

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

TUESDAY, 21 MAY 2024

Present:-

Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore (Chairman)
Cllr. Nick Chapman (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr. Shabbir Aslam	Cllr. Hannah Gill	Cllr. Mike Shirley
Cllr. Royston Bayliss	Cllr. Nigel Grundy	Cllr. Roger Stead
Cllr. Lee Breckon JP	Cllr. Paul Hartshorn	Cllr. Ben Taylor
Cllr. Nick Brown	Cllr. Richard Holdridge	Cllr. Matt Tomeo
Cllr. Stuart Coar	Cllr. Mark Jackson	Cllr. Bob Waterton
Cllr. Luke Cousin	Cllr. Becca Lunn	Cllr. Bev Welsh
Cllr. Tony Deakin	Cllr. Antony Moseley	Cllr. Maggie Wright
Cllr. Roy Denney	Cllr. Les Phillimore	Cllr. Neil Wright
Cllr. Susan Findlay	Cllr. Terry Richardson	
Cllr. Helen Gambardella	Cllr. Tracey Shepherd	

Officers present:-

Julia Smith	- Chief Executive
Louisa Horton	- Executive Director - Communities and Monitoring Officer
Sarah Pennelli	- Executive Director - S.151 Officer
Marc Greenwood	- Executive Director - Place
Jonathan Hodge	- Planning & Strategic Growth Group Manager
Katie Brooman	- Elections and Governance Manager
Sandeep Tiensa	- Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer
Isaac Thomas	- Democracy Support Officer
Nicole Cramp	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer

Honorary Alderman in attendance:-

Iain Hewson & Guy Jackson

Apologies:-

Cllr. Adrian Clifford, Cllr. Alex DeWinter, Cllr. Janet Forey, Cllr. Ande Savage,
Cllr. Dillan Shikotra and Cllr. Jane Wolfe

1. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS

No disclosures were received.

2. OUTGOING CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman, Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore made announcements in respect of the following:

- Attended many Spring, Summer and Christmas events over the 12 months of being Chairman.
- The Chairman was pleased that her final event of the year was a litter pick with Council staff on 15 May 2024, where 21 bags of litter were collected by 17 people in just 75 minutes. The Chair spoke about volunteering as a regular litter picker with the South Leicestershire Litter Wombles.
- The Chairman thanked the Senior PA and colleagues for their support in managing the Chairman's events, and announced that £2,900 was raised on behalf of her nominated Charity, Leicester Animal Aid.
- The Chairman thanked the Democratic Services Team and Monitoring Officer as well as her friends and Husband for their support over the last 12 months.

The Leader, Cllr. Terry Richardson thanked the Chairman for going above and beyond in her role as Chairman of the Council.

3(a) ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The outgoing Chairman Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore invited nominations for the election of Chairman of Blaby District Council for the ensuing year.

DECISION

That Cllr. Nick Chapman be elected Chairman of Blaby District Council, until the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held in 2025.

4. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Cllr. Nick Chapman read out the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked Members for the privilege and honour of being elected as Chairman.

Members congratulated Cllr. Nick Chapman on being elected Chairman of the Council.

5. INVESTITURE OF CHAIRMAN WITH CHAIN OF OFFICE

Cllr. Nick Chapman was invested with the Chain of Office for the Chairman of the Council.

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The new Chairman thanked all Members for electing him as Chairman, and expressed that it is an honour to represent Blaby District Council, he also announced his partner Beverley Greenwood as his Consort for the year ahead.

The Chairman announced that his nominated Charity is the Leicestershire and Rutland Air Ambulance. The Chairman explained the air ambulance relies on donations for its funding and costs £2,300 for every mission. The Chairman's aim is to raise enough funds to pay for one of those missions.

The Chairman expressed what an honour it has been to be the Vice-Chairman to Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore over the past year and to see the hard work she has put into promoting the Council.

7. PRESENTATION OF PAST CHAIRMAN'S BADGE TO OUTGOING CHAIRMAN

Cllr. Nick Chapman presented Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore with the past Chairman's Badge and on behalf of the Council thanked her for her successful year in Office.

8. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Chairman of the Council invited nominations for the Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

Cllr. Janet Forey was duly nominated in her absence.

DECISION

That Cllr. Janet Forey be appointed as Vice- Chairman of the Council for the 2024 – 2025 Municipal Year.

9. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

As Cllr. Janet Forey was unable to attend the meeting, the declaration would be signed at a later date.

10. MINUTES

There were no minutes to consider.

11. LEADERS ANNUAL STATEMENT 2023-2024

Cllr. Stuart Coar left and returned to the meeting during this item.

Cllr. Terry Richardson, Leader of the Council, presented his Statement and highlighted that he was proud of this year's achievements, in particular:

- Providing affordable housing for the vulnerable, and removing residents from temporary accommodation.
- Saying goodbye to old friends, including Geoff Welsh who resigned as an elected Member in 2023.

Cllr. Ben Taylor expressed that he is proud of the Council's achievement in hosting the Armed Forces Coffee Mornings. Supported by the Armed Forces Champion, Cllr. Mark Jackson, the Coffee Mornings have grown in 2 years from 15 attendees to 40, and the Council has determined to show its support to armed forces veterans.

12. SCRUTINY STATEMENT TO ANNUAL COUNCIL 2023-2024

The Scrutiny Commission Chairman, Cllr Nick Brown presented the Scrutiny Statement.

The Scrutiny Commission Chairman thanked Cllr. Roy Denney for his support in his role as Vice-Chairman.

The Scrutiny Commission Vice-Chairman, Cllr. Roy Denney thanked Cllr. Nick Brown for his support over the last 12 months.

13. AUDIT & CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

The Audit & Corporate Governance Committee Chairman, Cllr. Mark Jackson presented the Annual Report.

14. CHANGE IN ORDER OF AGENDA ITEM

Under Part 4, Section 1, Paragraph 13 of the Council's Constitution, the Chairman, Cllr. Nick Chapman, moved that Agenda Item 14, Appointments of Chairman and Vice – Chairman be considered before Item 12.

15. APPOINTMENTS OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIR TO COMMITTEES 2024-25

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

As 2 nominations had been received for the role of Chairman of Scrutiny Commission, the Chairman took the vote by a show of hands.

Cllr. Nick Brown was duly elected.

As 3 nominations had been received for the role of Vice-Chairman of Scrutiny Commission, the Chairman took the vote by a show of hands.

Cllr. Neil Wright was duly elected.

DECISIONS

1. That Council appoint the Chair and Vice-Chair of Committees for the municipal year 2024/2025 as detailed at Appendix A of the report.
2. That Cllr. Nick Brown be elected as Chairman of Scrutiny Commission for the municipal year 2024/25.
3. That Cllr. Neil Wright be elected as Vice-Chairman of Scrutiny Commission for the municipal year 2024/25.

Reason:

It is appropriate to give effect to the wishes of the political groups.

16. DELEGATION SCHEME OF THE CABINET EXECUTIVE AND CABINET EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

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

DECISIONS

1. That the report of the Leader of the Council be accepted.
2. That the Constitution be amended accordingly with the updated roles and responsibilities of Cabinet Executive Members and Senior Leadership Team.

Reason:

It is appropriate to receive the report of the Leader of the Council and the

appointment of Members to the Cabinet Executive.

17. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES 2024/25

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

DECISIONS

1. That effect be given to the wishes of the political groups as to the allocation of seats as detailed at Appendix 1 of the report.
2. That the distribution of seats as set out at Appendix 2 of the report be endorsed with immediate effect for all Committees.

Reason:

It is appropriate to give effect to the wishes of the political groups and ensure compliance with the Local Government & Housing Act 1989, Section 15 – 17 inclusive.

18. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2024/2025

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

DECISIONS

1. That the preferences and changes to appointments to Outside Bodies as proposed in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.
2. That unless otherwise stated all appointments continue until the Annual Council Meeting in 2025.
3. That all appointments be endorsed as approved duties for the payment of expenses.
4. That the Constitution be updated accordingly.

Reason:

It is appropriate to give effect to the wishes of the political groups.

19. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2024/25

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

DECISION

That the Schedule of Meetings for 2024-2025 at Appendix A of the report be approved.

Reason:

It is a Constitutional requirement for Council to approve the Schedule of Meetings.

20. PUBLIC SPEAKING PROTOCOL

No requests were received.

21. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

No questions were received.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6.52 P.M.