

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

TUESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2025

Present:-

Cllr. Roy Denney (Chairman)
Cllr. Janet Forey (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr. Shabbir Aslam
Cllr. Dr John Bloxham
Cllr. Lee Breckon JP
Cllr. Nick Brown
Cllr. Nick Chapman
Cllr. Adrian Clifford
Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore
Cllr. Luke Cousin
Cllr. Alex DeWinter
Cllr. Susan Findlay

Cllr. Helen Gambardella
Cllr. Nigel Grundy
Cllr. Richard Holdridge
Cllr. Mark Jackson
Cllr. Becca Lunn
Cllr. Antony Moseley
Cllr. Les Phillimore
Cllr. Terry Richardson
Cllr. Ande Savage
Cllr. Dillan Shikotra

Cllr. Mike Shirley
Cllr. Roger Stead
Cllr. Ben Taylor
Cllr. Matt Tomeo
Cllr. Bob Waterton
Cllr. Jane Wolfe
Cllr. Maggie Wright
Cllr. Neil Wright

Officers present:-

Julia Smith
Louisa Horton
Sarah Pennelli
Marc Greenwood
Caroline Harbour

Katie Hollis
Ian Jones
Sandeep Tiensa

Nicole Cramp
Avisa Birchenough

- Chief Executive
- Executive Director - Communities
- Executive Director - S.151 Officer
- Executive Director - Place
- Environmental Health, Housing & Community Services Group Manager
- Finance Group Manager
- Housing Services Manager
- Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer
- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer
- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer

Apologies:-

Cllr. Royston Bayliss, Cllr. Stuart Coar, Cllr. Tony Deakin, Cllr. Hannah Gill,
Cllr. Paul Hartshorn and Cllr. Tracey Shepherd

130. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS

No disclosures were received.

131. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 16 September 2025, as circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

132. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman, Cllr. Roy Denney made announcements in respect of the following:

- Attended a service of dedication at Leicester Cathedral, marking the completion of the updated works on 12 October 2025.
- Hosted the Chairman at Home event at the Blaby District Council Offices on 19 October 2025, raising £450 for LOROS.
- Attended North West Leicestershire District Council's Chairmans Charity Dinner.
- Attended the Royal British Legions Festival of Remembrance at De Montfort Hall.
- Attended the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire's Service of Dedication at St. Johns Baptist Church.
- Attended a Charity Quiz at Melton Mowbray.

The Chairman, Cllr. Roy Denney also made announcements in respect of the following upcoming events:

- Civil Carol Service taking place on 11 December 2025, advising that tickets are already sold out.
- Attending both Melton Mowbray's & Hinckley's Christmas Carol Service in December 2025.
- Attending a Charity Pantomime in Hinckley in January 2026
- Attending LOROS Charity event at Blaby District Council on 6 February 2026

Cllr. Roy Denney encouraged Members to fully engage with the upcoming Scrutiny Budget Meetings.

Cllr. Denney invited the Vice Chairman, Cllr. Janet Forey to make her announcements in respect of the following:

- Attended a Civic Service at St. Mary's Church in Melton Mowbray on 19 October 2025.
- Attended a Service held by the Armed Forces Veterans Club in South Wigston on 1 November 2025.
- Attended the Remembrance Service held at Blaby District Council

Offices on 9 November 2025.

133. LEADER'S STATEMENT

Cllr. Adrian Clifford arrived at the meeting during this item.

The Leader, Cllr. Ben Taylor presented his statement in respect of the following:

- Local Government Reorganisation update
- Community Awards
- Solar Panels at Enderby Leisure Centre
- Huncote Open Space Plans
- Jobs and Skills fair
- World or Work visit
- Update from the Active Blaby team
- White Ribbon Day, 25 November 2025
- Recruitment of Waste Services
- In-house ICT Update
- ICT gains cyber-secure accreditation

134. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 85(1) – APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Members were advised that this item had been withdrawn.

135. PRESENTATION: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION PROPOSAL

Members received a presentation from Cllr. Ben Taylor, Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.

The presentation covered the following points:

- Our Approach – Districts and Rutland
- Meeting the Government's Objectives
- Our Proposal: North, City, South
- BDC Role in Proposal Development
- Efficiencies, Investment & Long-term sustainability
- Our Governance Process
- Scrutiny Feedback
- Changes to be made to the Proposal following Councillors Feedback
- Key reasons why we believe North, City, South is the best proposal
- Next steps

136. TO RECEIVE A PETITION TO RE-OPEN THE HUNCOTE BMX TRACK

Members were advised that this item had been withdrawn.

137. PUBLIC SPEAKING PROTOCOL

No requests were received.

138. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

139. QUESTION UNDER COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Cllr. Maggie Wright raised the following question to Cllr. Nigel Grundy, Neighbourhood Services & Assets Portfolio Holder:

“At full council on 19 November 2024 the council approved the disposal of land at Holt Crescent allotments to Thurlaston Parish Council. Some tidying up of the site has taken place in preparation for transfer. However, to date, a year on, no communication has been received by Thurlaston Parish Council to complete this transfer.

1. Why is the transfer taking so long?
2. Why has there been no communication with the Parish Council regarding the legal transfer?
3. What now is the expected timeframe for this simple disposal being completed?

Cllr. Nigel Grundy, Neighbourhood Services & Assets Portfolio Holder, responded:

“Can I thank Cllr Wright for her question, a number of pieces of land were approved for disposal in November 2024, in relation to Holt Crescent Allotments, Councillor Wright will be aware that before a transfer of the site could take place a number of remedial actions were required much of which required seasonal consideration. For this site the actions required were as follows:

- The advertisement of the site in a public notice as required by the Local Government Act 1972.
- Tree surveys
- Removal of dangerous trees with consent required with adjoining landowner for access.
- Asbestos removal by specialist company.

Following completion of the above the legal team instructed external

solicitors (Pathfinder) to act on behalf of BDC in July. Pathfinder Legal have regrettfully not carried out the legal instruction to our satisfaction, including failing to make contact with the Parish Council to advise that they had been instructed until very recently. This has been a frustrating experience for all involved and we regret any impact that the lack of progress may have had on Thurlaston Parish Council. I would like to reassure you that we have terminated instructions with Pathfinder and instructed new external solicitors who have a solid track record and resources to progress the transfers in what we expect to be a much timelier manner going forward. Whilst it is not possible to commit to a timeframe for completion of this transfer I can reassure you that a much stricter regime is now in place to monitor progress on this matter.”

Cllr. Maggie Wright asked the following supplementary question:

“I’d like to thank Cllr. Grundy for his response. I’d also like to thank him for emailing the Thurlaston Parish Council Clerk and myself yesterday afternoon apologising for the delay and giving assurance that a much stricter regime is now in place to monitor the transfer. This communication was really appreciated and welcomed so thank you. The subsequent question is that this has been about poor communication - Who is the dedicated Case Officer within Blaby District Council that either the clerk or myself can now contact if the new outsourced solicitors do not progress the transfer, or if we have any problems?”

The Executive Director (Communities) & Deputy Monitoring Officer responded that Cllr. Maggie Wright should contact her directly to address any further issues to ensure a swift response.

140. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PARISH REMUNERATION PANEL

Considered - Report of the Elections and Governance Manager, presented by Executive Director (Communities).

DECISIONS

1. That the recommendations detailed in 4.1 of the report be noted by Council.
2. That Council refer the report to the Parish and Town Councils within Blaby District.

Reasons:

1. It is appropriate for the panel to regularly review and update its recommendations on what allowances or expenses should be paid to

Parish Councillors and to make Council aware of these recommendations.

2. Parish and Town Council's require a copy of the report in order to make decisions in relation to their individual Members' Allowances Schemes.

141. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Considered - Report of the Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer, presented by Executive Director (Communities).

DECISIONS

1. That the recommendations detailed in Paragraph 4.2 of the report be approved and are applicable from the May 2025 Annual Council and that the increase in allowances are backdated accordingly.
2. That the Member Allowances Scheme in the Constitution be amended.

Reason:

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.

142. ANNUAL CORPORATE ACTION PLAN 2024-25 (CLOSURE REPORT)

Considered - Report of the Business Systems & Information Manager, presented by Cllr. Ben Taylor – Leader of the Council.

DECISION

That the closing position against the Corporate Action Plan 2024-25 be noted by Council.

Reason:

It is important that Elected Members, and staff are familiar with how the Council is delivering against its agreed actions and priorities.

143. QUARTER 2 CAPITAL PROGRAMME REVIEW 2025/26

Considered - Report of the Accountancy Services Manager, presented by

Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore – Finance, People and Performance Portfolio Holder and Deputy Leader.

DECISION

That the latest position in respect of treasury activities, and the prudential indicators, are accepted.

Reasons:

1. The regulatory framework governing treasury management activities includes a requirement that the Council should, as a minimum, receive quarterly treasury monitoring reports in addition to the forward-looking annual treasury strategy and the backward-looking annual treasury report.
2. This report fulfils the requirement above and incorporates the needs of the Prudential Code to ensure adequate monitoring of capital expenditure plans and the Council's prudential indicators. The treasury strategy and prudential indicators for 2025/26 were contained in the report approved by Council on 25th February 2025.

144. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR MONITORING REPORT 2025/26

Considered - Report of the Finance Group Manager, presented by Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore – Finance, People and Performance Portfolio Holder and Deputy Leader.

The Executive Director (Section 151 Officer) advised Members that there is an error on page 63 of the agenda advising that it should be corrected to 31 March 2026 instead of 31st March 2025.

DECISION

That the latest position in respect of treasury activities, and the prudential indicators, be accepted.

Reasons:

1. The regulatory framework governing treasury management activities includes a requirement that the Council should, as a minimum, receive quarterly treasury monitoring reports in addition to the forward-looking annual treasury strategy and the backward-looking annual treasury report.
2. This report fulfils the requirement above and incorporates the needs of the Prudential Code to ensure adequate monitoring of capital

expenditure plans and the Council's prudential indicators. The treasury strategy and prudential indicators for 2025/26 were contained in the report approved by Council on 25th February 2025.

145. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Considered – A proposed resolution to exclude the public from the meeting.

Following consideration of this item the Chair, Cllr. Roy Denney announced that the livestream would end to allow the item to be considered in closed session.

DECISION

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that the item involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

Agenda Item 12: Approval of Restricted Minutes
Exemption Category: 3

Reason for Exemption:

The report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Public Interest Test: The public interest test has been considered and, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption is considered to outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information.

146. INVESTMENT IN HOUSING TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION AND INCREASE THE COUNCIL'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROVISION

*The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:36pm to allow for a comfort break.
The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 7:42pm.*

Cllr. Dillan Shikotra left the meeting during consideration of this item and did not return.

Considered - Report of the Executive Director (Section 151 Officer) presented by Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore – Finance, People and Performance Portfolio Holder and Deputy Leader.

The Decision is Restricted in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 7.48 P.M.