

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2015 at 5.30 pm in Council Chamber, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

Present: Councillor Lin Fairbrass (Chairman); Councillors Wells, Ashbee, Bayford, Dexter, G Hillman, Johnston, Taylor-Smith and Smith

82. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr Steven Boyle, Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services presided over the election of the Chairman and called for nominations for the post of Chairman of the General Purposes Committee.

Cllr Wells proposed, Councillor G. Hillman seconded and Members agreed that Councillor Lin Fairbrass be elected Chairman of the General Purposes Committee for 2015/16.

Councillor Fairbrass in the chair.

83. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor I. Gregory, substituted by Councillor Dexter.

84. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

85. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minute item number 81 (on the 'Appointment of the Interim Director of Corporate Resources and Section 151 Officer'), first sentence in paragraph 4 should read 'Some Members observed that lessons had been drawn regarding the shortcomings of combining the CEx and S151 officer roles because once an incumbent who played that dual role left Council's employment it meant Council was left without a statutory Section 151 officer in post.'

Subject to the above amendments, Members of the Committee agreed that the minutes were a true record of the General Purposes Committee meeting that took place on 7 April 2015.

86. APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM SECTION 151 OFFICER AND INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER

Mr Boyle introduced the item and advised the Committee that both Wendy Allan and himself were leaving TDC employment on Friday, 29 May 2015 (although Steven Boyle would be available to provide advice, but working from home up to the week ending Friday, 5 June 2015). The statutory posts required immediate replacement. Mr Boyle then advised the meeting that the report recommended that Tim Howes and Patricia Marshall be appointed as Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services (& Monitoring Officer) and Interim Section 151 Officer respectively. The officer report also recommended that the Committee agrees the appointment of Tim Willis as the permanent Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer.

Mr Boyle assured Members that there would be no conflict of interests in an instance where a senior officer is appointed in an interim capacity whilst serving at another local Council, as it was common practice that Councils could share the services of senior officers. Some Members suggested that the Committee should have been introduced to the candidates before they resumed their duties in order to get to know them.

Councillor Wells proposed, Councillor Johnston seconded and Members agreed the following:

1. That Tim Howes is appointed as Monitoring Officer for the Council with effect from 8 June 2015 to replace Steven Boyle;
2. That Patricia Marshall is appointed as Section 151 Officer for the Council with effect from 1st June 2015;
3. That Tim Willis is appointed as Section 151 Officer for the Council with effect from 10 July 2015.

Meeting concluded: 5.45 pm