitoring Officer communicates the changes to members including holding a Member briefing session on Thursday 26 May at 11:30 and this is made available to members who are unable to attend via a recording.

2. Review of ‘written questions’ pilot

1. That the trial is extended until the December meeting, bringing back a further report to the October meeting.
2. That paragraph 16.12 of the Constitution is amended by replacing the words ‘until after the annual meeting of the Council taking place in 2022’ with ‘until after the meeting of the Council on 11 October 2022’

3. Parental Leave Policy

That Council adopts the Parental Leave Policy in the form appended to the Council Issues report and includes it within the Member Allowance Scheme from 13 July 2022.

4. Minor changes to the constitution

That the following amendments to the constitution be made with effect from the close of this meeting:

(1) Amend paragraph 20.5 of the constitution to read:

At the start of every Ordinary meeting of the Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees there shall be a period of up to 15 minutes to enable members of the public to make representations on an item on the Agenda for that meeting.

The Procedure for public speaking is as set out in 17.5.2 above.

(2) Amend paragraph 21.5 of the constitution to read:

At the start of every Ordinary meeting of the Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees there shall be a period of up to 15 minutes to enable members of the public to make representations on an item on the Agenda for that meeting.

The Procedure for public speaking is as set out in 17.5.2 above.

5. Dates of forthcoming Council meetings

1. That the dates of Council meetings scheduled in 2022 on the following Tuesdays, 12 July, 11 October and 13 December, remain unchanged.
2. That the Council meeting in February 2023 be held on Thursday 9 February 2023.

18. Cabinet Issues

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Bentley, the Leader of the Council, presented the report and it having been moved by Councillor Bentley and seconded by Councillor McKinlay it was

Resolved:

To receive the list of urgent decisions taken and the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 15 February and 15 March and 19 April 2022.

19. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Gooding, Chairman of the Scrutiny Report presented the report. Councillor Gooding put on record his

thanks to the Democracy Team for their work in support of Overview and Scrutiny.

It having been moved by Councillor Gooding and seconded by Councillor Goggin it was

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

20. Member Development Annual Report

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Reeves, Chairman of the Member Development Steering Group, presented the report. Councillor Guglielmi seconded the report recommendation and paid tribute to the Democracy Team and in particular to Joanna Boaler, Head of Democracy and Transparency and Sophie Crane, Senior Democratic Services Officer for their work on Member Development.

It having been moved by Councillor Reeves and seconded by Councillor Guglielmi it was

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

21. Oral Questions of the Leader, Cabinet Member, a chairman of a committee or the representative of the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel.

The oral questions and answers as part of the broadcast of the meeting may be found on the [ECC Democracy YouTube Channel](#).

The questions asked were:

Question asked by:	Question asked to:	Subject of the question
Cllr Pond	Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Street lights in Loughton High Road
Cllr Stamp	Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	20 mph speed limits at Burnham on Crouch County Primary School
Cllr Stamp	Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Life Long Learning and Employability	Cycle path between Burnham on Crouch and Southminster.

Question asked by:	Question asked to:	Subject of the question
Cllr Henderson	Climate Change Czar on behalf of the Leader	Climate change commission's commitment for school streets and 20mph zone
Cllr Henderson	Cabinet Member for Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning	Dualling of A120
Cllr Massey	Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Pothole funding
Cllr Mackrory	Cabinet Member for Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning	Shire Hall, Chelmsford
Cllr Mackrory	Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Performance of Essex Highways in dealing with highways defects.
Cllr Goldman	Leader	Gender neutral language
Cllr Deakin	Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Life Long Learning and Employability	Accessibility of font used in Essex Year of Reading badges.
Cllr Aspinell	Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Highway works at Pilgrims Hatch
Cllr Aspinell	Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Temporary closure of Ongar Road without notice for resurfacing.
Cllr Harris	Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Member's kerbstone replacement scheme
Cllr Smith	Leader	Car park charges at Landgon Hills Country Park
Cllr Hoy	Cabinet Member for Waste Reduction and Recycling	Rayleigh Recycling Centre
Cllr Hoy	Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Times when resurfacing works can take place
Cllr McGurran	Cabinet Member for Waste Reduction and Recycling	A number of waste issues.

22. Closure of Meeting

The meeting closed at 15.12

Chairman