

MORAY COUNCIL
MINUTE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF MORAY COUNCIL
13 JUNE 2018
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillors J Allan (Convener), G Alexander (Council Leader), D Bremner, F Brown, T Coull, Jo Cowe, G Cowie, P Coy, L Creswell, J Divers, T Eagle, R Edwards, C Feaver, D Gatt, L Laing, G Leadbitter, M Macrae, A McLean, M McLean, R McLean, S Morrison, A Patience, D Ross, R Shepherd and S Warren.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillors L Creswell and W Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Executive, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Democratic Services Manager as clerk to the meeting.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Maggie Bruce, External Audit

1. DECLARATION OF GROUP DECISIONS AND MEMBER'S INTERESTS

In terms of Standing Order 20 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct, there were no declarations from Group Leaders or Spokespersons in regard to any prior decisions taken on how Members will vote on any item on the agenda or any declarations of Member's interests in respect of any item on the agenda.

2. CONSTITUTION OF COUNCIL AND APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND DEPUTE CHAIRS

Under reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting of Moray Council dated 6 June 2018 a joint report was submitted by the Chief Executive and Head of Legal and Democratic Services to consider the appointments of Convener and Council Leader and appointments of Chairs and Vice Chairs.

The Chief Executive advised that the business of the meeting was to resolve the constitution and administration of the Council in terms of the appointment of the Convener, Council Leader and chairs and depute chairs to each of the Council's Committees.

He further advised that it was his understanding that following the deadline of 5pm on Friday 8 June 2018 given at the conclusion of the scheduled meeting held on 6 June 2018, that nominations for the aforementioned had been submitted by the Scottish National Party (SNP) Group and circulated via e-mail by Councillor Leadbitter, Co-Leader of the SNP Group. He advised that as far as it was his understanding, what the meeting had before it was a composite motion to appoint a Convener, Council Leader and chairs and depute chairs of the council's committees thereby determining the SNP Group forming the Administration.

In the circumstances he asked if there was merit in the paper submitted by the SNP Group being considered in its entirety as a motion and if Members were content to move to the vote. This was agreed and there being no one otherwise minded the motion was unanimously agreed and accordingly the Council agreed the terms of the motion as follows:

Council Convener: Cllr Shona Morrison

Council Leader: Cllr Graham Leadbitter

Committee Chairs

*Children & Young People's Services: Cllr Sonya Warren

*Planning & Regulatory Services: Cllr David Bremner

*Communities: Cllr Louise Laing

*Licensing Committee: Cllr Amy Patience

*Audit & Scrutiny: To be appointed from the opposition and notified to Committee Services

*Policy & Resources: Cllr Aaron McLean

Economic Development & Infrastructure Services: Cllr Graham Leadbitter

Local Review Body: Cllr Amy Patience

Police & Fire and Rescue Services: Cllr Paula Coy

Community Planning Board: Cllr Graham Leadbitter

Integrated Joint Board

*Council Chair/Vice Chair of Integrated Joint Board (dependent on Chair/Vice-Chair rotation with NHS): Cllr Shona Morrison

Substitute Member: Cllr Louise Laing

COSLA Appointments

Convention and Leaders Meeting - Cllr Graham Leadbitter

Health and Social Care Board - Cllr Shona Morrison

Environment and Economy Board - Cllr Graham Leadbitter

Community and Wellbeing Board - Cllr Louise Laing

Children and Young People Board - Cllr Sonya Warren

Principal Committees of 13 will be formed using the following political balance:

SNP: 5

Independents & Non-aligned Conservative: 3

Conservatives: 3

MAG: 2

Additional names of committee members and IJB members will be notified to Committee Services following the Council meeting.

Council Convener and Council Leader and Chairs of Committees denoted by “*” will be in receipt of a Special Responsibility Allowance, as will the Chair/Vice Chair (as per the NHS/Moray Council Chairperson rotation) of the Integrated Joint Board and the Leader of the main opposition group.

Thereafter the Chief Executive invited Councillor Morrison to take the Chair.

In accepting her appointment as Convener, Councillor Morrison paid tribute to her predecessor, Councillor Allan for his hard work and dedication over the last year. She stated that she was honoured to have been elected as Convener of Moray Council and especially proud to be the first woman in Moray to hold the post. She further stated that women remain underrepresented within local government with only seven local authorities having female conveners and women making up on twenty seven percent of all councillors in local government in Scotland. Her appointment was a move towards greater equity in local government and she looked forward to working hard to represent and showcase Moray.

On the invitation of the Convener, Councillor Leadbitter addressed the Meeting stating that it was an honour and a privilege to be elected as a councillor to serve the community and now a further honour to be elected as Council Leader. He stated that he was delighted to follow the Convener's comments as the first female civic leader in the history of this Council which was particularly apt in the year that celebrates a century of women's suffrage. He referred to the last few weeks which had been very challenging for the Council both for the staff and the people of Moray, and stated that this day marked a major change for Moray Council. He stated that he intends to lead a strong, confident team of hardworking SNP councillors who care deeply about the communities that elected them, about Moray as a whole and about the staff and volunteers who deliver public services throughout Moray. He stated that the SNP team are committed to working with others for the good of Moray and delivering stability and sustainability for this Council and getting it back on an even keel,. He stated that whilst accepting that there are challenges ahead and that they must work with other Councillors in the Chamber to deliver the policy and budget decisions that are required to move the Council forward with policies to attract high value jobs to the region and in the Year of Young People to provide the education and job opportunities that are needed to retain and attract people. In referring to the high standards of provision in over one hundred and fifty areas of public service he wished to pay particular tribute to the hard working and dedicated council workforce that work in communities across Moray. In conclusion he stated that Moray has an enormous amount to shout about and is an exceptional place to live and work and as an Administration they will be positive about Moray, positive about the Council and positive about the future that it is now their job to shape.

Following discussion in regard to the membership of the Licensing Board which had not been included within the terms of the Motion, it was agreed that as the next scheduled meeting was due to be held on 14 June 2018, the current membership would continue in order to allow the business of that meeting to be considered and thereafter the names of the new membership be passed to Committee Services.

Thereafter nominations were sought for the appointment of Chair of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Eagle, seconded by Councillor Gatt, moved that Councillor Macrae be appointed as Chair of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee.

As an amendment Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Divers, moved that Councillor Ross be appointed as Chair of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee.

On a division there voted:

For the Motion (8)	Councillors Eagle, Gatt, Brown, Cowie, Feaver, Macrae, M McLean and R McLean.
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For the Amendment (4)	Councillors Edwards, Divers, Ross and Shepherd.
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Abstentions (12)	Councillors Alexander, Allan, Bremner, Coull, Cowe, Coy, Laing, Leadbitter, A McLean, Morrison, Patience and Warren.
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Accordingly the motion became the finding of the Meeting and the Council agreed that Councillor M Macrae be appointed as Chair of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee.

It was further agreed that Group Leaders provide the names of their respective membership on each of the Council's Committees to the Democratic Services Manager as soon as possible following the meeting.