

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

TUESDAY, 20 MAY 2025

Present:-

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

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

Officers present:-

Julia Smith	- Chief Executive
Sarah Pennelli	- Executive Director - S.151 Officer
Marc Greenwood	- Executive Director - Place
Louisa Horton	- Executive Director - Communities
Gemma Dennis	- Corporate Services Group Manager
Katie Brooman	- Elections and Governance Manager
Sandeep Tiensa	- Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer
Nicole Cramp	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer
Avisa Birchenough	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer

Honorary Alderman in attendance:-

Iain Hewson

Apologies:-

Cllr. Jane Wolfe

1. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS

No disclosures were received.

2. LEADERS ANNUAL STATEMENT 2024-2025

Cllr. Terry Richardson, Leader of the Council, presented his Statement.

The Leader, Cllr. Terry Richardson talked about his service to Blaby District Council and what a privilege it has been to be Leader. Some of his memorable events including the success of the Community Awards and what a humbling and unique experience it was being Leader during the Covid period. The Leader thanked the Chief Executive and Officers he has worked with over the years, and the unwavering support from his wife, Louise. The Leader went on to thank Cllr. Maggie Wright, who had served as Deputy Leader from 2015 – 2025, acknowledging their shared journey serving the community together.

Honorary Alderman Iain Hewson thanked Cllr. Richardson for all the support given over the years.

The Chief Executive, Julia Smith thanked the Leader on behalf of Officers and acknowledged his service to the Community and looks forward to working with Cllr. Richardson in his role of Councillor. The Chief Executive also thanked Cllr. Maggie Wright for her work as Portfolio Holder and Deputy Leader and her support towards Officers.

Cllr. Nick Brown expressed appreciation of the work the Leader has carried out for the Council and Community. Cllr. Luke Cousin echoed Cllr. Brown's sentiments. Cllr. Tony Deakin expressed his appreciation for the leadership Cllr. Terry Richardson has provided.

Cllr. Maggie Wright spoke about her memories and achievements, starting with Cllr. Richardson's first Leaders Statement from 2016 and how proud she was working as Deputy Leader with Cllr. Richardson. Cllr. Maggie Wright also thanked all Members, Senior Leadership Team, and Officers for support provided. Cllr. Maggie Wright thanked the Executive Director (S151) for her patience, guidance and partnership over the years.

Cllr. Tracey Shepherd thanked the Leader and Deputy Leader for being able to "agree to disagree" whilst working with them both and the kindness both have expressed towards her.

The Leader thanked everyone for their kind words.

3. SCRUTINY STATEMENT TO ANNUAL COUNCIL 2024-25

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

The Scrutiny Commission Chairman thanked all Members and Officers for their work producing the reports for Cabinet and Council.

Cllr. Stuart Coar left the meeting and returned during consideration of the item.

4. AUDIT & CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

The Audit & Corporate Governance Committee Chairman, Cllr. Mike Shirley presented the Annual Report.

Cllr. Shirley thanked the previous and current Finance Group Mangers for a smooth transition, the Independent Member and Officers for work at Committee, and Cllr. Mark Jackson the previous Committee Chairman.

5. ELECTION OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Cllr. Shabbir Aslam left the meeting after casting his vote, and returned before the next item on the agenda.

A request for a recorded vote by Cllr. Maggie Wright was made and supported by the required number of Members in accordance with Part 4, Section 1, Paragraph 17.5 of the Councils Constitution. Voting on the report was taken as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
Cllr. Shabbir Aslam		
	Cllr. Royston Bayliss	
Cllr. Lee Breckon		
	Cllr. Dr John Bloxham	
Cllr. Nick Brown		
Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore		
Cllr. Nick Chapman		
Cllr. Adrian Clifford		
Cllr. Stuart Coar		
	Cllr. Luke Cousin	
Cllr. Tony Deakin		
Cllr. Roy Denney		
		Cllr. Alex DeWinter

Cllr. Susan Findlay		
Cllr. Janet Forey		
	Cllr. Helen Gambardella	
	Cllr. Hannah Gill	
Cllr. Nigel Grundy		
	Cllr. Paul Hartshorn	
	Cllr. Richard Holdridge	
Cllr. Mark Jackson		
		Cllr. Rebecca Lunn
	Cllr. Anthony Moseley	
Cllr. Les Phillimore		
Cllr. Terry Richardson		
	Cllr. Ande Savage	
	Cllr. Tracey Shepherd	
Cllr. Dillan Shikotra		
Cllr. Mike Shirley		
Cllr. Roger Stead		
Cllr. Ben Taylor		
Cllr. Matt Tomeo		
	Cllr. Bob Waterton	
Cllr. Neil Wright		
	Cllr. Maggie Wright	

The Chairman, Cllr. Nick Chapman declared that Cllr. Ben Taylor was elected.

DECISION

That Cllr. Ben Taylor be elected Leader of the Council until the first Annual Council Meeting following the 2027 District Election.

Reason:

It is a Constitutional requirement to elect the position of the Leader.

6. OUTGOING CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman, Cllr. Nick Chapman made announcements in respect of several memorable recent events:

- 12th April attended a Charnwood Borough Council Civic event raising funds for the Great Central Railway in Loughborough.
- 25th April Charity Night at the Royal British Legion in Oadby, raising funds for the Wishes for Kids Charity.

- 7th May, a true highlight and honour of attending the King's Garden Party and managed to catch a glimpse of His Majesty the King, Queen, the Princess Royal and the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh.
- 8th May taking part in a moving Remembrance Service at Leicester Cathedral for 80th Anniversary of VE Day, and that evening joining the community in Glenfield for the lighting of their beacon and light of peace in addition to the privilege of reading the official tribute and joining in the hymn "I vowed to thee my country".
- 10th May, returned to Glenfield for their VE Day Big Lunch, attended by over 600 people. I was honoured to open the occasion with Lieutenant Colonel Sir Charles Richards, the Deputy Lieutenant of Leicestershire.
- 17th May was my last event as Chairman. This was with the Girl Guides at the Outdoor Pursuit Centre. The highlight of that day was a civic archery competition which I am proud to say was won by Blaby.

The Chairman thanked everyone who has supported him in raising £2300 for the Air Ambulance Service.

Cllr. Ben Taylor thanked the outgoing Chairman for his work towards the fundraising of the charity and district.

7. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The outgoing Chairman Nick Chapman invited nominations for the election of Chairman of Blaby District Council for the ensuing year.

As 2 nominations were received, the Chairman took the vote by a show of hands.

Cllr. Roy Denney was duly elected.

Cllr. Stuart Coar left the meeting and returned during consideration of the item.

DECISION

That Cllr. Roy Denney be elected Chairman of Blaby District Council, until the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held in 2026.

8. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Cllr. Roy Denney read out the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked Members for the privilege and honour of being elected Chairman.

Members congratulated Cllr. Roy Denney on being elected Chairman of the Council.

9. INVESTITURE OF CHAIRMAN WITH CHAIN OF OFFICE

Cllr. Roy Denney was invested with the Chain of Office for the Chairman of the Council.

10. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The new Chairman thanked all Members for electing him.

The new Chairman announced that his nominated Charity would be LOROS, and that his consort would be his wife, Doreen Denney.

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

Cllr. Roy Denney presented Cllr. Nick Chapman with the Past Chairman's Badge and on behalf of the Council thanked him for his successful years in Office.

Cllr. Nick Chapman thanked his consort Bev for being by his side, and a special acknowledgment for Nicky Brown (Senior PA) for organising his diary and keeping a track of engagements and supporting him over the past 12 months.

12. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

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

Cllr. Janet Forey was duly nominated.

DECISION

That Cllr. Janet Forey be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Council for the 2025 - 2026 Municipal Year.

13. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Cllr. Janet Forey read out the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and thanked Members for being re-elected as Vice-Chairman of the Council.

Cllr. Stuart Coar left the meeting during consideration of this item and did not return.

14. CHANGE IN ORDER OF AGENDA ITEM

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

15. APPOINTMENTS OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN TO COMMITTEES 2025-26

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 2025/2026 as detailed at Appendix A of the report.
2. That Cllr. Nick Brown be elected as Chairman of Scrutiny Commission for the municipal year 2025/26.
3. That Cllr. Neil Wright be elected as Vice-Chairman of Scrutiny Commission for the municipal year 2025/26.

Reason:

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

16. DELEGATION SCHEME OF CABINET EXECUTIVE 2025-26

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

The Chairman proposed the remaining reports listed under Section 2 of the agenda, including the supplemental reports received, to be moved without

debate unless any Members requested otherwise.

Cllr. Luke Cousin requested all remaining items be voted upon individually.
The Chairman accepted the request.

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 OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2025-26

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

DECISIONS

1. That the preferences and changes to appointments to Outside Bodies be approved.
2. That unless otherwise stated all appointments continue until the Annual Council Meeting in 2026.
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.

18. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES 2025-26

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

DECISION

1. That effect be given to the wishes of the political groups as to the allocation of seats
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.

19. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2025-26

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

DECISION

That the Schedule of Meetings for 2025-2026 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 7.42 P.M.

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