

All minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the committee/panel. To find out the date of the next meeting please check the calendar of events at your local library or online at [www.merton.gov.uk/committee](http://www.merton.gov.uk/committee).

COUNCIL  
17 MAY 2023  
(19.15 -20.50)

PRESENT

(in the Chair), Councillors Joan Henry and Gill Manly  
Councillor Agatha Mary Akyigyina,  
Councillor Stephen Alambritis, Councillor Laxmi Attawar,  
Councillor Thomas Barlow, Councillor Hina Bokhari,  
Councillor Michael Brunt, Councillor Billy Christie,  
Councillor Caroline Cooper-Marbiah,  
Councillor Anthony Fairclough, Councillor Edward Foley,  
Councillor Brenda Fraser, Councillor Jenifer Gould,  
Councillor Daniel Holden, Councillor Andrew Howard,  
Councillor Natasha Irons, Councillor Linda Kirby, Councillor Sally  
Kenny, Councillor Paul Kohler, Councillor Edith Macauley,  
Councillor Peter McCabe, Councillor Simon McGrath,  
Councillor Aidan Mundy, Councillor Eleanor Stringer,  
Councillor Martin Whelton, Councillor Helena Dollimore,  
Councillor James Williscroft, Councillor Sheri-Ann Bhim,  
Councillor John Braithwaite, Councillor Michael Butcher,  
Councillor Caroline Charles, Councillor Eleanor Cox,  
Councillor Klaar Dresselaers, Councillor Chessie Flack,  
Councillor Kirsten Galea, Councillor Ross Garrod,  
Councillor Jil Hall, Councillor Billy Hayes, Councillor Susie Hicks,  
Councillor Dan Johnston, Councillor Andrew Judge,  
Councillor Usaama Kaweesa, Councillor Samantha MacArthur,  
Councillor Stephen Mercer, Councillor Stuart Neaverson,  
Councillor John Oliver, Councillor Robert Page,  
Councillor Michael Paterson, Councillor Tony Reiss,  
Councillor Slawek Szczepanski, Councillor Matthew Willis,  
Councillor Max Austin and Councillor Victoria Wilson

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors McLean, Pearce and Skeete.

Councillor Wilson attended remotely.

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

3 ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR 2023/24 AND THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT  
OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2023/24 (Agenda Item 3)

It was moved by Councillor Usaama Kaweesa and seconded by Councillor Michael Butcher that Councillor Gill Manly be elected Mayor of the London Borough of Merton for the 2023/24 municipal year.

Councillor Daniel Holden also spoke in support of the nomination.

*(Copies of their speeches are attached at Appendix A to these minutes)*

There not being any other nominations, the Mayor put it to the meeting and it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Gill Manly signed the statutory declaration of office and was invested with the Mayor's chain and badge of office.

The Mayor announced that her Deputy Mayor for the 2023/24 municipal year would be Councillor Martin Whelton. Councillor Whelton signed the statutory declaration of office and was invested with the Deputy Mayor's badge of office.

The Mayor announced that her consort would be Ann Gillespie. The Mayor's Chaplain would be Father David Pennells.

The Mayor presented badges to the outgoing Mayor, Deputy Mayor and their respective consorts.

The Mayor, Councillor Gill Manly thanked the Council for her election for the forthcoming year and announced that her two Mayoral charities would be the Merton Music Foundation and the National Brain Appeal.

*(A copy of her acceptance speech is attached at Appendix B to these minutes)*

#### 4 VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR (Agenda Item 4)

The Mayor invited Councillor Joan Henry to receive the Council's vote of thanks.

The Leader of the Council Councillor Ross Garrod, moved and the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor Anthony Fairclough seconded the vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor.

In doing so, both, along with the Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group and the Leader of the Merton Park Ward Independent Residents Group both spoke in praise of Councillor Henry's year in office.

*(A copy of these speeches are attached at Appendix C to these minutes)*

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the Council places on record its sincere thanks and appreciation to Councillor Joan Henry for the dedicated manner in which she has served as Mayor of the London Borough of Merton for the year 2022-2023.

## 5 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 5)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2023 are agreed as an accurate record.

## 6 CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES (Agenda Item 6)

The report was moved by Councillor Garrod and seconded by Councillor Mundy.

The Conservative amendment as set out in Item 9 was moved by Councillor Barlow and seconded by Councillor Holden.

Councillors Willis, Hicks and Foley also spoke on the item.

The Conservative amendment was put to the vote and fell: Votes in favour – 22, votes against – 28, abstentions – 3.

The substantive report was then put to the vote and carried: Votes in favour 28, votes against – 22, abstentions- 3.

RESOLVED:

That the Council:

- A. i) approves the constitution of committees, sub-committees and scrutiny bodies set out in Appendix A and;  
ii) agrees the allocation of seats, chair and vice-chair positions and the appointment of members to those seats;
- B. i) approves the constitution of consultative forums and other bodies set out in Appendix B and  
ii) agrees the appointment of members to those seats;
- C. agrees the allocation of seats and appointment to the outside organisations as detailed in Appendix C.
- D. notes the appointments to the Cabinet including their respective portfolios in Appendix D

E. Agrees the amended Terms of Reference for the Planning Applications Committee as detailed at Appendix E

F. agrees that the Council's Constitution be amended to incorporate any changes resulting from the approval of recommendations A to E.

## 7 RECRUITMENT OF MONITORING OFFICER (Agenda Item 7)

The report was moved by Councillor Garrod and seconded by Councillor Bhim.

Councillor Fairclough also spoke on the item.

### RESOLVED:

A That Council agreed (on the recommendation of the Standards and General Purposes Committee) to delegate the appointment of the Managing Director, South London Legal Partnership (who will also be the Council's Monitoring Officer) to the Appointments Committee.

B. That Council agreed that the appointment will be at management grade 5 which currently ranges from £100,218 to £104,637, together with such market supplement as the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair of Appointments Committee, considers necessary to secure a good appointment.

## 8 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION (Agenda Item 8)

The report was moved by Councillor Christie and seconded by Councillor Stringer.

Councillor Oliver also spoke on the report.

### RESOLVED:

A. That Council agreed that the following amendments to the Council's Constitution be authorised:

(i) The amendments to the Pensions Committee terms of reference as detailed in paragraph 2.1 of the report

(i)

That all references to CHAS 2013 Ltd be removed from the Constitution as detailed at paragraph 2.4 of the report

B.

That Council noted that the Monitoring Officer will use her delegated authority under Article 15.2(b) of the Constitution to make consequential amendments to the Constitution to reflect the new Council structure agreed in September 2022.

C.

That Council agreed that changes be made to the Published Pay Policy and the Officer Employment Procedure Rules to clarify the

approval process for making termination payments to officers by making it the responsibility of the Appointments Committee in accordance with Option C set out in paragraph 2.8 of the report.

D. That Council authorised the Monitoring officer to implement Amended versions of the terms of reference of the Appointments Committee, the Pay Policy and the Officer Employment Procedure Rules which reflect Council's approvals set out in paragraphs A to C above.

E.

That

Council agreed that the appointment of the Monitoring Officer be delegated

to the Appointments Committee in respect of the upcoming appointment process only