The Chair reminded everyone present that they were welcome to use the Welsh language at the meeting and simultaneous translation was available.

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

   It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Peter Lewis be nominated as Chair of the Council for 2019/2020.

   **RESOLVED-**
   
   That Councillor Peter Lewis be elected as Chair of the Council for 2019/2020.
Councillor Peter Lewis took the opportunity of thanking Members for the respect they had given the office of Chair over the last year and looked forward to working with them all during 2019/20.

The Chair had attended many fantastic events over the past year and feedback revealed the high regard the public had for the Council.

Attending the events provided an opportunity to meet staff who achieved for the Council on a day-to-day basis.

2. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Abdul Khan be elected as Vice-Chair of the Council for 2019/2020.

**RESOLVED-**

- That Councillor Abdul Khan be elected as Vice-Chair for 2019/2020.

Councillor Abdul Khan thanked Members for their support.

3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ronnie Hughes, Alan Hunter, Ian Jenkins, Sue Lloyd-Williams, Dave Roberts and Joan Vaughan.

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

**St David Young Person Award**

Bethan Owen had been successful in winning the Young Carer and Volunteer St David Award, which was a national award of Wales. Ms Owen had been recognised for the excellent work she had done in opening not-for-profit karate clubs for other young carers. The clubs supported young carers to develop confidence, self-esteem and have a break from caring responsibilities.

Ms Owen has also been successful in winning the Young Achiever Pride of Sports Award 2019.

**British Association of Social Workers Awards**

John Davies (Deprivation of Liberty Standards Co-ordinator) was successful in winning the award for Practice Teacher, as he had made an invaluable contribution to the education and development of practice teaching in Wales.
As well as Mr Davies’ success, awards were also presented to the following officers:

- Kyle Dovey (Student Social Worker) for the “Spirit of Social Work” category.
- The Strengthening Families Team for the final of “Social Work Team” category.

**Corporate Health Standard**

Having undergone an assessment against the Welsh Government’s Corporate Health Standard, the Council was recently awarded the Silver Standard at an event held in Bangor University. The Strategic Director – Social Care and Education (Jenny Williams) and the Corporate Organisation Development Manager (Cheryl Roberts) were in attendance to receive the award.

5. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: CODE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONDUCT**

In the interest of transparency, Phil Davies (Head of Corporate Human Resources), Delyth Jones (Head of Law and Governance), Andrew Kirkham (Strategic Director – Finance and Efficiencies), Jane Richardson (Strategic Director – Economy and Place) and Jenny Williams (Head of Social Care and Education) all declared an interest in Agenda Item 14 (Senior Employment Committee) and left the meeting whilst the item was discussed.

6. **URGENT MATTERS**

None.

7. **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL**

The minutes of the meetings of Council held on 28 February 2019 and 10 April 2019 were submitted for approval.

**RESOLVED-**

That the minutes of the meetings of Council held on 28 February 2019 and 10 April 2019 be approved and signed as a correct record.

8. **TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, LEADER, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Chair had attended the following events:-

- North Wales Choral Society Diamond Jubilee
- Deaf Awareness Event – the event highlighted how the Council was leading the way, with the only interpretive centre for deaf people in the County Borough. Council employees also received awards at the event for their contribution to deaf awareness.
The Leader made the following announcement:-

- Members joined the Leader in expressing their deepest and sincerest sympathies to the family, parents and friends of the young Ysgol John Bright pupil who had recently died in tragic circumstances on the Great Orme, Llandudno.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources made the following announcements:-

- Welsh Government had provided £1.336m of funding in Wales towards the £1.542m teachers’ pension fund gap. As the Council had agreed that a sum over the £1m would be distributed to schools, £250k of that funding would be utilised for school budgets.
- It looked as though the Council would be facing a funding gap of some £12.5m for the 2020/21 financial year. Cabinet was in the process of developing its proposed approach to meeting this substantial challenge, which it would be sharing with Members shortly.

The Cabinet Member for Social Care (Adult, Community Services and Housing) made the following announcements:-

- The Housing Solutions Team had been successful in gaining Shelter Cymru’s Equal Ground Standard, which was a tool for embedding person-centred principles in frontline homelessness services.
- Catrefi Conwy and Creating Enterprise had won the Public Finance Award for Alternative Service Delivery Model of the Year for their Hous4One Project, which was delivering energy efficient modular housing for single people.
- A joint project between Health, Social Care and Housing and Clwyd Alun Housing Association had been highly commended in the category Older People Landlord of the Year at the UK Housing Awards.

The Cabinet Member for Democracy, Law and Modernisation announced that as Members would be aware the European Parliamentary Elections would be held on 23 May 2019 and the Elections Team, which had a well-deserved reputation for delivering efficient elections, was working hard.

Members joined the Chair in wishing Debbie Horton, Committee Services Officer, a long and happy retirement.

9. **TO ANSWER QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 14.2**

None.
NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR AARON WYNNE

Councillor Aaron Wynne introduced his Notice of Motion, as outlined below, and added that climate change had caused severe weather and flooding, which resulted in a £200m loss to the Welsh economy every year. Whilst steps were being taken by the Council, such as 4 weekly refuse collections to improve recycling and introducing paperless offices, there was much more that needed to be done. Radical action needed to be taken to avert the melting of the polar ice caps and deforestation and he hoped that Members would support the following Motion:

“The Council notes that the effects of climate change and extreme weather events have already had an impact on residents within the county, and that residents living on low ground and on the coast are living in an area of high flood risk.

The Council also notes that sea level is expected to rise by 1.1 metre over the next century, and that every year floods cost around £200 million to the Welsh economy.

The Council declares a climate emergency and commits to ensuring that the county continues to be a lively, viable and sustainable home for our children and future generations.

The Council calls on the Welsh Government to commit to taking the positive steps needed to reduce carbon emissions and strive to create a carbon-neutral future.”

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Roads and Facilities supported the Motion and proposed that an additional wording be added, in order to ensure that action would be taken as follows:-

“The Council calls on the Welsh Government to provide the necessary support and resources to enable effective carbon reductions across Wales.

The Council will task the Green Programme Board to develop, during the next 12 months, a clear plan for a route towards the Authority being a net zero carbon user. The plan will be designed with a goal to be fully implemented during the following 10 years.”

It was further proposed that, as a result of the fluvial flooding in the County Borough, the first paragraph be amended as follows:-

“The Council notes that the effects of climate change and extreme weather events have already had an impact on residents within the county, and those living in increasingly high risk flood areas.”

Members supported the Notice of Motion, including the above amendments, and made the following comments:-

- There was a 95% probability that the current climate change was a as a result of human actions.
- A UK solution was required by the UK Government.
Whilst Wales could make a start on climate change countries such as America, China and India had to make drastic changes.

Concerns were raised in relation to the increasing level of plastic in the seas.

Carbon emissions had to be cut and schemes such as car share, using public transport, car free days and improving active travel should be explored.

Shops should be encouraged to provide paper bags and not plastic.

Whilst the issue of climate change was a world-wide issue, Members should be mindful of the phrase 'think globally, act locally'.

Climate change was having a deep impact in terms of flooding and the loss of biodiversity.

After the local flooding in the Conwy Valley in March 2019, the Leader had hosted a Forum for Members to explore improvements and possible interventions.

Alternative energy sources should be explored, including hydro schemes.

New builds should be built to BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) standards, which was a method of assessing, rating, and certifying the sustainability of buildings.

Everyone had to take a stance on what they could do as individuals.

It was suggested that an Emergency Climate Change Task and Finish Group be set-up but, as the Green Programme Board was already established and producing results through various schemes, the Chief Executive suggested that the Green Programme Board could be invited to present a report on its achievements, including future projects and schemes, to the Economy and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the first instance. This was supported by Members, with possible update reports to the Council as necessary.

The suggestion of re-introducing an Environment Champion, could also be included within the report to the Economy and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED-
(a) That the following Notice of Motion be supported:-

“The Council notes that the effects of climate change and extreme weather events have already had an impact on residents within the county, and those living in increasingly high risk flood areas.

The Council also notes that sea level is expected to rise by 1.1 metre over the next century, and that every year floods cost around £200 million to the Welsh economy.

The Council declares a climate emergency and commits to ensuring that the county continues to be a lively, viable and sustainable home for our children and future generations.”
The Council calls on the Welsh Government to commit to
taking the positive steps needed to reduce carbon
emissions and strive to create a carbon-neutral future

“The Council calls on Welsh Government to provide the
necessary support and resources to enable effective
carbon reductions across Wales.

The Council will task the Green Programme Board to
develop, during the next 12 months, a clear plan for a route
towards the Authority being a net zero carbon user. The
plan will be designed with a goal to be fully implemented
during the following 10 years.”

(b) That the Green Programme Board presents a report on its
achievements, including future projects and schemes and
the possible re-introduction of the Environment Champion,
to the Economy and Place Overview and Scrutiny
Committee.

11. NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR TRYSTAN LEWIS

Councillor Trystan Lewis introduced his Notice of Motion, as outlined
below, and added that violence promoted violence. Whilst he was thankful
for the service of the veterans of the armed forces a Peace Champion was
key and essential in a world where there was no desire for war. Supporting
the Motion would set a positive example to other Councils.

“We live in a turbulent world, therefore Conwy County Borough Council
supports every effort to promote peace, in the face of all the violence in our
world. We support the promotion of peace in every aspect of life within
Conwy County: in our schools and within institutions and organisations
involved with the Council. We abstain from any method of promoting
violence and war in Conwy County. To this end, we are seeking to
establish a Peace Champion who will grasp every opportunity to promote
peace and harmony. If we start to promote peace locally, we hope that this
will extend to other counties, countries and continents so that we co-exist
as humankind without violence.”

Discussion ensued as follows:-

• Concerns were raised that by adopting the Motion, it could affect the
  North Wales Growth Deal as many of the companies which may
  benefit from the Growth Deal had defence contracts, which would
  conflict with the sentiments of the Motion. In response, the Strategic
  Director – Economy and Place advised that she felt there was
  nothing within the Motion that was at odds with the Growth Deal.
• Further to the above, residents within the County Borough may be
  employed by those companies that had defence contracts.
• In response to a request that the role of the Peace Champion could include the prevention of domestic violence, the Chief Executive advised that whilst the Council was dealing with many forms of abuse through its safeguarding agenda, to include domestic violence within the remit of a Peace Champion would confuse the role and therefore should be kept separate.

• Supporting the Motion could be interpreted negatively by those residents within the County Borough who had and were serving in the Armed Forces in order to defend their country, family and neighbours.

• There was no distinction between the roles of the Armed Forces Champion and a Peace Champion as both worked to promote and sustain peace.

• The Armed Forces Champion advised that Armed Forces personnel joined to defend their country and by supporting the Motion this could send a mixed message to the Armed Forces personnel.

The Leader provided some background to the Notice of Motion, which was as a result of the advice given to the Conwy Peace Group following the concerns it had raised in relation to the events at the Armed Forces Day. Furthermore, the Council had acknowledged the International Day of Peace on 21 September 2019.

As a result of the above comments, it was proposed that the Notice of Motion be referred to the Democratic Services Committee for consideration.

RESOLVED-
    That the Notice of Motion be referred to the Democratic Services Committee for consideration.

12. DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meetings of the Democratic Services Committee held on 11 March 2019 were presented.

The Chair of the Democratic Services Committee drew Members’ attention to Minute 917 (Overview and Scrutiny - Reports for Information) and Minute 919 (b) and (c) (Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales: Annual Report 2019/20), as the Council was requested to approve the recommendations of those minutes.

RESOLVED-
    That the recommendations contained within Minutes 917 and 919 (b) and (c) of the meeting of the Democratic Services Committee held on 11 March 2019 be approved.
13. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CORPORATE PLAN 2019/20

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources advised Members that Local Authorities had a statutory duty to review and approve their corporate priorities annually. They must do this as soon as practical after the start of the financial year (1st April). The purpose of the report was to comply with this statutory duty and to seek approval from Council for the priorities (which were also the Council’s Well-Being Objectives) for the financial year 2019 – 2020.

The report detailed the second annual review of the Corporate Plan 2017-22 and made recommendations for amendments. The amendments included adjustments to actions and targets, based upon changes in the financial situation and feedback received from the public and staff during the engagement exercise undertaken between December 2018 and February 2019.

The following comments were made:-

- It was noted that the Review of Education and Social Services Task and Finish Groups were exploring methods of delivering the Council’s Corporate Priorities with ever diminishing resources.
- It was confirmed that the word ‘school’ had been omitted from Corporate Priority M1.4c and that amendment would be made.

Members thanked the Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager and her team, for the hard work undertaken in producing the Corporate Plan.

RESOLVED-
That the proposed changes to the Corporate Plan be approved.

14. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES 2019/20 AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS

The Cabinet Member for Democracy, Law and Modernisation advised Members that there were a number of recommendations that the Council needed to agree in terms of the appointment of Council Committees, political balance, membership of certain committees and the timetable of meetings.

In order to ensure that each matter was dealt with appropriately, it was agreed to discuss each recommendation in turn.

Appointment of Council Committees

Members were requested to consider the Council Committees listed in Appendix A of the report for 2019/20, and whether to re-appoint with their terms of reference as shown.
It was noted that under the Corporate Joint Consultative Committee and Corporate Joint Health, Safety and Health Promotion Committee, the Cabinet Member for Communication should be amended to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources.

Members attention was drawn to the size of the 4 Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Planning Committee and the Democratic Services Committee, which had been increased to 19 in 2018/2019; attendance at those Committees, was an average of 13/14 Members attending each meeting. Members were requested to consider how the increase in membership affected the work-life balance of Members and how it would be viewed by the Wales Audit Office (WAO).

It was confirmed that Member attendance was collated via the Member Attendance List, which Members signed at every meeting.

Whilst some Members supported a reduction in the size of the Committees to 15, in order to improve attendance rates and improve work-life balance, other Members considered that the membership should remain at 19, as it ensured that, with any apologies for absence, there were enough Members present to enable a good discussion on reports and it made decision making more robust, especially in the Planning Committee. It was noted that Members had to give apologies on occasions, as a result of a clash of meetings, but that did not mean Members were any less committed to their work on the Committees.

Following the above discussion, Members agreed to appoint the Council Committees as outlined within Appendix A of the report and proposed that the size of membership remained as follows:-

19 Members – Overview and Scrutiny, Planning, Democratic Services Committees
15 Members – Audit and Governance and Licensing (Statutory and General) Committees
10 Members – Senior Employment Committee and Senior Investigation Committee

RESOLVED-
(a) That the Committees listed in Appendix A of the report be re-appointed for 2019/20, with their existing terms of reference as shown (subject to change to the JCC membership), and with no change to the size of the membership.

Political Balance

Members were requested to consider the allocation of seats on Council Committees to the various political groups, in line with the political balance requirements.
RESOLVED-
  (b) That the seats on those committees be allocated to the various groups according to the political balance requirements.

Membership and Chair of the Democratic Services Committee

Members were requested to confirm the membership of the Democratic Services Committee.

RESOLVED-
  (c) That Councillors Frank Bradfield, Chris Cater, Geoff Corry, Samantha Cotton, Mary Doyle, Philip C Evans J.P., Julie Fallon, Pat Hebron, Chris Hughes Ian Jenkins, Emma Leighton-Jones, Garffild Lloyd Lewis, Austin Roberts, Harry Saville, Susan Shotter, Nigel Smith, Adrian Tansley, Joan Vaughan and Aaron Wynne be appointed to the Democratic Services Committee.

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Chris Cater be nominated as Chair of the Democratic Services Committee.

RESOLVED-
  (d) That Councillor Chris Cater be appointed as Chair of the Democratic Services Committee.

Membership of the Audit and Governance Committee

Members were requested to confirm the membership of the Audit and Governance Committee.

RESOLVED-
  (e) That Councillors Penny Andow, Carol Beard, Frank Bradfield, Geoff Corry, Dave Cowans, Mary Doyle, Goronwy Edwards, Trystan Lewis, Charlie McCoubrey, Mike Priestley, John Roberts, Harry Saville, Michael Smith, Andrew Wood and Vacancy x 1 (Plaid Annibynnol) be appointed to the Audit and Governance Committee.

Membership of the Standards Committee

Members were requested to consider re-affirming the membership of the Standards Committee.

RESOLVED-
  (f) That Councillors Frank Bradfield, Andrew Hinchliff and Peter Lewis MBE be re-appointed to the Standards Committee.
Appointment of Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs

Members were requested to note the arrangements to ensure that Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committees should not be allocated wholly to members of the same political group(s) as those represented on the Executive. The political groups represented on the Executive could each only appoint as many Chairs as were proportionate to their share of the Council’s overall membership.

RESOLVED-
   (g) That the arrangements for the appointment of the Chairs to Overview and Scrutiny Committees by the groups represented on the Executive and the Opposition, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, be noted.

Timetable of Meetings

Members were requested to agree the timetable of committee meetings for the municipal year 2019/20.

RESOLVED-
   (h) That the timetable of committee meetings for the municipal year 2019/20 be approved.

15. SENIOR EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Senior Employment Committee presented the minutes of the Senior Employment Committee held on 29 April 2019 and requested that Members support the recommendation outlined in Minute 82 (Chief Officer Pay Review (excluding Chief Executive)).

The number of Senior Officers had reduced from 32 in 2003 to 16 in 2019, with each of the 16 taking on additional responsibilities.

Members took the opportunity to acknowledge the hard work undertaken by the Senior Management Team, especially over a number of difficult years.

RESOLVED-
   That the proposals set out in the Annex to the minutes be adopted and implemented by the Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) with effect from 1 April 2019.

In the interest of transparency, Phil Davies (Head of Human Corporate Resources), Delyth Jones (Head of Law and Governance), Andrew Kirkham (Strategic Director – Finance and Efficiencies), Jane Richardson (Strategic Director – Economy and Place) and Jenny Williams (Head of Social Care and Education) all declared an interest in the above item and left the meeting whilst the item was discussed.

(The meeting ended at 12.25 pm)