



MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MELTON

PARKSIDE, STATION APPROACH, BURTON STREET, MELTON MOWBRAY

21 FEBRUARY 2013

PRESENT

Councillors J. Illingworth (Mayor)
P.M. Baguley, M.W. Barnes, G.E. Botterill, G. Bush, P.M. Chandler,
J.M. Douglas, A. Freer-Jones, M. Gordon; E. Hutchison,
S. Lumley, V.J. Manderson, T. Moncrieff, M. O'Callaghan,
J.T. Orson, P.M. Posnett, J.B. Rhodes, M.R. Sheldon, J. Simpson,
N. Slater, M. Twitney, J. Wyatt

Georgia Paddock – Young Mayor
Sharmila Mohankumar – Young Mayor

Chief Executive
Head of Central Services; Head of Communications & Monitoring Officer
Senior Democracy Officer

The Reverend Kevin Ashby offered prayers

CO75. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cumbers, Graham, Holmes, Horton, Moulding and Wright.

CO76. MINUTES

The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 23 January 2013 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Mayor.

The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 6 February 2013 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Mayor.

CO77. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Orson, Posnett and Rhodes each declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Leicestershire County Council due to their roles as County Councillors.

Minute CO84 : Setting Council Tax 2013/14

It was noted that a dispensation had been granted to Councillors at the Governance Committee held on 20 November 2012 and Minute G48/12 stated as follows :-

RESOLVED that the Governance Committee approve a dispensation for all Borough Councillors to allow them to vote at Council meetings setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

CO78. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor stated that he had not provided much information on his activities since the December meeting of the Council therefore he wished to update Members on events he had attended since then. He stated that

- (a) first of all, he welcomed the Deputy Young Mayor, Sharmila Mohankumar, to the meeting;
- (b) he had been to several carol concerts during December and visited the older people's homes in the Borough;
- (c) the quiz held in aid of his appeal on 9 January had raised £800;
- (d) attendance at the concert held at the Royal British Legion in aid of his appeal had suffered due to the weather at the time but had still made a profit of £130;
- (e) from the start of the New Year, he had attended the following :-
 - Tour of Everards Brewery
 - Charnwood's Charity Concert
 - Churches Together Service at St Peter's Church on Welby Lane
 - Dick Wittington pantomime at Hinckley Theatre
 - Variety Charity Show at the Guildhall, Grantham which the Young Mayor had also attended
 - Civic Dinner hosted by South Kesteven District Council
 - Dinner in the Officers' Mess at the Defence Animal Centre
 - Musical Evening at Bourne Abbey where there was a Chinese pianist playing
 - School Council meeting at Buckminster Primary School
 - the opening of the Indoor Bowls Club Finals and bowled the first wood
- (f) his Civic Dinner was to be held on Friday 1 March and the deadline for replying was the previous day, 20 February;
- (g) Councillor Moncrieff was organising a Charity Skittles and Darts event on 19 March at a pub in Asfordby;
- (h) Councillor Holmes was organising a Classic Car event at Twinlakes to be held on 28 April and some of the proceeds would go to the Mayor's Appeal;
- (i) over the coming weeks, he would be attending approximately 25 events as Mayor.

The Young Mayor, Georgia Paddock, stated that she had attended the Grantham Variety Show with the Mayor and it had been an enjoyable evening.

CO79. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader, Councillor Rhodes, made the following announcements :-

- (a) Changes to welfare benefits - he reported that the 'drop in' event at Gloucester House held on 19 February had received more than 250 attendees. It explained the new Council Tax Scheme and the changes relating to the extra bedrooms. The event had been organised by the Melton Town Community Forum;
- (b) Extra Care – he reported that there had been some miscommunication about the proposed changes at Gretton Court which was not the fault of the Borough Council but was not good for Gretton Court residents and their families. He stated that he understood the issues were now resolved and residents had been assured that their care arrangements would not be taken away, although the status of Gretton Court would have to change. The good news for the Borough was that there was to be a new purpose-built Extra Care facility built in the town and the Council would play a full part in ensuring that the transitional arrangements would be managed efficiently and with due regard to ensure residents' needs would be protected;
- (c) East Midlands' Declaration on Affordable Housing – he reported that the Council had previously signed up to the East Midlands' Declaration on Affordable Housing which committed the Council to do all it could to bring forward schemes and work to reducing the shortage of affordable housing in the Borough. Melton was the second Council to sign up and now there were 19. He announced that one of the first projects would be building new homes on the vacant garage sites and the County Council had been asked to contribute some of their share of New Homes Bonus money to help with the financing;
- (d) New Housing – he stated that he represented the Council at the East Midlands Councils' Meeting on 15 February which had been attended by the Nick Boles MP, the Parliamentary Under Secretary for Communities and Local Government who was responsible for planning policy in the Government. Mr. Boles had stressed the need to build more housing of all types to meet the shortage and Councils should put new housing development near the top of its priorities and ensure that its policies were orientated to encourage house building instead of resisting it;
- (e) Meet the Leaders' Event – he would be joining the Leader of the County Council, Nicholas Rushton, on Tuesday 26 February in the Market Place to meet shoppers and listen to what they had to say.

Councillor O'Callaghan stated that he had initiated an invitation for the shadow Secretary of State, Hilary Benn, to visit Melton and take a look around the town. He further asked a question of the Leader relating to the timing of the Leader of the County Council's market stall event in Melton due to the County Council elections being held in May.

The Leader responded that the County Council Leader wished to visit the Borough and there was a lot of time before the County Council Elections.

CO80. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions received.

CO81. PETITIONS

There were no petitions received.

CO82. RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations and report from Committees.

CO83. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

(a) In accordance with Procedure Rule 10.1, the Chairmen of Committees were to respond to any questions upon items of reports of Committees when those items were received or were under consideration by the Council as follows :-

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Development Committee | 29 November 2012 |
| Development Committee | 20 December 2012 |
| Rural, Economic & Environmental Affairs Committee | 9 January 2013 |
| Development Committee | 10 January 2013 |
| Governance Committee | 17 January 2013 |
| Community & Social Affairs Committee | 22 January 2013 |
| Policy, Finance & Administration Committee | 23 January 2013 |
| Development Committee | 31 January 2013 |

There were no questions received on the above reports.

(b) In accordance with Procedure Rule 10.5, the Mayor, the Leader and the Chairmen of Committees were to answer any questions on any matters in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affect the Borough of which due notice had been given.

There were no questions received under Procedure Rule 10.5.

CO84. SETTING COUNCIL TAX 2013/14

A report to calculate and set the Council's Council Tax 2013/14 as required under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 was submitted (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members).

It was noted that the Leicestershire County Council had set its Council Tax on the previous day, 20 February 2013, and therefore the figures in the report remained as previously circulated.

The Leader moved the recommendation as set out in the report and stated that

- (a) the Council Tax had been set at the same level as last year and the County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner had done the same, however the Fire Authority had taken advantage of the Government's advice and made a percentage increase of 9.48% which meant a £5 increase for Council Tax payers;
- (b) with regard to the parishes, this was a more mixed picture and there was hardly a parish without some change to its precept. However the special expenses had remained at zero, therefore there was no change for Melton apart from the Fire Authority's contribution which was beyond the Council's control and the bills would now be issued.

Councillor Posnett seconded the motion and stated that as a County Council Member of the Fire Authority, Leicestershire was amongst the 8 lowest funded. Therefore they had been advised by the Minister to increase their contribution by £5 to enable the authority to receive some income.

Councillor O'Callaghan referred to the high increase at Bottesford and perhaps there was a good reason for this. He stated that there would be an increase for all, even in Melton.

Councillor Chandler as a Ward Councillor for Bottesford, agreed with Councillor O'Callaghan that the precept for Bottesford was high. She added that they could not do a referendum and it had not been understood why there was such an increase.

The Leader stated that due to the skills of the ICT Section and at the instigation of the Head of Central Services, the software for printing the bills had been adjusted to show the parish precepts separately as well as special expenses as appropriate on individual Council Tax bills.

Councillor Orson congratulated Burton and Dalby Parish Council on its prudent management to achieve a reduction of 30.79 per cent for its precept.

There was a query around the information being confusing to Council Tax payers, however it was explained and noted that individual Council Tax bills would state what the Council Tax payer needed to pay and who was asking them to pay it.

On the motion being put to the vote, the majority were in favour therefore the motion was carried.

RESOLVED that the Council note the calculations and set the Council Tax for the year 2013/14 made in accordance with regulations set out in the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

The meeting, which commenced at 6.30 p.m., closed at 6.56 p.m.

Mayor