

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Hybrid Annual Meeting held on 8th May, 2024.

The Council agenda is available [here](#).

The Meeting recording is available [here](#).

Present: Councillor Julie Aviet (Mayor); Councillors Anne Asbrey, Gareth Ball, Rhiannon Birch, Bronwen Brooks, Gillian Bruce, Ian Buckley, Lis Burnett, Samantha Campbell, George Carroll, Christine Cave, Charles Champion, Janice Charles, Millie Collins, Marianne Cowpe, Pamela Drake, Vincent Driscoll, Anthony Ernest, Robert Fisher, Christopher Franks, Emma Goodjohn, Ewan Goodjohn, Stephen Haines, Howard Hamilton, William Hennessy, Nic Hodges, Mark Hooper, Catherine Iannucci -Williams, Gwyn John, Dr. Ian Johnson, Susan Lloyd-Selby, Belinda Loveluck-Edwards, Julie Lynch-Wilson, Kevin Mahoney, Naomi Marshallsea, Michael Morgan, Jayne Norman, Helen Payne, Elliot Penn, Sandra Perkes, Ian Perry, Joanna Protheroe, Ruba Sivagnanam, Carys Stallard, Neil Thomas, Rhys Thomas, Edward Williams, Margaret Wilkinson, Mark Wilson and Nicholas Wood.

1 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of business, the Mayor drew attention to a number of housekeeping issues and made the following statement: “May I remind everyone present that the meeting will be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing”.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors Wendy Gilligan, Russell Godfrey, Sally Hanks and Steffan Wiliam.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

4 ELECTION OF MAYOR –

It was moved by Councillor Neil Thomas and seconded by Councillor Ian Buckley that Councillor Elliot Penn be elected Mayor.

It was moved by Councillor George Carroll and seconded by Councillor Janice Charles that Councillor Russell Godfrey be elected Mayor.

On the matter being put to a vote, it was

RESOLVED – T H A T Councillor Elliot Penn be elected Mayor of the Council for the ensuing Municipal year.

The newly appointed Mayor made and delivered to the Chief Executive the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office, was invested by the outgoing Mayor with the Chain of Office and took the Chair.

5 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR –

It was moved by Councillor Catherine Iannucci-Williams and seconded by Councillor Howard Hamilton that Councillor Naomi Marshallsea be elected Deputy Mayor.

It was moved by Councillor George Carroll and seconded by Councillor Janice Charles that Councillor Russell Godfrey be elected Deputy Mayor.

On the matter being put to a vote, it was

RESOLVED – T H A T Councillor Naomi Marshallsea be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Council for the ensuing Municipal year.

The newly appointed Deputy Mayor made and delivered to the Chief Executive the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office, was invested with the Chain of Office and took the Chair.

6 MAYOR'S ADDRESS –

The Mayor thanked Councillor Neil Thomas for his kind words in nominating him for Mayor, and Councillor Ian Buckley for seconding that nomination. The Mayor continued by advising “My consort will be my amazing partner, Jo Byworth-Morgan, who helps me fulfil my role as Councillor, and now as Mayor, in so many ways.

It's a great honour to be elected by you as Mayor and I will uphold the standards expected of that office. I look forward to representing the Vale of Glamorgan at events throughout the year.

I am proud of all the hard work by Vale of Glamorgan residents for achieving the second best recycling rates in the Wales (and I hope we take the top slot very soon), to the countless hours of volunteering undertaken. A strong sense of community – always helping each other.

We are elected to represent all residents of the Vale of Glamorgan and we pride ourselves on the very warm welcome we give, whether you are visiting our stunning beaches and amazing towns on holiday, have moved here because the Vale made the Sunday Times best places to live in Wales list, or fleeing a war zone or from persecution.

I look forward to the Vale of Glamorgan attaining County of Sanctuary status.

There is a poem by Brian Bilston which comes to mind.

The kindness of Strangers.

There is a beauty that walks in the darkness, makes its way among the bombs and broken lives.

Offers blankets and shoulders to cry on, puts on kettles and bandages, mends what it can.

And asks for not one thing back, as it wraps in its arms the troubled night.

And waits for morning and its pale light.

So, as Mayor, I would like to focus my year in office on improving the lives of all the people who live here building better communities and welcoming all those who come to the county for whatever reason and need our help, inclusion and representation to all regardless of skin colour, gender, race, nationality or religion.

We welcome all.”

7 VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MAYOR AND RETIRING MAYOR’S ADDRESS –

The Mayor thanked the retiring Mayor for the way she had undertaken her role in 2023/24. The retiring Mayor, in response, said “It’s been such an honour and privilege to have represented the Vale of Glamorgan this past year. I have been invited to many places and met lots of people from all walks of life. People who I would have never had the opportunity to meet. Whether it was at a large official event or a gathering of six people around a table, every conversation mattered.

This experience has broadened my outlook of the Vale and its residents and I regularly speak and boast about our beautiful County and of course the whole of South Wales.

I was so proud to wear the robes and chain and yes, even the hat and jabot at times, proud to lay wreaths for our fallen heroes, which never failed to bring a tear to my eye.

I will miss being a member of “The Chain Gang”, the nickname that the other Mayors and Chairs called themselves. I have enjoyed every minute of my term in office, and I will continue to promote and boast about the Vale of Glamorgan in the future.

Now come the thank yous.

- The organisations and community groups for the invitations where I learned how much people care about each other;
- My family for their support, who still don’t know what I did but knew I was happy doing it;
- The professional handbag minder, my Consort Mr. Brian Morris;
- The top table at Full Council and in particular Karen Bowen for helping me with baby steps to get me through the meetings;

- For Mike Tipples for driving me where I need to be;
- Last, but not least, Charlotte Western from Democratic Services for organising the Mayor's diary and generally looking after me.

Finally, I'd like to wish Councillor Elliot Penn all the best in his term of office and I'm sure he will be as proud as I've been to represent the Vale of Glamorgan. Thank you."

8 EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS – CABINET MEMBERSHIP AND PORTFOLIOS (CX) –

Section 4.10.1(f) of the Constitution Council Procedure Rules - Annual Meeting of the Council" provided that the Annual Meeting would be told by the Leader of the names of Councillors chosen to be Deputy Leader and the number and names of Members to be appointed to the Cabinet and their portfolios / responsibilities and the Members to be designated as Council's "Champions.

Section 5.2 of the Constitution "Form and Composition of the Executive" provided that the Cabinet would consist of the Leader of the Council and at least two, but not more than nine, other Councillors appointed to the Cabinet by the Leader.

In presenting the report the Leader advised that the Cabinet Portfolios would remain the same, however the Leader took the opportunity to inform Council that Councillor Gwyn John had stepped down as the Leader of Llantwit First Independents with Councillor Eddie Williams now taking up that position. The Leader confirmed that Councillor John would remain a member of the Cabinet and congratulated him on his 25 years' service on the Council.

The Leader also drew attention to the following "Champion Roles" which would continue to be undertaken by the position-holder indicated:

- Scrutiny Champion – Chair of the Scrutiny Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group;
- Member Development Champion – Chair of the Democratic Services Committee.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T, as advised by the Leader, it be noted that Councillor B.E. Brooks would be Deputy Leader and the Members of the Cabinet, together with details of their portfolios as listed below and the designated "Champion" roles as set out in the Supplementary Information to the report, be noted:

- Councillor L. Burnett – Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources
- Councillor B.E. Brooks – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Sustainable Places
- Councillor R.M. Birch – Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language

- Councillor G. John – Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Well-being
- Councillor S. Sivagnanam – Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Equalities and Regulatory Services
- Councillor S.D. Perkes – Cabinet Member for Public Sector Housing and Tenant Engagement
- Councillor E. Williams – Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health
- Councillor M.R. Wilson – Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services.

(2) T H A T the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group and the Chair of the Democratic Services Committee continue to be designated the Council's Scrutiny and Member Development Champions respectively.

(3) T H A T the Council's payments of Senior Salaries for 2024/25 be as set out within paragraph 2.1 of the report be noted.

Reason for decisions

(1-3) In order to comply with the Council's Constitution.

9 SCRUTINY COMMITTEES: APPOINTMENT, MEMBERSHIP, TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ALLOCATION OF CHAIR POSITIONS (CX) –

A requirement existed, under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, regarding the allocation of Scrutiny Committee Chair positions. In essence, any Group, or Groups, represented on the Cabinet were entitled (when taken together) to a proportion of Scrutiny Committee Chair positions equivalent to their total number of seats (when taken together) on the Council. Once this calculation had been done, the remaining Scrutiny Committee Chair positions become the "property" of the non-Cabinet Groups (again, to be allocated proportionate to the total number of seats held by the respective Groups on the Council).

Section 7 of the Council's Constitution set out the Terms of Reference, general role and specific functions of the Scrutiny Committees, a copy of which was attached at Appendix B to the report. The membership of the Scrutiny Committees had been circulated prior to the meeting as Supplementary Information based on information provided by Group Leaders.

The Leader, in presenting the report, drew attention to the allocation of Chairs of Scrutiny Committees as advised by the Group Leaders and as noted in the supplementary information that had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting. The Leader further noted that Councillors K.P. Mahoney and I.A.N. Perry had advised that they would not be taking up their position on a Scrutiny Committee and that following discussions Councillor S. Campbell would be taking up the vacant position on the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee and Councillor M.J.G. Morgan would take up a position on the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Scrutiny Committees, together with their Membership and Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix B and the Supplementary Information to the report, be appointed for the ensuing Municipal year, with it being noted that Councillor S. Campbell would be taking up a seat on the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee, Councillor M.J.G. Morgan on the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee, with the Homes and Safe Communities Committee carrying two vacancies.

(2) T H A T the allocation of specific Scrutiny Committee Chairs, as notified by the relevant Group Leaders as set out in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.3 of the report and in the Supplementary Information, as shown below be noted:

- Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee – Councillor J. Protheroe
- Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee – Councillor S. Lloyd-Selby
- Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee – Councillor J.E. Charles
- Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee – Councillor A.M. Collins
- Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee – Councillor R.R. Thomas.

Reason for decisions

(1&2) In order to comply with the relevant legislation.

10 QUASI-JUDICIAL COMMITTEES, COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES: APPOINTMENT, TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP (CX) –

The report reminded Members of the need to pay particular regard to legislation which came into force on 5th May, 2017 governing the size and composition of Planning Committees.

The Size and Composition of Local Planning Authorities Committees (Wales) Regulations 2017 brought into effect, and provided the detailed interpretation for, Section 39 of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, so far as it related to the size and composition of Committees discharging functions.

Set out at Appendix A to the report was the calculation relating to the political balance requirement for Committees in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989. The membership of the Quasi-Judicial Committees, Committees and Other Bodies had been circulated prior to the meeting as Supplementary Information based on information provided by Group Leaders. Following a query in relation to the Membership of the Democratic Services Sub-Committee Councillor G.D.D. Carroll confirmed that he would be replacing Councillor S.J. Haines on the Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the Quasi-Judicial Committees, Committees and Other Bodies, together with their Terms of Reference (Appendix B to the report) and Membership, as set out in the Supplementary Information as circulated prior to the meeting and presented with the report, be appointed for the ensuing Municipal Year, subject to it being noted that Councillor G.D.D. Carroll would replace Councillor S.J. Haines on the Democratic Services Sub-Committee.
- (2) T H A T, having regard to the need to comply with the size and composition of Local Planning Authorities (Wales) Regulations 2017 in determining the size and composition of the Planning Committee, membership be agreed as outlined in paragraphs 2.3 to 2.5 of the report.
- (3) T H A T the Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language be the representative on the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee.
- (4) T H A T the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Equalities and Regulatory Services and the Chair of the Public Protection Licensing Committee be appointed as the representatives on the Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee, with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services and the Vice-Chair of the Public Protection Licensing Committee be appointed as substitutes.
- (5) T H A T the Director of Corporate Resources and Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources will represent the Council as the Shareholder of the Company and who will be advised by a Shareholder Advisory Panel, consisting of Council Officers on the Local Authority Trading Company “The Big Fresh Catering Company”.

Reason for decisions

(1-5) In order to comply with the relevant legislation.

11 DATES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS (CX) –

RESOLVED – T H A T it be noted that ordinary meetings of the Council will be held on the following dates:

- 15th July, 2024
- 30th September, 2024
- 2nd December, 2024
- 3rd March, 2025
- 28th April, 2025.

12 ELECTION OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES (CX) –

The Committees for which Chairs and Vice-Chairs were to be appointed at the Annual Meeting included all the bodies in the political balance table (which could be found in Agenda Items Nos. 7 and 8), with the exception of those set out in Agenda Item 10 where legislative provisions, or alternative, specific arrangements currently applied.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees be appointed as set out below for the ensuing Municipal year:

<u>Appeals:</u>	Chair:	Councillor I.R. Buckley
	Vice-Chair:	Councillor S. Lloyd-Selby
<u>Community Liaison:</u>	Chair:	Councillor R.M. Birch
	Vice-Chair:	Councillor M.R. Wilson
<u>Democratic Services:</u>	Chair:	Councillor Dr. I.J. Johnson
	Vice-Chair:	Councillor N.C. Thomas
<u>Discretionary Housing Payments: Review</u>	Chair:	Councillor H.C. Hamilton
	Vice-Chair:	Councillor J. Lynch-Wilson
<u>Early Retirement/Redundancy:</u>	Chair:	Councillor P. Drake
	Vice-Chair:	Councillor H.C. Hamilton
<u>Glamorgan Heritage Coast Advisory:</u>	Chair:	Councillor C. Stallard
	Vice-Chair:	Councillor Emma Goodjohn
<u>Investigating:</u>	Chair:	Councillor H.M. Payne
	Vice-Chair:	Councillor C. Iannucci-Williams
<u>Planning:</u>	Chair:	Councillor N.C. Thomas
	Vice-Chair:	Councillor M.R. Wilson
<u>Public Protection Licensing:</u>	Chair:	Councillor P. Drake
	Vice-Chair:	Councillor J.M. Norman
<u>Statutory Licensing</u>	Chair:	Councillor P. Drake
	Vice-Chair:	Councillor J.M. Norman
<u>Senior Management Appointment:</u>	Chair:	Leader (Councillor L. Burnett)
	Vice-Chair:	Deputy Leader (Councillor B.E. Brooks)
<u>Trust:</u>	Chair:	Councillor H.C. Hamilton
	Vice-Chair:	Councillor M.R. Wilson

Voluntary Sector
Joint Liaison:

Chair: Councillor R.M. Birch
Vice-Chair: Councillor I.R. Buckley

Honorary Vice-
Chair To be appointed from amongst
the 7 representatives from the
Voluntary and Health Sectors

Welsh Church
Act Estate:

Chair: Councillor M.R. Wilson
Vice-Chair: Councillor P. Drake

(2) T H A T the remaining Committees and Sub-Committees be dealt with as set out within the report, subject to it being noted that the Equalities Consultative Forum is to be Chaired by the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Equalities and Regulatory Services.

Reason for decisions

(1&2) In order to comply with the specific arrangements that currently applied or relevant legislation.