

Minutes of the meeting of the **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Monday, 9 October 2017 at 12.30 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor S M Le Chevalier

Councillors: P M Brivio  
M D Conolly  
M R Eddy  
D P Murphy

Officers: Director of Governance  
HR Business Partner  
Democratic Services Manager

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence received from Members.

2 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

There were no substitute members appointed.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

4 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5 HONORARY ALDERMAN NOMINATIONS

The Democratic Services Manager advised that two nominations for Honorary Alderman had been received.

In accordance with the Scheme of Enrolment for Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen adopted by Council, former members who had rendered 20 years' service or more and had provided 'eminent services' to the Council could be considered for conferment of the title of 'Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman' if nominated by two serving members of the Council.

The Committee was advised that Councillor P Walker, seconded by Councillor K E Morris, had proposed Mr P Watkins and Mr G J Hood for the award of the title of Honorary Alderman.

Mr Watkins had served as a member of Dover District Council for Lower Walmer Ward (1983 – 1995) and St Margaret's-at-Cliffe Ward (1999 – 2017). In total he was a district councillor for 30 years of non-continuous service. He was Chairman of the

Council three times (1989 – 1992) and Leader of the Council under the Executive Model (2003 – 2017).

Mr Hood served as a member of Dover District Council for Town and Pier Ward from 1976 – 2015. In total he was a district councillor for 39 years of continuous service and still remains the Council's longest serving member. He was the Cabinet Member for Transport, Opportunity and Access from 2000-02, Cabinet Member for Opportunity from 2002-03 and a member of the Shadow Cabinet from 2003-4 and 2007 – 2011.

The consensus of opinion amongst members was that the two nominees were worthy for the conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman due to the eminent services that they had provided to the Council.

RESOLVED: That it be recommended to Council that the Mr G J Hood and Mr P A Watkins be conferred the status of Honorary Alderman.

## 6 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was moved by Councillor M R Eddy, duly seconded and

RESOLVED: That, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the remainder of the business on the grounds that the items to be considered involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 4 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

## 7 CHILDCARE VOUCHER SCHEME AND POLICY

The Director of Governance presented the report on the Childcare Voucher Scheme and Policy.

Members were advised that the Trade Unions had been supportive of the proposals and that both male and female members of staff were eligible for the scheme.

RESOLVED: (a) That the Childcare Voucher Policy Statement is approved.

(b) That the Employee Handbook is amended to add the Childcare Voucher Policy Statement.

The meeting ended at 12.44 pm.