

## **COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

**TUESDAY, 30 JANUARY 2024**

### **Present:-**

Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore (Chairman)  
Cllr. Nick Chapman (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr. Shabbir Aslam	Cllr. Janet Forey	Cllr. Tracey Shepherd
Cllr. Royston Bayliss	Cllr. Helen Gambardella	Cllr. Dillan Shikotra
Cllr. Lee Breckon JP	Cllr. Nigel Grundy	Cllr. Mike Shirley
Cllr. Nick Brown	Cllr. Paul Hartshorn	Cllr. Roger Stead
Cllr. Adrian Clifford	Cllr. Richard Holdridge	Cllr. Ben Taylor
Cllr. Stuart Coar	Cllr. Mark Jackson	Cllr. Bob Waterton
Cllr. Luke Cousin	Cllr. Becca Lunn	Cllr. Bev Welsh
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
Cllr. Susan Findlay	Cllr. Ande Savage	

### **Officers present:-**

Julia Smith	- Chief Executive
Sarah Pennelli	- Executive Director - S.151 Officer
Louisa Horton	- Executive Director - Communities and Monitoring Officer
Cat Hartley	- Planning & Strategic Growth Group Manager
Vicky Chapman	- Development Strategy Manager
Kevin Exley	- Principal Planning Policy Officer
Katie Brooman	- Elections and Governance Manager
Sandeep Tiensa	- Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer
Isaac Thomas	- Democracy Support Officer
Nicole Cramp	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer

### **Apologies:-**

Cllr. Hannah Gill and Cllr. Matt Tomeo

## **206. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS**

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Cllr. Luke Cousin</b>  | - Item 12 – Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan – response to Examiner’s proposed modifications and ‘making’ the updated plan                    |
| Nature of Interest        | - Other Registerable Interest  |
| Extent of Interest        | - Cllr. Cousin is the Chairman of Stoney Stanton Parish Council.   |
| <br>                      |  |
| <b>Cllr. Mike Shirley</b> | - Item 12 – Fosse Villages Neighbourhood plan – response to Examiner’s proposed modifications and ‘making’ the updated plan                    |
| Nature of Interest        | - Other Registerable Interest  |
| Extent of Interest        | - Cllr. Shirley has been involved in the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and has contributed to the subsequent modifications. |

## **207. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2023 as circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

## **208. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair, Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore made announcements in respect of the following:

- Enderby Light Switch On held on Friday 1 December 2023.
- Christmas lunch with COPWA (Cosby Old People’s Welfare Association) on Saturday 2 December 2023.
- Carol Concert organised by Leisle from the Musical Village on Sunday 3 December 2023.
- Veterans Christmas Coffee Morning on Wednesday 4 December.
- Christmas Lunch with the Leicestershire County Council Chairman.
- My Christmas Carol Concert held at Blaby District Council Offices.
- Attended various Christmas Carol Concerts at Melton, Northwest Leicestershire, Oadby & Wigston, Harborough and Charnwood.
- Veterans Coffee Morning on Wednesday 10 January 2024.
- Soft Play opening at Enderby Leisure Centre on Saturday 13 January 2024, which seen a total of £900 raised for Dementia UK.
- Braunstone Town Council Civic Reception to celebrate them winning the NALC Star Council of the Year Award.

## **209. LEADER'S STATEMENT**

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

- Storm Henk
- Changes to the Senior Leadership Team
- Financial settlement
- Taste the Place launch
- Works on contaminated land
- Latest HNRFI submission and additional Hearing
- Armed Forces award bid
- Active Blaby Older Adults Physical Activity Programme
- Environmental health prosecution
- Archers Festive Tractor Run
- Glen Parva by-election
- Enderby Leisure Centre improvements
- Green energy take-up encouraged
- EV chargers

## **210. AMENDMENT TO APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES**

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

### **DECISIONS**

1. That Cllr. Ande Savage be appointed with immediate effect to the vacant seat on Scrutiny Commission.
2. That Cllr. Luke Cousin be appointed with immediate effect to the vacant seat on the Chief Executive's Remuneration Panel.
3. That Cllr. Roger Stead be appointed to the Member Development Steering Group with immediate effect.

Reasons:

1. Following the resignation of former Councillor Geoff Welsh on 7 November 2023 and a subsequent by-election on 21 December 2023, the Liberal Democrat Group have requested amendments to their Group seats on Scrutiny Commission and Chief Executive's Remuneration Panel.
2. To ensure a fair representation of Groups on the Member Development Steering Group.
3. 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.

## **211. PLACE/VISION NARRATIVE**

*Cllr. Shabbir Aslam, Cllr. Bob Waterton & Cllr. Stuart Coar left and did not return to the meeting during this item.*

*Cllr. Tracey Shepherd left and returned to the meeting during this item.*

The Chairman, Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore, welcomed the Planning & Strategic Growth Group Manager to present the Place/Vision Narrative.

## **212. PUBLIC SPEAKING PROTOCOL**

No requests were received.

## 213. QUESTION UNDER COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Cllr. Alex DeWinter raised the following question, to Cllr. Ben Taylor – Planning Delivery and Enforcement & Corporate Transformation Portfolio Holder:

*As we know the minibus service now runs a regular timetable where every 30 minutes a 14–16 seater mini bus is available for Thorpe Astley residents to either travel to the city centre, or to New Lubbethorpe, in recent weeks I have received a growing number of reports where the mini bus is full, and subsequently doesn't stop for residents in my ward.*

*I believe we now have 1000+ households in New Lubbethorpe, and only capacity currently for say 30 people an hour to commute into the city centre.*

1. *“Are we expecting a twice hourly minibus service to continue as the households increase to the target 4700 households?”*

Response:

“The Novus Direct bus service has increased in frequency from 8 January 2024 from two buses an hour to three buses an hour. The service will continue to evolve as further parcels and phases are built out at New Lubbethorpe, as the 4250 dwellings that have been approved are constructed. The increased service provision that started earlier this month represents the latest evolution of the service as it responds to increased passenger demand.”

2. *“Given that the service is funded by S.106 and the provision of the service derives from the planning process, while recognising the county council's role in transport planning / management, how as ward councillors, and the wider district council, ensure that the provision of public transport is both sufficient and effective for my residents?”*

Response:

“The Novus Service is funded by New Lubbethorpe through commitments in the Section 106 Agreement, and whilst it benefits the residents of Thorpe Astley, it has not been set up to solve the wider public transport issue in that area. We acknowledge the wider public transport issue for Thorpe Astley in that the Arriva bus service that previously served it was decommissioned and would suggest that the concerns in that regard are raised with Leicestershire County Council as the responsible body for public transport.

Officers will continue to engage in discussions with LCC as part of all new developments, to ensure that public transport can be provided where possible. LCC as the responsible body set out any requirements for public transport as part of every planning application that they are consulted on and provide the detail of the required provision as part of their statutory

consultation response.”

3. *How do we engage to either increase the service or the size of vehicle to manage capacity (at peak times)*

Response:

“Given the points made above in 1 and 2, in that the Novus service is funded by and operates to primarily serve the population of New Lubbesthorpe, and that it will evolve to expand as population numbers at New Lubbesthorpe increase, it is not really for other areas of the District to engage to increase the service or size of the vehicle. As set out in 2 above, any additional concerns about lack of public transport for Thorpe Astley should be raised with Leicestershire County Council as the responsible body for public transport. “

4. *How do we achieve greater scrutiny of this essential service as New Lubbesthorpe continues to grow to mitigate future issues with service capacity / performance?*

Response:

“The service will continue to evolve, as it has done since inception in 2017, but it has ultimately been set up to serve the population of New Lubbesthorpe and it is the Sustainable Travel advisers (Go Travel Solutions) to the Drummond Estate (who are the landowner) who will scrutinise the service and wish to mitigate future issues with service capacity and performance so that its residents are ultimately served, and to ensure the service continues to grow. It is the intention that the Novus Service becomes commercially viable so that when the Section 106 Agreement funding ends it will be run by the operator, Vectare, as a commercial operation. It is therefore in the Drummond Estate’s interest to serve the residents of Thorpe Astley and the surrounds because they need to do this to evolve Novus into a commercially viable operation and the addition of the extra bus per hour from 8 January demonstrates a commitment to serving additional passenger numbers, and growing the service so it is viable once the S106 investment from New Lubbesthorpe ends.”

**214. PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC FOR CARE LEAVERS**

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

Members watched a short video on Corporate Parenting Responsibilities presented by Cllr. Adrian Clifford.

**DECISION**

That Care Leavers / Care Experience be treated by the Council as a Protected Characteristic.

Reason:

To ensure we take into account Care Leavers/ Care Experienced individuals to seek to redress inequalities faced by care experienced young people.

**215. PLANNING OBLIGATIONS AND DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS  
SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (2024) – CONSULTATION  
DRAFT**

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

**DECISIONS**

1. That the Planning Obligations and Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (2024) – Consultation Draft, be approved for public consultation.
2. That delegated authority be given to the Director of Communities in consultation with the Planning Delivery and Enforcement & Corporate Transformation Portfolio Holder to approve minor wording and structural changes and adopt the Supplementary Planning Document at Appendix A subject to no other changes being required following consultation.

**Reasons:**

1. To accord with national legislation, which sets out the mechanism for securing planning obligations from new development. This includes the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended) which sets out additional legislation on the use of planning obligations.
2. To ensure that the Council's approach to securing planning obligations on new development is based on up-to-date local evidence.



**216. FOSSE VILLAGES NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – RESPONSE TO EXAMINER’S PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS AND ‘MAKING’ THE UPDATED PLAN**

*Cllr. Alex DeWinter left the meeting during the consideration during this item.*

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

**DECISIONS**

1. That the recommended modifications to the updated Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan, as set out in the Examination Report be accepted.
2. That Council makes (adopts) the updated Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan.

**Reasons**

1. The Examiner’s recommended modifications are necessary to ensure that the Plan meets the basic conditions for neighbourhood plans required by legislation.
2. Making the updated Fosse Villages 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 act of updating the Plan.

**217. PAY POLICY 2023/24**

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

**DECISION**

That the Blaby District Council Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24 be approved.

**Reason:**

Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to prepare pay policy statements setting out the authority’s own policies regarding the remuneration of its staff particularly its senior staff (or ‘chief officers’) and its lowest paid employees.

## **218. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

Considered and presented by - Report of the Executive Director – Communities and Monitoring Officer.

Members were asked to refer one recommendation back to the Independent Remuneration Panel to enable the Opposition Group Leaders and other Members to make representations on the proposed change that:

*That Opposition Group Leaders be paid a SRA if Group consists of 5 or more Members. (Note - this will remove the SRA for the Green Group Leader).*

This was proposed by Cllr. Terry Richardson.

### **DECISIONS**

1. That the recommendations as detailed in Paragraph 4.2 of the report are approved subject to the removal of the recommendation in relation to the Opposition Group Leader SRA and are applicable from the May 2023 Annual Council and that the increase in allowances are backdated accordingly.
2. That the recommendation detailing the Opposition Group Leaders SRA be referred back to the Independent Remuneration Panel for further consideration.
3. That the Member Allowances Scheme in the Constitution be amended.

Reasons:

1. The Panel considered the Special Responsibility Allowances and the views of Councillors and determined that changes should be made to the Allowances and the Scheme.
2. Members requested that the Panel review this recommendation to enable the Opposition Group Leaders and other Members to make representations to the Panel
3. 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.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 7.20 P.M.**