

Minutes of the County Council Meeting held on 23 May 2019

Present:

Attendance		
Charlotte Atkins	Phil Hewitt	Paul Snape
Philip Atkins, OBE	Jill Hood	Bob Spencer
Ann Beech	Syed Hussain	Mark Sutton
Gill Burnett	Keith James	Stephen Sweeney
Tina Clements	Julia Jessel	Simon Tagg
Maureen Compton	Trevor Johnson	Martyn Tittley
John Cooper	Bryan Jones	Carolyn Trowbridge
Derek Davis, OBE	Jason Jones	Ross Ward
Mark Deaville	Alastair Little	Alan White
Alan Dudson	Johnny McMahon	Philip White
Janet Eagland	Paul Northcott	Conor Wileman
Ann Edgeller	Kath Perry	Bernard Williams
Helen Fisher	Jeremy Pert	David Williams
Keith Flunder	Jonathan Price	Victoria Wilson
John Francis	Natasha Pullen	Mark Winnington
Colin Greatorex	Kyle Robinson	Susan Woodward
Michael Greatorex	David Smith	Mike Worthington
Gill Heath		

Apologies for absence: Ben Adams, David Brookes, Ron Clarke, Mike Davies, Ian Parry, Bernard Peters and Mike Sutherland

PART ONE

1. Election of the Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year

Mrs Wilson moved, and Mr David Williams seconded, and it was:

RESOLVED – That Mrs Kath Perry be elected Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year.

2. Declarations of Interest under Standing Order 16

The following Members declared an interest in accordance with Standing Order 16.5:-

Member	Minute Nos.	Interest	Reason
Susan Woodward	6	Personal	Trustee of the charity Chasewater Friends
Alastair Little	7	Disclosable pecuniary interest	Due to become a father in December 2019

3. Confirmation of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 March 2019

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 21 March 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

4. Election of the Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year

Mrs Jessel moved, and Mr Spencer seconded, and it was:-

RESOLVED – That Mr Paul Snape be appointed Vice-Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year.

5. Chairman's Correspondence

Chairman's Civic Service

The Chairman reminded Members that this years' Civic Church Service was to take place at St. Mary's Church, Stafford on Sunday, 16 June commencing at 12:00 noon. All Members were welcome to attend the Service.

St. Mary's, Lichfield

The Chairman informed the Council that The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) had selected the St Mary's project in the heart of Lichfield as the best building conservation in the West Midlands for 2019.

The £1.4m project saw the Grade II* listed former church building converted into a library and tourist information centre on the ground floor, with a versatile gallery, heritage and performance space on the first floor.

6. Statement of the Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council presented a Statement outlining his recent work since the previous meeting of the Council. In introducing his Statement, the Leader informed the Council that Infrastructure+ had been short-listed as a finalist in the Highways Management category of the Municipal Journal Awards.

Countryside Estate Review

(Paragraph 1 of the Statement)

Mr Robinson referred to the revenue which would be raised through the introduction of car parking charges at the Country Parks and enquired as to how the monies raised would be ringfenced for reinvestment in those Country Parks.

Mrs Woodward referred to the previous reviews of the Council's Countryside Estate, four over the past six years, and the detrimental impact this uncertainty was having on staff. She also referred to the need for further investment in Chasewater and other Country Parks. In response, Mr Winnington indicated that although the review of the service was taking time to complete, it was important that it was done properly. He also

confirmed that there had been investment in the Country Parks and that the monies raised through the levying of car parking fees would be reinvested in the parks. Mrs Heath added that there had only been one complaint in relation to the introduction of the car parking charges at Chasewater.

Mr Dudson enquired about the charges levied by the Council for the use of land in the Country Parks by Fairgrounds etc. In response, Mr Atkins confirmed that the County Council did levy an appropriate charge for such usage.

Mr Deaville referred to the importance of the Country Parks in providing green spaces. He also referred to the proposed family fun day to be held at Chasewater on 10 August which was being organised by the Chasewater Friends.

Staffordshire County Council People Strategy

(Paragraph 2 of the Statement)

Mr Philip White welcomed the Council's People Strategy and its commitment to investing in the workforce.

Public Health Commissioned Services

(Paragraph 3 of the Statement)

Mrs Atkins referred to the Healthy Lifestyle Service and her visit to the team in Leek. She indicated her support for the extension of the scheme and expressed the hope that the Council would find ways of promoting this valuable service. Mrs Woodward indicated that she concurred with the comments made by Mrs Atkins. In response to Mrs Atkins and Mrs Woodward, Mr Alan White indicated that there were concerns that not enough people were accessing the service and he encouraged members to promote the service in their area.

In response to a question from Mr Hussain about reductions in the Public Health Ring Fenced Grant, Mr Atkins indicated that he would ask the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing to respond outside of the meeting.

Development of a Regional Permanency Arrangement

(Paragraph 4 of the Statement)

Mr Sutton and Mr Northcott welcomed the proposals to create a regional arrangement across Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council with a focus on finding local, caring, stable and loving homes where Looked After Children achieve permanence.

Highways and Transport Capital Programme 2019/20

(Paragraph 5 of the Statement)

Mr Tagg referred to the HGV Routing Review and the Road Signage Review within Newcastle and expressed the hope that the reviews would be completed as soon as possible.

Mr Dudson and Mr Hussain welcomed the allocation of £20,000 to each county councillor to prioritise local highways improvements in their area which will benefit local communities. Mr Dudson also referred to traffic in the Pear Tree Estate area in Rugeley. In response, Mrs Fisher indicated that she would investigate the issues to which Mr Dudson had referred and would respond to him in due course. In response to a comment from Mr Hussain as to Stapenhill Parish Council deciding not to top-up the £20,000 allocation by the County Council, Mr Francis expressed the view that all parish councils needed to “step up to the plate” as they had a role to play in supporting local improvement schemes. Mrs Woodward also indicated that when the finances of top-tier authorities were under pressure it was important that Parish Councils helped to support their local communities.

Mrs Jessel referred to two proposed projects within her division and requested that traffic management plans be published in relation to these works as soon as possible. In response, Mrs Fisher indicated that she would raise this matter with the relevant officers.

Mr Flunder, Mr Price, Mr Philip White and Mr Hewitt spoke about proposed schemes in their divisions which were included in the Capital Programme. Mr Bryan Jones also referred to the successes in tackling the backlog of pothole repairs across the County and indicated that his “postbag” had reduced over the last six months. Mrs Woodward added that residents were still waiting a long time for the lower category of repairs to be completed.

Mr Deaville also spoke about local safety schemes and how they were just as important as the highway maintenance schemes.

Celebrating Staffordshire

(Paragraph 7 of the Statement)

Mr Colin Greatorex, Mrs Trowbridge and Mr Winnington spoke about the success of Staffordshire Day and the contribution it had made to the local economy. Mrs Trowbridge also suggested that, as Friday 8th May 2020 would be the 75th anniversary of VE Day, Staffordshire Day be moved to coincide with the VE Day celebrations and for events to be organised to show support for the Armed Forces.

Ironman 70.3 Staffordshire

(Paragraph 8 of the Statement)

Mrs Trowbridge, Mr Price and Mr Bryan Jones referred to the success of the Ironman 70.3 Staffordshire event and how this was an important showcase for the County. Mrs Trowbridge also enquired as to how the County Council could capitalise on the event by making it bigger. Members also extended their best wishes to Alan White who was participating in the event again this year.

Staffordshire Highways

(Paragraph 10 of the Statement)

In response to a question from Mrs Atkins concerning the need for repairs to the paving near the Nicolson War Memorial in Leek, Mrs Fisher stated that she would ensure that

the works to repair the paving were completed. Mr Atkins also referred to the problems caused by the utility companies who fail to properly reinstate the highway when they undertake work on their apparatus.

Staying with Roads

(Paragraph 11 of the Statement)

Mr Robinson referred to traffic congestion problems along the A34 through Butt Lane and enquired as to how the Council could support local Members in raising such issues with Highways England. In response, Mr Deaville indicated that the County Council worked closely with Highways England and that Mr Robinson had followed the correct procedure in raising his concerns through the freight forum.

In response to a question from Mrs Trowbridge in relation to the commencement of work on the Stafford Western Access Route, Mr Winnington confirmed that the works were on track for the commencement of the scheme in June.

Mr Bernard Williams referred to the public consultation on the proposed M6 M54 Link Road scheme and the scheme's potential impact on local communities. He also requested that 15/20 mph speed limits be imposed around all schools in Staffordshire. In response, Mr Winnington indicated that it was important for the right mitigation measures to be put in place for local communities impacted by the scheme.

Mrs Jessel referred to the design of roads on modern housing estates which, due to their narrowness and the volume of vehicles parking on them, could give rise to road safety issues. She enquired as to whether the County Council, as the Highway Authority, could review its design guide for such roads. In response, Mr Winnington indicated that local planning authorities also had a role to play in this respect. Mr Michael Greatorex also indicated that design criteria was often set nationally and that highways and planning authorities had to comply with those guidelines. He suggested that the County Council needed to lobby Central Government to bring about the changes necessary. Mrs Woodward indicated that she concurred with the views expressed by Mr Greatorex and suggested that the matter be considered by the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee.

Mr McMahon also referred to the possible road safety implications arising from the growth in the number of electric cars which, due to their quietness, meant that pedestrians may not be aware of them.

Local Elections

(Paragraph 12 of the Statement)

In response to a question from Mr Smith, Mr Atkins indicated that, following the recent local elections, he had written to new leaders in the district and borough councils to welcome them.

RESOLVED – That the Statement of the Leader of the Council be received.

7. Notices of Motion

(a) Mr Winnington moved, and Mr Tittley seconded, the following motion:

“That this Council:

- i. Continues to express concerns on the impact of HS2 on Staffordshire, especially given the acceleration of phase 2a to Crewe.
- ii. Welcomes the efforts the council has made to mitigate the impact of Phase 1 on the county and its communities and our commitment to build on the experience gained to reduce the impact of Phase 2a.
- iii. Continues to ensure Staffordshire’s voice is heard in terms of mitigation on the environment and meaningful compensation for affected residents.
- iv. Engages with Government, HS2 Ltd, district and borough councils and neighbouring authorities to gain maximum economic benefits from HS2, building on the partnership of Midlands Connect to deliver better connectivity for all Staffordshire.
- v. Proposes the Leader should write to Government to request that all enabling works on Phase 1 for HS2 in Staffordshire should be paused until the Notice to Proceed to main works contractors has been approved. As required by the Department of Transport, Notice to Proceed should not be given until management capability, affordability of contracts and robustness of revised business case have all been proven. We see no reason why Staffordshire should suffer significant disruption and long-term environmental destruction until detailed design and cost has been approved. We also ask that HS2 Ltd significantly improves the effectiveness of its community engagement with those impacted by the line on Phases 1, 2a and 2b.”

Mrs Woodward indicated that she and the other Members of the Labour Group were in support of the motion and, following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED – That this Council:

- i. Continues to express concerns on the impact of HS2 on Staffordshire, especially given the acceleration of phase 2a to Crewe.
- ii. Welcomes the efforts the council has made to mitigate the impact of Phase 1 on the county and its communities and our commitment to build on the experience gained to reduce the impact of Phase 2a.
- iii. Continues to ensure Staffordshire’s voice is heard in terms of mitigation on the environment and meaningful compensation for affected residents.
- iv. Engages with Government, HS2 Ltd, district and borough councils and neighbouring authorities to gain maximum economic benefits from HS2, building

on the partnership of Midlands Connect to deliver better connectivity for all Staffordshire.

- v. Proposes the Leader should write to Government to request that all enabling works on Phase 1 for HS2 in Staffordshire should be paused until the Notice to Proceed to main works contractors has been approved. As required by the Department of Transport, Notice to Proceed should not be given until management capability, affordability of contracts and robustness of revised business case have all been proven. We see no reason why Staffordshire should suffer significant disruption and long-term environmental destruction until detailed design and cost has been approved. We also ask that HS2 Ltd significantly improves the effectiveness of its community engagement with those impacted by the line on Phases 1, 2a and 2b

(b) Mr Atkins moved, and Mrs Woodward seconded, the following motion:

“That this Council notes that Staffordshire County Council does not currently have a formalised policy relating to Parental Leave for elected Members as there is at present no legal right to Parental Leave for those elected to public office.

It is proposed that this Council should adopt a Parental Leave Policy for elected Members on a new addition to their family. This council resolves to set up a working group to consider the attached policy proposals on Parental Leave.”

Note by Clerk: Mr Little declared a personal pecuniary interest, left the Chamber, and took no part in the consideration of the motion or the decision thereon.

Following a short debate and a vote, it was:

RESOLVED – (a) That this Council notes that Staffordshire County Council does not currently have a formalised policy relating to Parental Leave for elected Members as there is at present no legal right to Parental Leave for those elected to public office.

(b) It is proposed that this Council should adopt a Parental Leave Policy for elected Members on a new addition to their family. This council resolves to set up a working group to consider the attached policy proposals on Parental Leave.

8. Annual Report on the Staffordshire Local Community Fund 2018

In introducing the report, Mr Atkins congratulated Members in using the Fund also to lever monies from others by way of match funding. Mrs Woodward also referred to the need for Parish Council’s to step into the gap left by the cessation of the Fund.

RESOLVED – That the annual report on the Staffordshire Local Community Fund 2018 be received.

9. Committee Membership

Mr Atkins moved, and Mr Alan White seconded, and it was:

RESOLVED – That the Members indicated below serve on the Committees indicated for the period up to the annual Council meeting in 2020:-

Corporate Review Committee	
Charlotte Atkins	Ian Parry
David Brookes	Bernard Peters
Mike Davies	Martyn Tittley
John Francis	Stephen Sweeney
Colin Greatorex	David Williams
Michael Greatorex	Susan Woodward
Johnny McMahon	

Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee	
Tina Clements	Ian Parry
Keith Flunder	Kyle Robinson
Syed Hussain	David Smith
Julia Jessel	Simon Tagg
Bryan Jones	Bernard Williams

Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee	
Ann Beech	Paul Snape
Ron Clarke	Bob Spencer
John Francis	Carolyn Trowbridge
Trevor Johnson	Conor Wileman
Jason Jones	Mike Worthington

Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee	
Charlotte Atkins	Jeremy Oates
Janet Eagland	Kath Perry
Ann Edgeller	Jeremy Pert
Phil Hewitt	Bernard Peters
Dave Jones	Ross Ward
Johnny McMahon	Victoria Wilson
Paul Northcott	

Planning Committee	
Ben Adams	Ian Lawson
David Brookes	Alastair Little
Ron Clarke	Kyle Robinson
John Cooper	David Smith
Alan Dudson	Paul Snape
Keith James	Bob Spencer

Julia Jessel	Mike Worthington
Trevor Johnson	

Pensions Committee	
Ben Adams	Bob Spencer
Philip Atkins	Mike Sutherland
Mike Davies	Stephen Sweeney
Derek Davis	Martyn Tittley
Colin Greatorex	

Audit and Standards Committee	
Derek Davis	Martyn Tittley
Ann Edgeller	Carolyn Trowbridge
Colin Greatorex	Ross Ward
Michael Greatorex	Bernard Williams
Jill Hood	David Williams
Alastair Little	Susan Woodward
Paul Northcott	Victoria Wilson
Jonathan Price	

Corporate Parenting Panel	
Gill Burnett	Jill Hood
Ron Clarke	Bryan Jones
Maureen Compton	Bernard Peters
Janet Eagland	Natasha Pullen
John Francis	Paul Snape
Michael Greatorex	Mark Sutton
Gill Heath	Carolyn Trowbridge
Phil Hewitt	

Charities and Trusts Committee	
Michael Greatorex	David Smith
Syed Hussain	Paul Snape
Kath Perry	

Cabinet Members (9)

Leader of the Council – Philip Atkins

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing - Alan White
 Cabinet Member for Finance – Mike Sutherland

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People - Mark Sutton

Cabinet Member for Economic Growth - Mark Winnington

Cabinet Member for Commercial – Mark Deaville

Cabinet Member for Communities – Gill Heath

Cabinet Member for Learning and Employability – Philip White

Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport – Helen Fisher

Support Members with specific portfolios (4)

Adult Safeguarding – Gill Burnett

Digital Community – Bryan Jones

Environmental Future – Conor Wileman

Inclusion SEND – Jonathan Price

Cabinet Support Members to chair and lead the All Party Working Groups (2)

Isolation – Keith Flunder

Aspiration – Simon Tagg

Community Cabinet Support Members (8) to support the Cabinet Member for Communities

Cannock Chase – Phil Hewitt

East Staffordshire – Bernard Peters

Lichfield – Janet Eagland

Newcastle-under-Lyme – Trevor Johnson

South Staffordshire – Victoria Wilson

Stafford – Jeremy Pert

Staffordshire Moorlands – Ross Ward

Tamworth – Jeremy Oates

10. Appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees and Panels

Mr Atkins moved, and Mr Alan White seconded, the nominations for the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committee.

Mrs Woodward spoke of the need for there to be opposition vice-chairmen on the Council's select committees in order to show that those committees were not party political. She also referred to this proposal being included in the recommendations contained in the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), the consideration of which had been deferred by the Council. In response, Mr Atkins indicated that there would be a meeting of the IRP as soon as was practicable.

RESOLVED – That the under-mentioned be appointed as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committees stated for the period up to the annual Council meeting in 2020:-

Committee	Chairman
Corporate Review Committee	
Chairman	Michael Greatorex
Vice-Chairman	David Williams
Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee	
Chairman	Johnny McMahon
Vice-Chairman	Paul Northcott
Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee	
Chairman	Ian Parry
Vice-Chairman	Tina Clements
Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee	
Chairman	John Francis
Vice-Chairman	Bob Spencer
Planning Committee	
Chairman	Julia Jessel
Vice-Chairman	David Smith
Pensions Committee	
Chairman	Colin Greatorex
Vice-Chairman	Mike Davies

Audit and Standards Committee

Chairman

Martyn Tittley

Vice-Chairman

Carolyn Trowbridge

Corporate Parenting Panel

Chairman

Mark Sutton

Vice-Chairman

Bryan Jones

Charities and Trusts Committee

Chairman

Kath Perry

Vice-Chairman

David Smith

11. Appointment of members to Outside Bodies 2018/19

Mr Atkins moved, and Mr Alan White seconded, and it was:

RESOLVED - That the nominations of the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Political Group Leaders, on the appointment of members to Outside Bodies for 2019/20 be approved and that the Leader be authorised to make any changes to those appointments as may become necessary.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting until 1:45 pm

Present at 1:45 pm:

Charlotte Atkins
Philip Atkins OBE
Gill Burnett
Tina Clements
John Cooper
Janet Eagland
Ann Edgeller
Helen Fisher
Keith Flunder
Colin Greatorex
Michael Greatorex
Phil Hewitt
Gill Heath

Jill Hood
Syed Hussain
Keith James
Julia Jessel
Trevor Johnson
Bryan Jones
Jason Jones
Johnny McMahon
Paul Northcott
Kath Perry (Chairman)
Jeremy Pert
Kyle Robinson
David Smith

Paul Snape
Robert Spencer
Mark Sutton
Stephen Sweeney
Martyn Tittley
Carolyn Trowbridge
Alan White
Philip White
Bernard Williams
David Williams
Victoria Wilson
Mark Winnington
Susan Woodward

12. Report of the Chairman of the Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

Mrs Atkins enquired as to how the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner proposed to communicate to the public the number of additional uniformed officers and where they were to be deployed. In response, Mr Sweeney indicated that he understood that there was to be an extra 69 uniformed officers, but that was still to be confirmed, and that he was sure that the Commissioner would publicise the full details in due course.

In response to a question from Mr Spencer in relation to the review of the Safer Neighbourhood Panels, Mr Sweeney indicated that some of the Panels were effective whereas others were not, and the Commissioner had decided to take on the responsibility for their coordination going forward.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

13. Questions

Mr Hussain asked the following question of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport whose reply is set out below the question:-

Question

Residents are suffering from shortage of car parking space and traffic congestion. Does the county have any plan to resolve this issue?

Reply

The Local Transport Plan for Staffordshire (2011 – 2026) sets out high level highway & transport objectives, policies and strategy to support our vision for a 'Connected Staffordshire'. This includes how we will aim to reduce reliance on the private car, improve air quality and promote more sustainable forms of sustainable transport and active travel.

Beneath the Local Transport Plan are 8 local District Transport Strategies. These have been developed in consultation with Borough and District Councils to help make Local Development Plans acceptable in Transport terms. They include details of key highway and transport improvement needs, which is key to being able to secure developer funding contributions through s.106 or s.278 agreements.

The East Staffordshire District Transport Strategy was publicly consulted on during 2013 and signed off by Cabinet in April 2014. It is available on the county council's internet pages and the local Member's portal.

With regards to parking this is a key part of the Local Transport Plan. It is a very important part of all our lives - affecting where we go and how we choose to get there.

A revised draft parking strategy has recently been reviewed and agreed with the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee and will be going out to public consultation next month.

Supplementary Question

May I invite the Cabinet Member to visit my division to see the problem for herself?

Reply

Yes, I would be happy to come and have a look at the issues you have raised.

Mr Robinson asked the following question of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport whose reply is set out below the question:-

Question

Can the Cabinet Member for Highways please give a date for when potholes on Chapel Street, Butt Lane will be repaired?

Reply

As all Members will be aware we do not have unlimited resources and so in line with national Codes of Practice repairs to potholes and all other highway defects are prioritised to minimise the risk of personal injury or property damage.

Over the last 4 months the performance levels achieved are:

- 100% of Emergency defects have been completed within 2 hours;
- 97.6% of high-risk (Category 1) defects repaired within 24-hours;
- 91.8% of high-to-medium risk (Category 2) defects repaired within 7days; and
- Approximately ¼ of all other identified or reported highway defects completed within 60 days.

The potholes on Chapel Street Butt are all of a very minor nature and as such have not yet been prioritised for repair. However, they have been given a Category 3 status so that if the opportunity arises repairs can be considered alongside any other more urgent works.

However, if the local Member is minded, then he also has the option of locally prioritising these repairs through his £20k maintenance allocation.

Supplementary Question

The problem with this particular road is that there are a lot of category three potholes, a number of which have been there for some considerable time.

Reply

I will take another look at this particular area for you.

Mr Northcott asked the following question of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport whose reply is set out below the question:-

Question

We have heard about the extra 20k allocated for each member of the Council. Could the Cabinet Member for Highways outline the steps presently being taken to facilitate and improve capacity to meet the members' DHP requests for timely work to be undertaken in their respective divisions?

Reply

As every single member will know, last year we had spending controls in place to support the development of our MTFs. I would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding where this affected services you come in to regular contact with, such as the Community Highways Teams, where in some parts of the County these vacancies have meant response rates from the remaining staff have been slow.

I am pleased to report that the Community Highways team have just completed a recruitment process to fill longstanding vacancies in the team. New staff will be in post within the next couple of months. This will help the team to facilitate the delivery of the £20k Life Enhancing Maintenance Funding and DHP requests from members.

In addition, Amey have allocated an extra engineer to oversee the implementation of the more significant works identified by members for the £20k Life Enhancing Maintenance Funding.

The highways team has a strong appreciation of the importance of these initiatives and will continue to work hard to successfully deliver both programmes across the county.

Supplementary Question

Can I ask the Cabinet Member if she agrees with me that Members will require a timely update as soon as possible in order to avoid a mad rush and clamour to spend the money at the end of the financial year?

Reply

I meet regularly with the local highway teams and I will make sure that Members receive regular updates.

14. Petitions

There were no petitions on this occasion.

Chairman