

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

TUESDAY, 8 APRIL 2025

Present:-

Cllr. Nick Chapman (Chairman)
Cllr. Janet Forey (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr. Shabbir Aslam	Cllr. Susan Findlay	Cllr. Ande Savage
Cllr. Royston Bayliss	Cllr. Helen Gambardella	Cllr. Tracey Shepherd
Cllr. Lee Breckon JP	Cllr. Nigel Grundy	Cllr. Dillan Shikotra
Cllr. Nick Brown	Cllr. Paul Hartshorn	Cllr. Mike Shirley
Cllr. Adrian Clifford	Cllr. Richard Holdridge	Cllr. Roger Stead
Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore	Cllr. Mark Jackson	Cllr. Ben Taylor
Cllr. Luke Cousin	Cllr. Becca Lunn	Cllr. Bob Waterton
Cllr. Tony Deakin	Cllr. Antony Moseley	Cllr. Jane Wolfe
Cllr. Roy Denney	Cllr. Les Phillimore	Cllr. Maggie Wright
Cllr. Alex DeWinter	Cllr. Terry Richardson	Cllr. Neil Wright

Officers present:-

Julia Smith	- Chief Executive
Marc Greenwood	- Executive Director - Place
Louisa Horton	- Executive Director - Communities
Gemma Dennis	- Corporate Services Group Manager
Caroline Harbour	- Environmental Health, Housing & Community Services Group Manager
Katie Hollis	- Finance Group Manager
Katie Brooman	- Elections and Governance Manager
Sandeep Tiensa	- Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer
Avisa Birchenough	- Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer
Nicole Cramp	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer

Honorary Aldermen in attendance:-

Guy Jackson

270. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS

No disclosures were received.

271. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2025 as circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

272. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair, Cllr. Nick Chapman made announcements in respect of the following:

- Attended the Leicestershire Melton Proms at St Mary's Church in Melton on 10 March 2025.
- Attended the Mayor of Charnwood's Borough Council's Charity Dinner on 21 March 2025.
- Hosted his own Chairman's Charity Coffee Morning on 26 March 2025 raising nearly £200 for the East Midlands Air Ambulance Charity.
- Attended the East Midlands Ambulance Charity Event to celebrate their 60th Birthday of passenger transport.
- Joined Officers and Cabinet Members for a few hours to support them with the Great Tommy Sleep Out which took place on 27 March 2025.

The Chairman, Cllr. Nick Chapman invited Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore to provide more information on the Great Tommy Sleep Out to Members.

Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore announced that £2,245 was raised for homeless veterans. Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore thanked Cabinet Members and Senior Leadership Officers at Blaby District Council for getting involved and supporting the cause.

273. LEADER'S STATEMENT

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

- Rail Freight Hub Rejected
- Local Government Reorganisation
- Flooding Funding
- County Council Elections
- Fresh Tourism Strategy
- A big thankyou and goodbye to Bev Welsh, who had stood down from her position as Ward Councillor in Glen Parva after almost 14 years of

service.

Cllr's Antony Moseley, Luke Cousin, Paul, Hartshorn and Nick Brown all paid tribute to Bev Welsh adding their own thanks and best wishes.

274. AMENDMENTS TO APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND SEAT ALLOCATIONS

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 in the report.
2. To approve the appointment of Members to serve on Committees for those positions as detailed in the report, subject to the seat distribution being agreed without any member voting against.

Reasons:

1. Due to Cllr. Rebecca Lunn becoming an Independent Member, 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.

275. PUBLIC SPEAKING PROTOCOL

No requests were received.

276. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

277. QUESTION UNDER COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Cllr. Antony Moseley raised the following question- to Cllr. Les Phillimore– Housing, Community Safety and Environmental Services Portfolio Holder:

“The forecasted income for car parks in Blaby has once again declined. Businesses in Blaby village have consistently seen tangible benefits when car parks are made free at certain times during the year. Given this, will the Executive Member for Car Parks now accept that the current strategy of making car parks break-even is not the right approach? Will they commit to reintroducing a period of free parking to support local businesses and encourage footfall?”

Cllr. Les Phillimore – Housing, Community Safety and Environmental Services Portfolio Holder responded: “Can I thank Cllr. Antony Moseley for the question as it gives me the chance to remind members that the Car Parking Strategy 2022-2027 includes the provision of free parking for disabled users for up to 3 hours, free parking on Sundays in Enderby Road and Johns Court car parks, and up to four free parking days a year agreed in conjunction with the Parish Council. All of these initiatives support our local businesses and encourage footfall.

The recent car parking order went further and made provisions for the purchase of business permits which are a cost effective way for people to park in Enderby Road and Johns Court car parks.

The aim of the Car Parking Strategy and the cost neutral goal was to ensure that customers using the car parks pay for their upkeep rather than all residents across the district which remains an appropriate strategy.

We constantly monitor usage and what we are seeing at the end of 24/25 financial year is that peoples shopping habits have changed, and income has increased based on what was received during 2023/24. Budgets are set prior to the start of a financial year and in my view it is likely that when we come to revise budgets in September the income will be adjusted upwards to reflect the income received up to that point. When setting budgets, officers are prudent to try to ensure that anticipated income levels are met and these are then reviewed throughout the year, with the formal review taking place in September.

In answer to the question regarding free parking I would refer to the initiatives already in place for free parking and reiterate that our support for local businesses continues”

Cllr. Antony Moseley asked the following supplementary question: "In October of last year the proposal to introduce car park charges at Bouskell Park was called into Scrutiny, we were told confidently that the income would be between £33,000 - £36,000 per year and yet now the budget for this year the forecast is a mere £9,000 nearly 75% less? What has happened to cause a significant reduction in such a short amount of time? Were we misled at Scrutiny?"

Cllr. Les Phillimore – Housing, Community Safety and Environmental Services Portfolio Holder responded that a written response would be provided.

278. CORPORATE ACTION PLAN 2025-26

Considered - Report of the Business Systems & Information Manager,

presented by Cllr. Terry Richardson – Leader of the Council.

DECISION

That the Corporate Action Plan 2025-26 be approved.

Reason:

It is important that elected Members, support the priorities for the next year which contribute to the delivery of the Corporate Plan.

279. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION AND DEVOLUTION - MARCH 2025 SUBMISSION

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

DECISION

That the submission made to Government on behalf of all of the districts and boroughs across Leicestershire and Rutland County Council be noted.

Reason:

To ensure all Members are engaged and informed and are aware of the process undertaken to date.

280. APPOINTMENTS TO SAPCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

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

DECISION

That the Order attached at Appendix A of the report to appoint individuals to Sapcote Parish Council until sufficient Councillors are appointed or elected to the Parish Council be agreed.

Reason:

Additional persons are required to be appointed to the Sapcote Parish Council in order that it is quorate and so business can be conducted. This is needed until sufficient persons are co-opted or elected.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6.40 P.M.