



MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MELTON

PARKSIDE, STATION APPROACH, BURTON STREET, MELTON MOWBRAY

20 FEBRUARY 2014

PRESENT

Councillors M. M. Gordon (Mayor)
P.M. Baguley, G. Bush, G.E. Botterill, P.M. Chandler,
P. Cumbers, A. Freer-Jones, E. Holmes, E. Hutchison, J. Illingworth,
V. J. Manderson, T. Moncrieff, M. O'Callaghan, J.T. Orson,
P.M. Posnett, J.B. Rhodes, N. Slater, J. Simpson,
M.N. Twitney, J. Wyatt

Chief Executive, Strategic Director (KA)
Head of Communications & Monitoring Officer
Head of Central Services, Central Services Manager
Democracy & Involvement Officer

Young Mayor, Ashleigh Evans

Prayers were offered by Steven Wright, Pastor, Valley Christian Church, Harby

CO67. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Barnes, Douglas, Graham MBE, Horton, Lumley, Moulding, Sheldon, and Wright.

CO68. MINUTES

Before the minutes of the last Full Council meeting held on 5 February 2014 were presented:

- Councillor Illingworth declared a personal and pecuniary interest in minute CO61, specifically in relation to the council dwelling rent increase for 2014/15 as he was currently residing in a late close family member's property and stated that if this matter was subsequently discussed during consideration of these minutes, he would leave the room;
- Councillor Slater declared a personal and pecuniary interest in minute CO61, specifically in relation to the council dwelling rent increase for 2014/15 by virtue of him being a council house tenant and stated that if this matter was subsequently discussed during consideration of these minutes, he would leave the room;
- Councillor Gordon declared a personal and pecuniary interest in minute

CO61, specifically in relation to the council dwelling rent increase for 2014/15 by virtue of her being a council house tenant and stated that if this matter was subsequently discussed during consideration of these minutes, she would leave the room.

Councillor Rhodes referred to Leader's Announcements at minute CO58 where he had reported that the Council had been awarded a grant of £490K from the ESF Fund for the new Learning & Skills Centre at Phoenix House. He stated that he had since been advised that this grant had been adjusted to £386K. Subject to that amendment, he so moved acceptance of the minutes and this was seconded by Councillor Posnett.

Councillor Gordon referred to minute CO56 where it was recorded that she had declared a personal interest in the item relating to the Revenue Budget Proposals 2014/15 – Housing Revenue Account. She stated this should read a personal and pecuniary interest. This should also be corrected after minute CO60 on page 62.

Councillor Holmes referred to minute CO58 on page 62 where she had asked a question about the impact of car parking arising from the Foyer Project at Thorpe End. She stated she was still waiting for an answer as to where cars and hgv's were going to be able to park. Councillor Rhodes replied that it was not appropriate to respond at this time and the Chief Executive confirmed to the Member that Officers would take the matter further.

Councillor Gordon then drew Members' attention to minute CO57 under Mayor's Announcements where Councillor Orson had requested that the County Council's Community Safety team's Keep Safe Project be made aware of the room available at Richard Barnes Funeral Directors. She had subsequently spoken to Jenny Barnes who had clarified that this facility would only be available between 9am and 4.30pm and that further details and advance notice would be required.

Having declared a personal interest by virtue of being a County Councillor and Chairman of the Safer Communities Strategy Board, Councillor Orson stated he would take this message back to the County's team.

Subject to the above amendments and updates, the minutes of the last meeting held on 5 February 2014 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Mayor.

CO69. 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.

Councillor Illingworth declared a personal and pecuniary interest in relation to minute C51 HRA/Budget Setting report on the minutes of the Community & Social Affairs Committee dated 22 January 2014 specifically in relation to council dwelling rents and PPI as he was currently residing in a late close family member's property.

Councillor Slater declared a personal and pecuniary interest in relation to minute C51 HRA/Budget Setting report on the minutes of the Community & Social Affairs

Committee dated 22 January 2014 by virtue of being a council house tenant.

Councillor Gordon declared a personal and pecuniary interest in relation to minute C51 HRA/Budget Setting report on the minutes of the Community & Social Affairs Committee dated 22 January 2014 by virtue of being a council house tenant.

Councillor Gordon declared a personal and non pecuniary interest in relation to minute C53, Leicestershire Dementia Action Alliance in the Community & Social Affairs Committee dated 22 January 2014 by virtue of a family member having dementia.

Councillor Gordon declared a personal and pecuniary interest in minute P46, Localising Support for Council Tax under the Policy, Finance, and Administration Committee minutes dated 13 December 2013 by virtue of being a Council Tax benefit claimant.

Councillor Gordon declared a personal and non pecuniary interest in minute P54, page 35 of the Policy, Finance, and Administration Committee minutes dated 13 December 2013 regarding that part of the minutes relating to dementia as she had a close family member with dementia.

Councillor Slater declared a personal and pecuniary interest in minute P46, Localising Support for Council Tax under the Policy, Finance, and Administration Committee minutes dated 13 December 2013 by virtue of being a Council Tax benefit claimant.

CO70. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Mayor stated that she had attended 158 events to date and since the last meeting had attended:
 - The Annual meeting of the University Court and Official Unveiling of "Flight" at the University of Leicester. It had been very interesting to learn of the new courses being offered at the University and see the impressive new sculpture. She had also visited the University's Conference Centre and commended this excellent facility to Members;
 - The Melton Vale's production of "Grease" – this had been an extremely good production and the performers' obvious enjoyment was highly infectious for the audience.
- (2) The Mayor reminded Members
 - that it was the Civic Dinner on 7 March 2014 and asked those who had not already responded to contact the Democracy & Involvement Officer by Monday 24 February at the latest.
 - of the forthcoming Fly the Flag for the Commonwealth Day event on 10 March at Parkside to which all Members were invited.
- (3) The Council then received a report from the Young Mayor, Ashleigh Evans. Ashleigh
 - reported on her attendance at the Melton Vale Post 16 Awards evening which had been an enjoyable experience and she looked forward to attending this facility after leaving John Ferneley Academy;

- explained how her recent attendance at the Council's Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration had helped her understand this tragic event from a different perspective;
- advised Members that she and the Deputy Young Mayor were planning to arrange two fund raising events for the skate park. They also wanted to be able to hire a venue where entry would be only £2 or £3 for those who had taken part in the Young Mayor elections to provide a place where young people could meet.

CO71. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader, Councillor Rhodes, made the following announcements:

- A meeting had recently been held about the skate park renewal project which had been attended by interested parties and Councillor Posnett. Upwards of 50 people had been present and this was very encouraging;
- He had received a number of letters from residents of the Borough expressing concern about parish council precepts. Some residents wrongly believed that the Borough Council had control over the precepts. The amount of correspondence he had received indicated this level of concern was starting to become a problem and he would be drawing this to the attention of the parishes concerned;
- He was aware of further public concern over wind turbines. The Council's Planning Committee had acted properly regarding applications submitted but the situation would not be relieved until the supplementary planning document was put together. However, technically, it would not have formal validity until the Local Plan was approved but the document could still be used as a reflection of the will of the Borough and the Planning Committee and would be applied accordingly. There had recently been healthy debate on how the planning system actually works as there was a lack of understanding which had led to unjust criticism of the Council due to misconceptions about what it could and could not do.

[Councillor Baguley entered the meeting at 6.50pm during the above item.]

CO72. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions received.

CO73. PETITIONS

There were no petitions received.

CO74. RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(a) Policy, Finance & Administration Committee: 12 February 2014 – Council Business Development Sub-Committee

The Chairman of the Council Business Development Sub-Committee, Councillor Rhodes explained that at the PFA Committee, Members had considered if the sub-committee was still needed. It had been set up some years ago to oversee the project to construct the new council offices. Now its work was complete and it had been very successful. He commended Councillor Graham MBE who had been a prime mover of the project and concluded by advising Members that any further issues arising would be dealt with via the PFA Committee. He moved approval of the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Posnett. Following a vote, it was

RESOLVED: (unanimously) that the Council Business Development Sub-Committee be disbanded as its works is complete.

(b) Governance Committee: 28 January 2014 – Minute G69 Constitution Update

In the absence of both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Governance Committee, Councillor Orson moved the recommendations proposed by the Governance Committee. He referred to the proposed calendar of meetings for 2014/15 and explained that the County Highways meetings had been taken into consideration during formulation of the dates. After Councillor Manderson had seconded the motion, a vote was taken and it was

RESOLVED: (unanimously)

(1) to note that the Monitoring Officer had exercised her delegation for an amendment to the Contract Procedure Rules of the following revised OJEU thresholds which came into effect from 1 January 2014 and will apply for two years:-

Goods and Services

New threshold: £172,514 (was £173,934)

Works

New threshold: £4,322,012 (was £4,348,350)

(2) to update the Delegations to Officers (Part 3) in light of the recent staffing restructure and other minor changes as set out at Appendix A.

(3) to adopt the proposed Calendar of Meetings for 2014-15 as set out at Appendix B subject to any date/venue change for the Planning Meeting scheduled for the 22 May 2014 which coincides with the European Elections.

CO75. 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 :-

Governance Committee
Planning Committee

27 November 2013
28 November 2013

Policy, Finance & Administration Committee	3 December 2013
Planning Committee	19 December 2013
Rural, Economic & Environmental Affairs Committee	8 January 2014
Planning Committee	9 January 2014
Licensing & Regulatory Committee	14 January 2014
Community & Social Affairs Committee	22 January 2014
Governance Committee	28 January 2014
Ad Hoc Policy, Finance & Administration Committee	29 January 2014
Planning Committee	30 January 2014

- (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.

- (c) Councillor Gordon referred to the minutes of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee held on 14 January 2014 stating that there had been a person representing the Taxi Driver Association present who had contributed to the meeting but he had not been listed as being present.
- (d) Councillor Chandler, as Chairman of the Planning Committee, referred to the last set of minutes from the Planning Committee meeting held on 30 January 2014 and requested that these be withdrawn as they contained some errors regarding conditions attached to planning consents. These errors would be corrected and the minutes presented to the April meeting of the Full Council. Councillor Moncrieff pointed out that at this same meeting it had been recorded that he was absent from the meeting but he had in fact previously resigned from the Committee.

CO76. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

No motions were submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.1

CO77. COUNCIL TAX 2014/15

Members had before them a report prepared by the Head of Central Services to enable the Council to calculate and set the Council Tax for 2014/15 as required under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

The Leader, Councillor Rhodes stated that the Leicestershire County Council had sets it Council Tax on the previous day, 19 February 2014, and had put forward no increase in its precept. The law now required this Council to set the amounts as detailed in the schedule which was attached at Appendix C to the report.

The Leader called for a recorded vote and was supported by Councillors Orson and Posnett. In accordance with procedure rule 15.5 the following recorded vote to set the Council Tax for the year 2014/15 was taken.

No.	Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
1.	Baguley	√			
2.	Barnes				√
3.	Botterill	√			
4.	Bush			√	
5.	Chandler	√			
6.	Cumbers	√			
7.	Douglas				√
8.	Freer-Jones	√			
9.	Gordon	√			
10.	Graham				√
11.	Holmes	√			
12.	Horton				√
13.	Hutchison	√			
14.	Illingworth	√			
15.	Lumley				√
16.	Manderson	√			
17.	Moncrieff			√	
18.	J. Moulding				√
19.	O'Callaghan			√	
20.	Orson	√			
21.	Posnett	√			
22.	Rhodes	√			
23.	Sheldon				√
24.	Simpson	√			
25.	Slater	√			
26.	Twitney	√			
27.	Wright				√
28.	Wyatt	√			
	Totals	17	0	3	8

RESOLVED: That the Council note the calculations and set the Council Tax for the year 2014/15 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 7.08 p.m.

Mayor