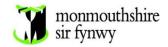
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County Hall Rhadyr Usk NP15 1GA

Friday, 2 June 2023

Notice of meeting

Democratic Services Committee

Monday, 12th June, 2023 at 2.00 pm, Conference Room, County Hall, Usk

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	To note the appointment of County Councillor Ann Webb as Chair	
2.	To appoint a Vice Chair	
3.	Apologies for absence	
4.	Declarations of interest	
5.	To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting	1 - 2
6.	All councillors teams channel & chatbot	Verbal Report
7.	Area Committees	Verbal Report
8.	Date of next meeting - 9th October 2023	Kopoli

AGENDA

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Louise Brown County Councillor Tomos Dafydd Llanfoist & Govilon; Davies **County Councillor Meirion Howells** County Councillor David Jones County Councillor Su McConnel County Councillor Maria Stevens County Councillor Peter Strong **County Councillor Armand Watts** County Councillor Laura Wright County Councillor Jill Bond County Councillor Rachel Buckler County Councillor Ann Webb

Shirenewton:

Llanbadoc & Usk; Crucorney: Croesonen: Severn; Rogiet; Bulwark and Thornwell: Grofield: West End: Devauden; St Arvans:

Welsh Conservative Partv Welsh Conservative Party

Independent Independent Group Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru Welsh Conservative Party Welsh Conservative Party

:

Public Information

Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

A copy of this agenda and relevant reports can be made available to members of the public attending a meeting by requesting a copy from Democratic Services on 01633 644219. Please note that we must receive 24 hours notice prior to the meeting in order to provide you with a hard copy of this agenda.

Watch this meeting online

This meeting can be viewed online either live or following the meeting by visiting www.monmouthshire.gov.uk or by visiting our Youtube page by searching MonmouthshireCC.

Welsh Language

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English. We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.

Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Our purpose

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Objectives we are working towards

- Giving people the best possible start in life
- A thriving and connected county
- Maximise the Potential of the natural and built environment
- Lifelong well-being
- A future focused council

Our Values

Openness. We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

Fairness. We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.

Flexibility. We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

Teamwork. We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

Kindness: We will show kindness to all those we work with putting the importance of relationships and the connections we have with one another at the heart of all interactions.

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 5 MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Democratic Services Committee held at Conference Room - Usk, NP15 1AD on Monday, 20th March, 2023 at 2.00 pm

PRESENT: County Councillor David Jones (Chair)

County Councillors: Louise Brown, Meirion Howells, Penny Jones, Su McConnel, Maria Stevens, Peter Strong, Armand Watts, Laura Wright, Jill Bond, Rachel Buckler and Ann Webb (substitute for Tomos Davies)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Matt Phillips

John Pearson

Chief Officer People and Governance and Monitoring Officer Local Democracy Manager

1. Declarations of interest

None.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January were approved.

3. Timing of Full Council Meetings - Survey Response

The Local Democracy Officer presented the report for the Committee to consider the responses to the member survey on a preferred timing for full council meetings with a view to making it a recommendation to Full Council.

The survey was issues to all Members following discussion at the previous meeting of the Democratic Services Committee. 29 responses were received and were attached to the report

The responses indicated that alternating the start time would not be a preferred option. Members recognised a number of comments around caring responsibilities and we heard that councillors are entitled to reimbursement of the costs of care.

It was suggested that an issue could relate to the length of the meeting rather than the start time.

There was some disappointment in the number of responses.

Upon being put to the vote the recommendation was accepted:

That a start time of 14.00pm should remain for meetings of full Council.

4. Constitution

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Democratic Services Committee held at Conference Room - Usk, NP15 1AD on Monday, 20th March, 2023 at 2.00 pm

The Chief Officer for People and Governance/Monitoring Officer presented the draft Constitution for consideration ahead of taking it to Full Council in May 2023.

We noted that following the debate around Budget 2023, an additional meeting of Council had been added to 29th February 2024.

Members were advised that the changes were highlighted as tracked changes in the document.

Members were provided with reassurance around the submission of amendments to reports

There was concern around the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education being replaced by the Standing Advisory Council, considering that SACRE would still be in existance until September 2024. The Chief Officer assured Members that both SAC and SACRE would be covered under one committee, which could be titled SAC/SACRE. The Monitoring Officer advised that any further concerns be directed to the relevant officers.

It was proposed that recommendation 3.3 "The Monitoring Officer is delegated authority to make editorial and legal changes to the Constitution and has committed to bringing the document to Council each year to inform Council of any changes that have been made. Substantive amendments still require Full Council approval regardless" be removed from the report, and that it should be Full Council who adapt or make changes to the Constitution.

In response to a question on the proposal it was confirmed that this would result in Full Council having to receive a report on every change. In doing so, Members were reminded that the updated Constitution is taken to Democratic Services Committee and then Full Council annually, allowing Council to take decision on any changes.

Members agreed that Key Issue 3.3 should remain in the document.

The Monitoring Officer noted the comments raised.

5. Date of next meeting - 12th June 2023

Noted.

The meeting ended at 3.45 pm