

## **COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

**TUESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2022**

### **Present:-**

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

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

### **Officers present:-**

Julia Smith	- Chief Executive
Sarah Pennelli	- Strategic Director - S.151 Officer
John Richardson	- Strategic Director
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
Jill Stevenson	- Community Development & Partnerships Manager
Sandeep Tiensa	- Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer
Nicole Cramp	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer

### **Also in attendance:-**

Justin Henry - Strategic Director - Commercial and Economic Development at Charnwood Borough Council, Members of the Blaby District Council Youth Green Forum

### **Apologies:-**

Cllr. David Clements, Cllr. Alex DeWinter, Cllr. Chris Frost, Cllr. Mat Mortel and Cllr. Michael O'Hare

1. **A MINUTE SILENCE AND TRIBUTE IN REMEMBRANCE OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II**

The Chairman, Cllr. Iain Hewson asked Members to observe a minutes silence in remembrance of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who had sadly passed away.

Members paid tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and gave thanks for her exceptional 70 years of service. Council Members offered their condolences to His Majesty the King and the Royal Family.

2. **DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS**

No disclosures were received.

3. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 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:

- Leicestershire County Council Chairman's Summer Reception, Beaumanor Hall
- Charity Pub Carvery, The Shires Inn, Peatling Parva
- Chairman's 'At Home' Event – Blaby District Council
- Reading of the Proclamation
- Update of the Chairman's Charity Bike Ride

5. **LEADER'S STATEMENT**

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

- No upheld complaints with Ombudsman
- A Place to Grow hosts open day
- Footpath works set to begin
- Homes England make visit to New Lubbethorpe
- Fox Connect launches in district
- Novus era for transport in New Lubbethorpe
- Employment opportunities to be offered in future job fair

- Platinum Award for Litter Wombles
- Summer fun with activity days in the District
- Summer success for District events
- Investment Plan for funding finalised
- Cost of living officer
- Glenfield Community Food Hub gets deserved recognition
- Peer Review
- Great Big Green Week
- Youth Green Forum launches

6. **POSITION STATEMENT ON THE COUNCILS RESPONSE TO THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS FROM CLLR. TERRY RICHARDSON - LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Cllr. Terry Richardson presented the position statement which considered practical measures the Council could take to provide support, and committed to the following:

- Appointing a Cost-of-Living Support Officer through utilising external funding to ensure our residents are accessing all the support that they are entitled to.
- Working closely with all partners and agencies including Leicestershire County Council, Citizens Advice Bureau and Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) to maximise available support.
- Communicating and signposting through a wide range of channels all the available advice, guidance, and support.

Members responded favourably to the initiatives outlined in the position statement.

*Cllr. Stuart Coar left the meeting and did not return.*

7. **APPROVAL OF ABSENCE (LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 85(1))**

Considered - Report of the Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer, presented by Cllr. Terry Richardson – Leader of the Council

**DECISIONS**

1. That Council approves the waiver of the six-month attendance rule provided for within section 85(1) Local Government Act 1972 for Cllr. David Clements due to illness.
2. That the absence period be approved until the meeting of Council on 23

February 2023, to allow a further report to be considered, if required.

Reason:

The Council has the statutory power to consider such requests.

**8. AMENDMENTS TO APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND SEAT ALLOCATIONS**

Considered - Report of the Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer, presented by Cllr. Terry Richardson – Leader of the Council.

Following the vote on this item, the Chairman Cllr. Iain Hewson adjourned the meeting at 18:41 for a short break. The meeting was reconvened at 18:48.

**DECISIONS**

1. That effect be given to the wishes of the political groups as to the allocation of seats as detailed in the report.
2. That the appointment of Members to serve on Committees as detailed in the report be approved, subject to the seat distribution being agreed without any member voting against.

Reasons:

1. Due to Cllr. David Freer and Cllr. Deanne Freer becoming Independent Members, it was necessary to re-calculate the seat allocations of Committees.
2. 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.

**9. COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS**

The Chairman, Cllr. Iain Hewson informed Members that the presentation from the Community First Responders had been deferred.

**10. YOUTH COUNCIL PRIORITIES 2022/23**

The Youth Council Champion, Cllr. Adrian Clifford welcomed Members of the Blaby District Council Youth Green Forum to the meeting.

The presentation covered the main aims of the Youth Green Forum and how it intends to tackle ecological issues in Blaby District.

Members responded positively to the Youth Green Forum's ideas and thanked them for attending the meeting.

**11. PUBLIC SPEAKING PROTOCOL**

No requests were received.

**12. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

No questions were received.

**13. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET EXECUTIVE: QUARTER 1 CAPITAL PROGRAMME REVIEW 2021/22**

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

*Cllr. Kirsteen Thomson left and returned to the meeting during consideration of this item.*

**DECISIONS**

1. That the report be accepted.
2. That the latest Capital Programme totalling £5,507,463 be approved.

Reasons:

To ensure that the Council has adequate resources in place to meet its capital expenditure commitments.

**14. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET EXECUTIVE: STRATEGIC PROPERTY INVESTMENT FOR REGENERATION**

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

**DECISIONS**

1. That the Commercialism Position Statement at 4.2 of the report be approved.
2. That delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive, Executive Director (S151 Officer) and Monitoring Officer to approve the purchase or

disposal of commercial properties in accordance with the listed criteria in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Deputy Leader, Finance, People and Performance Portfolio Holder.

3. That £2.5m be added to the capital programme to be drawn upon to make acquisitions.

Reasons:

1. To date, the Council has lacked a Position Statement which outlines the direction of Commercialism.
2. Delegation is required to enable the Council to make decisions quickly regarding commercial acquisitions and disposals.
3. It is necessary for an investment amount to be added to the capital programme in order to make acquisitions.

**15. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET EXECUTIVE: REVIEW OF MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY**

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

**DECISION**

That the revised Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement for 2022/23 at Appendix B of the report be approved.

Reason:

To take the opportunity to move to a more suitable and cost effective method for calculating MRP, whilst ensuring that it remains prudent and complies with the MRP Guidance.

**16. PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER RENEWAL - DOGS**

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

**DECISIONS**

1. That the Public Spaces Protection Order (Blaby District Council) 2022 be approved and that the Public Spaces Protection Order (Blaby District Council) 2022 come into force on the 21st November 2022.

2. To delegated authority be given to the Environmental Health, Housing, Net Zero and Community Safety Group Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to make future minor amendments to the PSPO.

Reasons:

1. To renew the current Public Spaces Protection Order to allow continued enforcement of dog related offences across the District.
2. To allow minor amendments to be made to the Public Space Protection Order.

**17. COSBY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS**

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

**DECISION**

That the recommended modifications to the Cosby Neighbourhood Plan as set out in the Examiner's Report, be accepted.

Reason:

The Examiner's recommended modifications are necessary to ensure the Plan meets the basic conditions required by legislation and can then proceed to referendum.

**18. MOTION UNDER COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE**

The Chairman, Cllr. Iain Hewson informed Members that the motion had been withdrawn by the proposer Cllr. Sam Maxwell.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 8.03 P.M.**