

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Monmouthshire County Council held at
County Hall, Usk, on Tuesday 13th May 2014 at 5.00pm**

PRESENT: County Councillor D. Dovey (Chairman)

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

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from County Councillors J.E. Crook, R.J.C. Hayward, S.G.M. Howarth, J.I. Marshall, A.C.Watts and K.G. Williams.

2 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Chairman, County Councillor D. Dovey addressed the council and thanked all who had supported him during his year of office, particularly Mrs S. Dovey, his consort, his chaplain Rev. C. Blanchard and his staff. 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, including royal meetings; Armistice Day and many charity functions. To date a total of £5,000 had been raised for the Chairman's charities, which would be divided equally between NSPCC and Age Cymru.

The Leader of the Council, County Councillor P.A. Fox; the Leaders of the Political Groups, County Councillors D. Batrouni, County Councillor G. Down on behalf of 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 and resolved, that County Councillor J.L. Prosser be elected as Chairman of the County Council for the Civic Year 2014/15.

It was moved by County Councillor P.A.Fox, duly seconded by Murphy, and resolved, that County Councillor J. Prosser be elected as Chairman of the County Council for the Civic Year 2014/15.

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Dated 14th May 2013 - continued**

County Councillor Prosser 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 Heather Dash would be his consort; Rev. Mark Soady his Chaplain; and that his charities would be Welsh Warrior The Richard Hunt Foundation and Macmillan Cancer Care and Support, Gwent.

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 R.J.W. Greenland, and seconded, that County Councillor B. Strong be appointed as Vice Chairman of the County Council for the Civic Year 2014/15.

It was moved as an amendment by County Councillor D Batrouni, and seconded, that County Councillor R.J.Higginson be appointed as Vice Chairman of the County Council for the Civic Year 2014/15.

On being put to the vote the following votes were cast:

For County Councillor Higginson: 12 votes

For County Councillor Strong: 22 votes

We resolved that County Councillor B. Strong be appointed as Vice Chairman of the County Council for the Civic Year 2014/15.

County Councillor Strong 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 Mary Strong.

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

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 15th May 2014.

The meeting ended at 6.00 p.m.