

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

TUESDAY, 19 JULY 2022

Present:-

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

Cllr. Nick Brown	Cllr. Paul Hartshorn	Cllr. Louise Richardson
Cllr. Nick Chapman	Cllr. Mark Jackson	Cllr. Terry Richardson
Cllr. Adrian Clifford	Cllr. Trevor Matthews	Cllr. Tracey Shepherd
Cllr. Roy Denney	Cllr. Sam Maxwell	Cllr. Mike Shirley
Cllr. Alex DeWinter	Cllr. Christine Merrill	Cllr. Ben Taylor
Cllr. David Findlay	Cllr. Phil Moitt	Cllr. Bev Welsh
Cllr. Janet Forey	Cllr. Mat Mortel	Cllr. Geoff Welsh
Cllr. Chris Frost	Cllr. Michael O'Hare	Cllr. Maggie Wright
Cllr. Nigel Grundy	Cllr. Les Phillimore	

Officers present:-

Julia Smith	- Chief Executive
Sarah Pennelli	- Strategic Director - S.151 Officer
Caroline Harbour	- Environmental Health, Housing, Net Zero & Community Services Group Manager
Cat Hartley	- Planning & Strategic Growth Group Manager
Louisa Horton	- Corporate Services Group Manager & Monitoring Officer
Anna Farish	- Environmental Services Manager
Sandeep Tiensa	- Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer
Nicole Cramp	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer

Also in attendance:-

John Harrison – Friends of Narborough Station

Apologies:-

Cllr. Shane Blackwell, Cllr. Lee Breckon JP, Cllr. David Clements, Cllr. Stuart Coar,
Cllr. Sharon Coe, Cllr. David Freer, Cllr. Deanne Freer, Cllr. Antony Moseley,
Cllr. Kirsteen Thomson and Cllr. Jane Wolfe

1. MINUTE SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF RON WARD

A minute silence was held in remembrance of Ron Ward, a former District Ward Councillor for Winstanley who had sadly passed away. Ron had served as a District Councillor from 1987 to 2015 and was Chairman of Blaby District Council from 2002-2003.

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS

No disclosures were received.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 24 May 2022, as circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Attending a Service at St Mary De Castro Church
- Chairman's Concert in the Park in Melton Mowbray
- Happy and Glorious at De Montfort Hall
- Armed Forces Day – Leicester City

The Chairman announced that he will start his fundraiser on 1 August 2022 for his charity, Community First Responders by riding 330 miles on a static cycle, the distance between Birmingham and Glasgow. Further details on how to donate will be circulated to Members.

5. LEADER'S STATEMENT

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

- Peer Review
- £135,000 funding received for potential Garden Village
- Transformation to agile working for Councillors and Officers
- Supporting Ukrainian families
- Bid for Safer Streets Fund
- Jobs Fair at Everards Meadows
- Celebration event for Queen's Jubilee
- Success of Community Volunteer Week
- Launch of Fitcation at Stoney Cove Dive Center

- Energy Rebate Success
- Positive feedback from Health Walks
- Theatre shows at Fosse Meadows
- Youth Conference event
- Novus era to begin in New Lubbesthorpe
- Business Breakfast networking supports business
- Local Government Association Conference 2022
- Positive Financial Outturn for the Council

6. PUBLIC SPEAKING PROTOCOL

Pursuant to Part 5, Section 11 of the Council's Constitution, in relation to the public speaking protocol the Chairman allowed John Harrison (Friends of Narborough Station) to speak for 3 minutes on Agenda Item 10 – Car Park Strategy 2022-2027.

7. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

No questions were received.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET EXECUTIVE: TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2021/22

Considered – Report of the Strategic Finance Manager, presented by Cllr. Maggie Wright – Finance, People & Performance Portfolio Holder.

DECISIONS

1. That the treasury management activities for 2021/22 be approved.
2. That the prudential and treasury indicators for 2021/22 be approved.

Reasons:

1. The regulatory framework governing treasury management activities includes a requirement that the Council should produce an annual review of treasury activities undertaken in the preceding financial year. It must also report the performance against the approved prudential indicators for the year.
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 2021/22 were contained in the report approved by Council on 18th February 2021.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET EXECUTIVE: BLABY DISTRICT PLAN ANNUAL PRIORITIES 22-23 AND PEER REVIEW

Considered – Report of the Cabinet Executive, presented by Cllr. Terry Richardson – Leader of the Council.

DECISIONS

1. That the action plan in response to the Peer Review be approved.
2. That the annual priorities for the Blaby District Plan be approved.

Reasons:

1. The peer review process requires an action plan to be developed and approved by Council in response to the peer review report.
2. The Blaby District Plan, approved by Council in January 2021, sets out the priorities for the Council for the period 2021- 24. An annual plan sets out the aspirations and intent of the Council for the year ahead.

10. CAR PARK STRATEGY 2022-2027

Considered – Report of the Environmental Services Manager, presented by Cllr. Les Phillimore – Housing, Community & Environmental Services Portfolio Holder.

The following typographical amendments were noted:

- Page 5 of the report – the date of Scrutiny Commission be amended to '22 June 2022'
- Page 7 of the Car Park Strategy – in the first paragraph that the page number be amended to 'page 13'.

The Chairman, Cllr. Iain Hewson adjourned the meeting at 18:26 to allow a comfort break. The meeting reconvened at 18:30.

DECISIONS

1. That the Car Park Strategy 2022-2027 and recommendations at 4.2.1 of the report be approved.
2. That the District of Blaby (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2022 be approved and that the changes be implemented with effect from 5 October 2022.

3. That delegated authority be given to the Council's Strategic Director, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to make minor amendments to the District of Blaby (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2022 prior to implementation.

Reasons:

1. The current Strategy is out of date and a new document is required with changes to the car park service.
2. There is a statutory process to be followed in order to introduce any changes to the way in which the Council regulates its car parks.
3. To allow for any small changes to be made to the car parking Order after the statutory consultation periods have taken place.

11. SIX MONTH BLABY DISTRICT PLAN PROGRESS AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

Considered – Report of the Chief Executive, presented by Cllr. Maggie Wright, Finance, People & Performance Portfolio Holder.

DECISION

That the Six Month Blaby District Plan Progress and Performance Report 2021/22 be noted.

Reason:

It is appropriate to inform Members about how the council is progressing and performing against key priorities.

12. MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT 2022

Considered - Report of the Monitoring Officer, presented by Cllr. Terry Richardson – Leader of the Council.

DECISION

That the Modern Slavery Statement for Blaby District Council be adopted.

Reasons:

1. It is a requirement of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 that organisations with

a turnover of £36m or more publish a statement on their approach to ensuring that there is no modern slavery in their own business and their supply chains.

Although Blaby District Council is under no legal obligation to publish a statement, the Local Government Association is encouraging all local authorities to produce an annual statement ensuring transparency in their approach to modern slavery and human trafficking.

2. The Modern Slavery Act also includes a number of provisions for local authorities. Section 52 of the Act places a duty to identify and report potential victims through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). Depending on the age and needs of victims of modern slavery, councils may also have statutory responsibilities to provide support to them.

13. LEICESTER & LEICESTERSHIRE STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND RELATING TO HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT LAND NEEDS (JUNE 2022)

Considered – Report of the Development Strategy Manager, presented by Cllr. Ben Taylor - Planning, Housing Strategy, Economic Development Portfolio Holder.

DECISION

That the signing of the Leicester & Leicestershire Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing and Employment Land Needs, June 2022 be approved.

Reason:

To continue the ongoing Duty to Cooperate that Blaby District Council must fulfil in order to progress the emerging New Local Plan.

14. LEICESTER FOREST EAST 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 (adopts) the Leicester Forest East Neighbourhood Plan, as modified, in accordance with the relevant legislation.

Reason:

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

15. BLABY DISTRICT LEVELLING UP FUND ROUND 2 BID

Considered - Report of the Planning & Strategic Growth Group Manager, presented by Cllr. Terry Richardson - Leader of the Council.

DECISION

That delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director (S151) in consultation with the Leader of the Council to submit a bid to the Levelling Up Fund 2.

Reason:

To enable the delivery of highway improvement works around Junction 21 of the M1 and footpath/cycle way connectivity between Whetstone, Narborough Station and Fosse Park.

16. UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

Considered – Report of the Planning & Strategic Growth Group Manager, presented by Cllr. Terry Richardson - Leader of the Council.

DECISION

That delegated authority be given to the Leader of the Council, in consultation with Cabinet Executive, to approve the submission of a UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan, as required to draw down the allocation of funding for Blaby District Council.

Reason:

To enable the Blaby District Council allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Fund to be drawn down.

17. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

DECISION

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

Agenda Item 18: Potential Land Acquisition

Exemption Category: 1 & 3

Reasons for Exemption:

1. information relating to any individual.
3. 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.

Agenda Item 19: Leisure Centre Contract Arrangements

Exemption Category: 1 & 3

Reason for Exemption:

1. information relating to any individual.
2. 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.

18. POTENTIAL LAND ACQUISITION

Considered – Report of the Planning & Strategic Growth Group Manager, presented by Cllr. Nigel Grundy - Neighbourhood Services & Assets Portfolio Holder.

DECISIONS

1. That delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director (S151) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, People and Performance (Deputy Leader), to continue discussions to agree a purchase price up to a maximum of £400,000 and proceed with the purchase of land for a potential Gypsy and Traveller Site.
2. To agree expenditure of a maximum of £49,000 towards the total project cost.

Reason:

To enable the acquisition of land for the development of a local authority managed Gypsy & Traveller site.

19. LEISURE CENTRE CONTRACT ARRANGEMENTS

Considered – Report of the Business, Partnerships and Health Improvement Group Manager, presented by Cllr. Terry Richardson - Leader of the Council.

DECISIONS

1. That the revised terms within the SLM leisure contract be approved to re-open the Huncote Leisure Centre in October 2022.
2. That capital expenditure of £80,000 for temporary gas works to facilitate the opening of the Huncote Leisure Centre in October 2022 be approved.
3. That delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director (S151 Officer) in consultation with the Leader of the Council to enter into a Deed of Variation and continue to undertake the appropriate reviews in consultation with the portfolio holder for Finance, Assets and Performance.

Reasons:

1. It has been necessary to vary the terms of the leisure contract given the impact of the pandemic. This option gives the Council the best financial return whilst retaining the social value provided by Huncote Leisure Centre.
2. In order to enable the Huncote Leisure Centre to re-open in October 2022, temporary works are required to be undertaken to facilitate gas extraction to the front of the site. This additional capital expense of £80,000, for this temporary measure, acts as an income accelerator and an invest to save initiative.
3. It is necessary to enter into a Deed of Variation to the original terms of the contract with the leisure provider.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 7.28 P.M.