

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

TUESDAY, 31 JANUARY 2023

Present:-

Cllr. Iain Hewson (Chairman)
Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr. Shabbir Aslam	Cllr. Chris Frost	Cllr. Les Phillimore
Cllr. Shane Blackwell	Cllr. Nigel Grundy	Cllr. Louise Richardson
Cllr. Lee Breckon JP	Cllr. Paul Hartshorn	Cllr. Terry Richardson
Cllr. Nick Chapman	Cllr. Mark Jackson	Cllr. Mike Shirley
Cllr. Adrian Clifford	Cllr. Trevor Matthews	Cllr. Ben Taylor
Cllr. Stuart Coar	Cllr. Sam Maxwell	Cllr. Kirsteen Thomson
Cllr. Roy Denney	Cllr. Christine Merrill	Cllr. Bev Welsh
Cllr. David Findlay	Cllr. Phil Moitt	Cllr. Geoff Welsh
Cllr. Janet Forey	Cllr. Mat Mortel	Cllr. Jane Wolfe
Cllr. David Freer	Cllr. Antony Moseley	Cllr. Maggie Wright
Cllr. Deanne Freer	Cllr. Michael O'Hare	

Officers present:-

Julia Smith	- Chief Executive
Sarah Pennelli	- Executive Director - S.151 Officer
John Richardson	- Executive Director
Louisa Horton	- Corporate Services Group Manager & Monitoring Officer
Paul Coates	- Neighbourhood Services & Assets Group Manager
Chris Bell	- Planning Policy Officer
Sandeep Tiensa	- Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer
Katie Brooman	- Senior Electoral Services Officer
Isaac Thomas	- Democracy Support Officer
Nicole Cramp	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer

Apologies:-

Cllr. Nick Brown, Cllr. Alex DeWinter and Cllr. Tracey Shepherd

166. IN REMEMBRANCE OF CLLR. DAVID CLEMENTS

A minutes silence was held in memory of Cllr. David Clements, who sadly passed away on 30 December 2022. He had been a longstanding Member of the Council and served Leicester Forest East as District Councillor for 21 years. Cllr. Clements held numerous positions in the Cabinet Executive from 2005-2013-14 and was Chairman of the Council from 2013-2014.

167. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS

No disclosures were received.

168. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2022, as circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

169. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman, Cllr. Iain Hewson made announcements in respect of the following:

- Attended eight Carol Services at various Councils in Leicestershire.
- Cosby Old People Welfare Association Christmas Lunch.
- Vista Festive Christmas Service.

The Chairman reminded Members of the following events:

- 1st February 2023 at 17.30 First Aid training session facilitated by the Community First Responders.
- 7th February 2023 at 18.30 Civic Buffet Curry Buffet night at the Chef and Spice.
- 26th February 2023 at 11.00 Civic Service at All Saints Church, Sapcote.

170. LEADER'S STATEMENT

The Leader, Cllr. Terry Richardson and Members of Council paid tribute to Cllr. David Clements who sadly passed away on 30 December 2022.

Members spoke fondly of Cllr. Clements and his dedication to his Ward and the support he provided to fellow colleagues and Officers.

Members sent their condolences to his family and friends.

Cllr. Terry Richardson presented his Statement in respect of the following:

- Blaby Toilets
- Financial Settlement
- Surprise Licensing Checks
- Car Park Works
- HMP Fosse Way Extension
- Sycamore Street Appeal Dismissed
- New Street Planning Application Refused
- Cork Lane Public Inquiry Decision Released
- Christmas Fair
- Corporate Peer Review
- LGA Healthcheck of Communications
- Warm Spaces Partnerships
- Be a Councillor Events
- Positive Leisure Centre Performance in 2022
- Archer's Festive Tractor Run
- Community Awards 2022
- Energy Saving Tips
- Carbon Literacy Success

171. AMENDMENT TO CABINET EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Considered - Report of the Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer.

DECISIONS

1. That the amended Scheme of Delegation as detailed in the report be accepted.
2. That the Constitution be amended accordingly with the updated roles and responsibilities of Cabinet Executive Members.

Reasons:

1. Cllr. Sharon Coe resigned from the Council and Cabinet Executive in December 2022.
2. It is appropriate to receive the report of the Leader of the Council including any amendments to the Scheme of Delegation.

172. PUBLIC SPEAKING PROTOCOL

No requests were received.

173. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

No questions were received.

174. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Considered - Report of the Corporate Services Group Manager & Monitoring Officer.

A Supplemental Report in respect of this item had been circulated to Members previously.

DECISIONS

1. That the Members Basic Allowance be increased for 2022/23 by 4.04%.
2. That the Special Responsibility Allowances be increased for 2022/23 by 4.04%.
3. That the Member Allowances Scheme be amended so that annual increases reflect the national average percentage pay award of the National Joint Council Staff Pay Award.

Reasons:

1. The Panel considered applying the national average of the National Joint Council Staff Pay Award was appropriate for the 2022/23 financial year.
2. It is appropriate for the Independent Remuneration Panel to ensure that the Members' Allowances Scheme is reviewed on a regular basis and that the allowances payable to Members are appropriate.
3. This amendment will enable the Scheme to be applied where alternatives to a set percentage pay award are agreed in the pay award discussions with the National Joint Council.

175. CAPITAL INVESTMENT TO UNITS AT ENDERBY ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Considered - Report of the Property & Assets Service Manager, presented by Cllr. Nigel Grundy, Neighbourhood & Assets Portfolio Holder.

DECISIONS

1. That £450,000 of capital expenditure be approved to carry out works on vacant units at Enderby Road Industrial Estate.
2. That delegated authority be given to the Neighbourhood Services and Assets Group Manager, in consultation with the Portfolio holder, to enter into contractual arrangements for the appropriate level of works.

Reason:

1. Two vacant units of the ERIE site require investments to carry out works in order to bring them back to a standard to enable the units to be re-let.
2. It is appropriate to give the delegated authority for the Group Manager and Portfolio holder to have the flexibility to spend up to the authorised amount depending on the outcome of the current negotiations with the prospective tenant.

176. COSBY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – ‘MAKING’ THE PLAN

Considered - Report of the Development Strategy Manager, presented by Cllr. Ben Taylor, Planning, Delivery and Enforcement & Corporate Transformation Portfolio Holder

DECISION

That Council makes (i.e. adopts) the Cosby Neighbourhood Plan, as modified, in accordance with the relevant legislation.

Reason:

Making the Cosby Neighbourhood Plan will mean the document becomes part of the development plan for the area, against which planning applications will be considered. This will reflect the wishes of the local community as expressed through the recent referendum result.

177. GENDER PAY GAP

Considered - Report of the Strategic Director (Section 151 Officer), presented by Cllr. Maggie Wright, Finance, People & Performance Portfolio Holder.

DECISION

That the Gender Pay Gap Result for the year to the 31st March 2022 be accepted.

Reason:

The Council is required by law to carry out Gender Pay Reporting under the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties & public Authorities) Regulations 2017 and this enables the Council to monitor pay differentials by gender throughout the Council.

178. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2022/3

Considered - Report of the Strategic Director (Section 151 Officer), presented by Cllr. Maggie Wright, Finance, People & Performance Portfolio Holder.

DECISION

That the Blaby District Council Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23 be approved.

Reason:

Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to prepare pay policy statements setting out the authority's own policies regarding the remuneration of its staff in particular its senior staff (or 'chief officers') and its lowest paid employees.

179. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICERS

The Corporate Services Group Manager & Monitoring Officer and the Senior Electoral Services Officer withdrew from the Council Chamber before this item was considered.

Considered - Report of the Corporate Services Group Manager and Monitoring Officer, presented by Cllr. Terry Richardson, Leader of the Council

DECISION

That the Corporate Services Group Manager and the Senior Electoral Services Officer be appointed as Deputy Electoral Registration Officer, with the full powers of the Electoral Registration Officer in her absence or for the purposes of the administration of Voter Identification Certificates.

Reason:

It is necessary for resilience and practicalities that Deputy Electoral Registration Officers are required.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6.27 P.M.