

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD  
AT BY ZOOM ON MONDAY, 24 APRIL 2023**

**PRESENT**

County Councillor E Vaughan (Chair)

County Councillors G Breeze, D Bebb, K Healy, H Hulme, P Lewington, P E Lewis, DW Meredith and S L Williams

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>
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Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor A Davies.

<b>2.</b>	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b>
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The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2023 as a correct record.

<b>3.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>
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There were no declarations of interest.

<b>4.</b>	<b>CONSTITUTION</b>
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The Committee considered the report regarding possible amendments to Section 4 of the Constitution.

**1. Written text / Preamble as background to a Motion**

The following comments were made:

- Only two preambles to motions skewed the average figure,
- Councillors have fewer opportunities to speak at Council,
- Some issues may require longer preambles to explain a motion.

It was moved and duly seconded that no limit to the number of words in the written text / preamble as background to a motion was required.

<b>Recommendation to Full Council:</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
<b>that no limit to the number of words in the written text / preamble as background to a motion was required.</b>	<b>To not limit the text accompanying Motions to Council.</b>

**2. Seconding of Motions**

In response to a question, the Head of Legal Services and the Monitoring Officer advised that there was no problem with a member being able to second more than two motions at a meeting. However, he reminded the Committee that a member is only able to propose two motions at a meeting. It was considered that being able to second only two motions would mean consistency in the Constitution.

It was moved and duly seconded that a Councillor cannot second more than two motions to Council for any Council meeting and Rule 4.41 of the Constitution be amended a detailed paragraph 3.3 of the report.

<b>Recommendation to Full Council:</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
<b>a) That a Councillor cannot second more than two motions to Council for any Council meeting and</b> <b>b) Rule 4.41 of the Constitution be amended as detailed in paragraph 3.3 of the report.</b>	<b>To revise the number of motions which a Councillor can second for any Council meetings.</b>

### **3. Urgent Motions and the need for a Costed Analysis**

The Committee noted that an urgent motion would relate to an issue which could not be delayed until the next meeting. The Chair of Council would decide on whether an urgent motion was accepted.

It was moved and duly seconded that the requirement for a costed analysis is excluded in respect of urgent motions and that Rule 4.43.5, as set out in paragraph 4.4 of the report, be added to the Constitution.

<b>Recommendation to Full Council:</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
<b>a) That the requirement for a costed analysis is excluded in respect of urgent motions and</b> <b>b) That Rule 4.43.5 be added to the Constitution, as set out in paragraph 4.4 of the report.</b>	<b>To exclude the requirement for a costed analysis for urgent motions.</b>

### **4. Amendment to Motions**

The Committee considered whether there were possible inconsistencies in the wording of Rule 4.49.1.5 of the Constitution in respect of Amendments to Motions. The Head of Legal Services and the Monitoring Officer advised that an amendment should not negate a motion, if a member did not support a motion, they should vote against it.

It was moved and duly seconded to remove Rule 4.49.1.5 from the Constitution so as to remove the opportunity for a substitute amendment which negates or would otherwise change the material substance of the original motion.

<b>Recommendation to Full Council:</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
<b>That Rule 4.49.1.5 be deleted from the Constitution so as to remove the opportunity for a substitute amendment which negates or would otherwise change the material substance of the original motion.</b>	<b>To remove inconsistencies in the wording of Rule 4.49.1.</b>