

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Monmouthshire County Council held at County Hall, Usk, on Tuesday 12th May 2015 at 5.00pm

PRESENT: County Councillor J. Prosser (Chairman)

County Councillors: D. Batrouni, G.C. Burrows, P.R. Clarke, D.L.S. Dovey, D.L. Edwards, R.M. Edwards, D.J. Evans, P.S. Farley, Fox, J. George, R. J. W. Greenland, L. Guppy, E. J. Hacket Pain, R.G. Harris, R.J.C. Hayward, M. Hickman, R.J. Higginson, G. Howard, G. Howard, S.G.M. Howarth, D.W.H. Jones, P. Jones, S.B. Jones, P. Jordan, P. Murphy, M. Powell, V. Smith, B. Strong, F. Taylor, P.A. Watts, A.E. Webb, S. White, K.G. Williams and A.M. Wintle.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr P Matthews	Chief Executive
Ms S. McGuinness	Chief Officer: Schools and Learning
Ms K. Beirne	Chief Officer: Enterprise
Mr S. Burch	Chief Officer: Social Care and Health
Mr R. Tranter	Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer
Mrs T. Harry	Head of Improvement & Democracy
Mrs S. King	Senior Democratic Services Officer

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from County Councillors R.F. Chapman, J. Crook, D. Blakebrough, G.L. Down, S. Jones, J.I. Marshall and A.C. Watts.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Chairman, County Councillor J.L. Prosser, addressed the council and thanked all who had supported him during his year of office, particularly Heather Dash, his consort and Rev. Mark Soady his Chaplain. The Chairman referred to the privilege of serving the people of Monmouthshire as Chairman and referred to some of his highlights of his year of office, which included visits to Buckingham Palace, the Senedd and Llandaff Cathedral. Funding had been raised for the Chairman's charities, Welsh Warrior the Richard Hund Foundation and Macmillan Cancer Care and Support, Gwent.

The Leader of the Council, County Councillor P.A. Fox; the Leaders of the Political Groups, County Councillors D. Batrouni, County Councillor S.G.M. Howarth, and P.A.D. Hobson, thanked the Chairman and his consort for their work as ambassadors for the Council in difficult circumstances.

It was moved by County Councillor P.A.Fox, duly seconded by County Councillor P. Murphy, and resolved, that County Councillor B. Strong be elected as Chairman of the County Council for the Civic Year 2015/16.

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Monmouthshire County Council
Dated 12th May 2015 - continued**

County Councillor Strong made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, was invested with his Chain of Office by the outgoing Chairman, and took the Chair.

The newly elected Chairman thanked members, officers and his family for their support, and announced that Mrs Mary Strong would be his consort; Rev. Paul Baxter his Chaplain; and that his charities would be Wales Air Ambulance and Noah's Ark Children's Hospital Charity.

The Chairman then presented the outgoing Chairman with the Past Chairman's Badge of Office.

3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

It was moved by County Councillor D. Batrouni and seconded by County Councillor R. Greenland, that County Councillor R.J. Higginson be appointed as Vice Chairman of the County Council for the Civic Year 2015/16.

We resolved that County Councillor R.J. Higginson be appointed as Vice Chairman of the County Council for the Civic Year 2015/16.

County Councillor Higginson made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, was invested with his Chain of Office by the Chairman, and took his position as Vice Chairman.

The Vice Chairman thanked members for their support and offered his support to the newly elected Chairman. The Vice Chairman's Consort would be Mrs P. Collier.

The programme concluded with the presentation of the Chain of Office to the incoming Chairman's Consort, Mrs Mary Strong, of a pendant to the outgoing Chairman's Consort, Heather Dash and of the Chain of Office to the incoming Vice Chairman's Consort, Mrs Pauline Collier.

4 DEFERRAL OF BUSINESS

We resolved that the remaining items of business be deferred to the meeting of the County Council to be held on 14th May 2015.

The meeting ended at 6.00 p.m.