



MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MELTON

SCALFORD HALL, MELTON ROAD, MELTON MOWBRAY

20 APRIL 2011

PRESENT

Councillors M. Moore (Mayor)
N.R.G. Angrave, P. Baguley, M.W. Barnes, G.E. Botterill, P.M. Chandler
C.O. Chapman, P. Cumbers, S. Dungworth, A. Freer, M.C.R. Graham MBE
E. Holmes, J. Illingworth, R. Marks, T. Moncrieff
M. O'Callaghan, D.E. Orson, J.T. Orson, P.M. Posnett, J.B. Rhodes
M.R. Sheldon, N. Slater, D.R. Wright, J. Wyatt

David Downing, Young Mayor

Chief Executive
Strategic Director (KA), Strategic Director (CM)
Senior Democracy Officer (SE)

The Reverend Kevin Ashby offered a prayer

CO76. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dean, Holt, Jackson and Moore-Coltman.

CO77. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 24 February 2011 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Mayor.

CO78. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Minute CO85 : Motion on Notice: 'Melton Carnegie Museum' from Councillors O'Callaghan and Moncrieff

Councillor Graham declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item due to being a Trustee of the Melton Carnegie Museum.

Councillor Holmes requested guidance as to whether she should declare an interest in this item and it was advised that due to the role she held as a trustee,

she would have an interest therefore she duly declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item.

Councillor Posnett declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item due to being the Council's representative on the Melton Carnegie Museum as well as being a County Councillor.

Councillors J.T. Orson and Rhodes each declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item due to their roles as County Councillors.

Minute CO86 : Motion on Notice: 'Local Services' from Councillors O'Callaghan and Dungworth

Councillors J.T. Orson, Posnett and Rhodes each declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item due to their roles as County Councillors.

CO79. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS INCLUDING MAYOR'S AWARDS AND PRESENTATION BY THE YOUNG MAYOR

The Mayor

(a) referred to the good work being done in the community and the extent of voluntary work carried out which various sections of the community like schools, churches, village halls, hospitals and care homes relied upon. With tight budgets, many essential things would not get done without those who were prepared to give up their time;

(b) in acknowledging those people who were selflessly prepared to help others, she requested that Councillors join her in approving the presentation of the following Awards of Merit :-

Robert Burt

In recognition of

- Carrying out welfare work with the Ex-Service, H.M. Forces and their families/dependents
- Being involved in this unpaid work since making his home in Melton 6-7 years ago
- Enabling ex-HM forces members to adapt to civilian life within the community and to promote a better community spirit
- Raising funds within the local RBL Club, Poppy Appeal and by giving talks on the work of the RBL at National and Local levels
- Alleviating worry from hardship, loneliness and fosters comradeship with the citizens of the borough
- Helping approximately 100 people a year which include one off cases and ongoing ones as well as ones from other agencies
- Looking after his wife who has health problems and is at present waiting to have her second hip joint replaced
- Carrying out an average of 5-8 visits per week which includes his rota of visiting his clients once every 6 weeks, just to let them know they are not forgotten plus the urgent cases sent to him from the County Office

Cedric Ginns

In recognition of

- Working for the Volunteer Service Bureau taking people from the Frisby area to the doctors, dentist and hospital appointments
- Being a very active helper in the community for years, e.g. doing gardening for the elderly in the village free of charge
- Over 20 years involvement in this unpaid activity
- Being on call to anyone in the village who has needed help in any way and is known as part of the "A team" with a colleague
- Being always at hand to lend assistance
- The fact that a considerable number of people in Frisby and other villages in the vicinity are affected by this activity
- Recently undergoing a serious operation and has had trouble with his eyes which are now resolved
- Acting as lettings officer for the Village Hall

David Ruddy

In recognition of

- His work as Warden of Granby House, Melton Mowbray
- Caring for elderly people
- His involvement in the work on a full time basis over the past 10 years
- Giving his time far beyond the hours he is paid for and does the work of at least 3 people
- Being thought of very highly by the residents who can't praise him enough
- Raises money for social events at Granby House and supports LOROS on a weekly voluntary basis
- The fact that all the residents of Granby House and St John's Court benefit from his good work, lunches, coffee morning and trips out
- Dedicating his life and spare time to looking after the elderly and vulnerable people of the town

Philip Thacker QGM

In recognition of

- Running a Scouting Troop at Bottesford which meet every Thursday evening
- Being involved in the Scouting movement for 31 years
- Holding the 25 year Scouting Award
- Providing young people with structured leadership including teaching skills that will remain with them for life
- Organising weekend camps and camps further afield including the Forest of Dean: The camps include various outdoor activities including canoeing, fishing, orienteering, rock climbing and outdoor cooking
- His distinguished career in HM Forces and now works for the Home Office
- Giving up his time willingly to provide young people with structured leadership that will remain with them for life
- His readiness to help and for holding the Silver Acorn Award for Scouting

Presentation of the Mayor's Special Award to Rick Bowker

In recognition of:

- Ensuring the Baldocks Lane park is clear and free from litter so the park is a safe and pleasant environment for local children and families to enjoy
- His hard and consistent work is a credit to him and the local area. Rick's community focused attitude, which enhances the local area for everyone
- Offering a high level of voluntary service
- His continued work in the community

The Mayor presented the Young Citizen Award to Lucy Sparling (age 15)

In recognition of:

- Willing help in school activities: parents'/open evenings and mentor to younger students
- Being a Young Leader at Beaver Scouts
- Having achieved the Chief Scouts Gold Award, the highest scout award
- Demonstrating her commitment to the local community and people through her voluntary work both in and out of School
- Acting as school mentor and helping to boost the self-esteem of younger students to help them develop skills to succeed
- Being presented with the 'Contribution to School Life Award' for years 7, 8 and 9 in 2010
- Representing the Scouts for Media Training and is part of the Melton District Explorer Scout Unit
- Raising money with other scouts, to fund the trip to the World Scout Jamboree to Sweden in July 2011, by packing bags at Morrisons
- Having a positive 'can-do' attitude towards everything she does, and thus brings joy to all concerned, be it in School or within the Beavers
- Trying to organise for Mrs Patel to visit her Beaver group to talk to them about Indian culture at Divali. This was not possible nevertheless she did negotiate with Mrs Patel to borrow sarees, shalwar kameez, kurta pyjamas and tabla to ensure the Beavers had a cultural event that captured the essence of Divali
- The fact that all students and staff at Long Field and approximately 30 Beavers are affected by her work
- Offering her time to Beavers and contributing to School on top of studying for 11 GCSE subjects

Derek Sanders' Cup

The Mayor presented this cup to Mr David Ruddy

Robert Hyslop's Award for 'Outstanding Service to the Community'

Mrs. Eileen Hyslop was invited to present this award to Mr Philip Thacker QGM

RESOLVED that the nominations be approved and Members joined the Mayor in congratulating the awardees.

(The Awardees here left the meeting.)

The Young Mayor, David Downing

- (a) stated that he been to various functions with the Mayor including the Lord Lieutenant's Award Evening and the Melton Times Business Awards;
- (b) stated that the free swimming petition had been considered by the Council as being too expensive for the school holidays but he was pursuing the issue with Councillor Posnett for a summer holiday scheme;
- (c) stated that the Music Festival was to be held on 13 August and the Police had no issues with the event. The event was looking for sponsorship and he was open to any ideas for help with funding;
- (d) stated that the cycle map was now available and it fulfils the criteria for safe cycling;
- (e) thanked the Council for enabling him to speak and wished Councillors good luck for the Borough Elections.

(Councillor O'Callaghan left the meeting during the preceding item.)

CO80. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader, Councillor Graham MBE, stated that it was always a sad time when a four year cycle of a Council came to an end. For some this would be the first time and others would have seen many a term begin and end. He said he did not think anyone here or in any other Council would have experienced a four year term quite like this one.

The Council had been managing quite well with a difficult financial situation but the organisation was within its comfort zone and new Councillors had served a year and were finding their feet and beginning to contribute when, on 30 May 2008, everyone was devastated to find that two thirds of the Council Offices had been destroyed by fire. Importantly no one was hurt, but the damage was enormous and records and vital information had been lost. He said that if someone wanted to know what the people of Melton Borough Council were really like, he suggested that they watch a replay of that weekend.

As Leader, he said he took no credit but absorbed so much of the pride in being a Leader of a Council that at 9.00 a.m. on a Friday morning was being destroyed but by 9.00 a.m. on the following Monday morning was answering telephone calls and had restored so many of the services that benefit those it was here to serve. He stated that he knew from the reactions of many colleagues in other Councils how this Council was probably unique in being able to get back on its feet so quickly. He stated he was aware that when the Chief Executive talked to groups about the Council's disaster recovery, she used two phrases he had used at the time. One being that if you were going to have a disaster, have it on a Friday – it did give a bit of extra time, but the other one was if you wanted to look spontaneous, make sure it was well planned. It was here that all credit must go to the Head of Regulatory Services, Jim Worley, and his team.

Ever since that day, the Council's staff had been magnificent in coping with difficulties whilst still providing that first class service of which everyone here was so proud.

Many assumed that the Council would rebuild what was lost and resume life as normal. The Leader said he was sorry to say that would have been an easy option and it was a natural one for many who had been involved with the Council to assume that the Council would take it. When he had first enquired of the Management Team if it would be possible to build an office on that bit of land by the station and raise some money from the sale of the Nottingham Road site, he had no idea what a roller coaster of activity it would involve. Quite rightly, the Strategic Director, Christine Marshall, said that all available sites must be looked at; talks had to be held with the Council's insurers, architects, project planners together with all sorts of tendering and discussion about visions. Whilst this was going on, Phoenix House was being renovated and talks taking place with Innes England about marketing of the site. He stated that he could not praise enough the amount of work that Christine Marshall had put into this project over and above her day job, and alongside detailed negotiations with Sainsburys.

Whilst all this was going on, Keith Aubrey, Strategic Director, was desperate to establish his vision of the new ways of working; a vision that means later this year this Council would be a leader in the way it worked with partners. It would be very difficult because although the Council was a long standing member of Welland and used to being equal partners, others had not had this experience and this Council must not allow itself to be bullied. He advised that many would be looking at Melton Borough Council and there would be interesting times ahead. All this had taken place under the careful control and wisdom of the Chief Executive, Lynn Aisbett. As Leader he had served with four Chief Executives. All had been different and he had enjoyed serving with all of them but none had had to oversee the activity that had been created over the last three years and he was extremely grateful for all her sound advice.

Later this summer Melton Borough Council would move into the new offices. He acknowledged that no one yet knew who amongst the present Council would be there but he could say that whoever did make up the new Council, they would be part of the most fortunate Council in the country. He asked which other Council Leader would not give his eye teeth to have a brand new environmentally efficient, economic to run offices, with partners who would contribute to the overheads and a one stop shop for all Council services. This would, together with several million pounds in reserves, protect and invest in the Borough of Melton for generations to come.

The Leader said he was aware and would be the first to admit and regret that this Council had not been as cosy and all inclusive as many previous ones, the main reason being the speed that decisions had to be taken and the lack of facilities for informal meetings between Councillors. It was important that this was addressed as soon as the move took place.

He referred again to the fact that it was not known who would be here for the Annual Meeting of the Council on 19 May but there were some Councillors who would not be there as they were not standing for election. The Leader wished to thank Councillors Holt, Moore-Coltman and Di Orson for their service to this

Council. They had all contributed a vast amount and he was extremely grateful to them all.

Finally, the Leader referred to one particular Councillor who had joined Melton Borough Council on the same day he had. He was Deputy Mayor when he was Mayor. He paid tribute to Councillor Colin Chapman referring to his memorable speeches in the Council Chamber, his generosity towards the charity, Rainbows, with which the Leader was involved and his skills as a Chairman. He commended Councillor Chapman for being in touch with his electorate and expressed the view that if, after the election there were 28 Councillors like Colin Chapman there would be little wrong with Melton Borough Council. He personally thanked Councillor Chapman for the last 24 years of friendship and advice and wished him and his wife all the best for the future.

Councillors Holmes and O'Callaghan joined the Leader in their praise of Councillor Chapman and they too referred to his contribution to the Council and his electorate.

(Councillor O'Callaghan re-entered the meeting during the preceding item.)

CO81. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions received.

CO82. PETITIONS

In accordance with Procedure Rule 24.1 and Part 2 of the Petitions Scheme, the Chief Executive reported that two Petitions had been received on 5 April 2011 from the Tenants Forum Executive Committee (TFEC) which contained 81 and 89 signatories respectively and stated the following :-

'We the undersigned residents object to the decision of the CSA Committee to impose £1.50 per week charge for cleaning landings and stairwells in Flats'

'We the undersigned residents object to the decision of the CSA Committee to impose £30 car parking fee and £30 for one visitors pass'

It was reported that both petitions would be referred to the next meeting of the Community and Social Affairs Committee in June 2011.

RESOLVED that receipt of both petitions be noted and that they be referred to the next meeting of the Community and Social Affairs Committee in June 2011.

CO83. RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

Policy, Finance and Administration Committee: 20 April 2011
Carry Forward of Revenue Budgets

RECOMMENDED that the Council approve the item highlighted in the attached which is in excess of £50,000 in accordance with financial Procedure Rules.

The Council considered the above recommendation with the benefit of the relevant report that had previously been circulated to Members.

RESOLVED that the carry forward of £105,860 be approved in respect of Legal fees associated with sale of land at Nottingham Road not yet fully incurred.

CO84. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

(a) The Chairmen of Committees to answer any questions upon items of reports of Committees when those items are being received or under consideration by the Council in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.1 of the Constitution :-

Special Overview, Scrutiny and Audit Committee	15 February 2011
Special Overview, Scrutiny and Audit Committee	22 February 2011
Special Policy, Finance and Administration Committee	22 February 2011
Development Committee	24 February 2011
Policy, Finance and Administration Committee	2 March 2011
Community and Social Affairs Committee	9 March 2011
Standards Committee	10 March 2011
Rural, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee	16 March 2011
Development Committee	17 March 2011
Development Committee	7 April 2011

(b) The Mayor, the Leader and the Chairmen of Committees 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 has been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.5

(c) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.5(a), the following question was received from Councillors D.E. Orson, J.T. Orson, Posnett, Rhodes and Sheldon on 7 April 2011 :-

The leader will be aware that NHS Leicestershire County & Rutland PCT is to withdraw funding to Long Clawson Medical Practice which they use to commission a rehabilitation bed located at Hunter's Lodge, Old Dalby. The PCT did not actively engage with the practice or consult with the local population in arriving at this decision.

What pressure can the Leader exert upon the Crescent Consortium to ensure that everything possible will be done to ensure funding for this vital local service to continue?'

The Leader provided a written response which he circulated to Members prior to the meeting which stated :

When the matter came to my attention earlier this month, I wrote a letter to the Latham House Medical Practice which congratulated Latham House on securing the pathfinder status for the Crescent Consortia and stated that

- *I believe this approach of taking on local commissioning responsibilities offers a real potential to develop health care services that address local needs and this Council looks forward to working with the practice*
- *their attention be drawn to the NHS Leicester County and Rutland PCT funds (via the Long Clawson Medical Practice) and the rehabilitation bed, which is located at Hunter's Lodge, Old Dalby. I mentioned that this service is very well used and needed and costs considerably less than the alternative option of a Hospital bed. I advised that the funding for this bed is being withdrawn without any active engagement with the practice or consultation with the local community from the end of May 2011*
- *an urgent meeting be held with Latham House to discuss this further, hopefully, with a view to retaining this vital service*

In response, Councillor J.T Orson requested that he brief the Leader prior to the meeting so that he was aware of all the issues and asked that he be invited to the meeting.

The Leader replied that he would arrange that Councillor J.T. Orson and his colleagues who were interested in this matter be invited to the meeting.

Councillor Rhodes thanked the Leader for the reply and asked to make a point of clarification that the Chair of the Crescent Consortium was not a post linked only to Latham House but that Long Clawson Surgery was also part of the Crescent Consortium.

(d) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.5(a), the following question was received from Councillor Moncrieff on 11 April 2011 :-

In the last 10 years under the Conservatives, Council Tax has risen by 68% when inflation went up by only 32%. Can the Leader please tell us where the money has gone?

The Leader provided a written response which he circulated to Members prior to the meeting which stated :

If I can start with a correction, the RPI (this is the commonly used indicator) rose by 35% over the last 10 years.

I assume that the time covered by this question is 2001/02 until the 2011/12 budget, a time that I have been Leader of Melton Borough Council, following a vote of no confidence in the then Leader Councillor O'Callaghan.

Over this time, the Council's net expenditure has risen by £122,484 in real terms or 38%; a very similar figure when compared to inflation as discussed above. We are comparing

- *Today's equivalent figure of **£5,759,936** (this allows for inflation @ 35% - actual figure of £4,266,190 in 2001/02)*
- *To the estimate of **£5,882,420** for 2011/12*

The income from the Council Tax payer has risen in real terms from £2,409,750 in 2001/02 to £2,831,000 in 2011/12, a rise of £421,250 or 17.5%. We are comparing

- *Today's equivalent figure of **£2,409,750** (this allows for inflation @ 35% - actual figure of **£1,785,000** in 2001/02)*
- *To the estimate of **£2,831,000** for 2011/12*

Why then has Council tax risen so much over the last ten years to fund what is within £125k of a similar RPI adjusted spend?

*Although the Council's usable reserves have remained at the same level of £2.1m - in 2001/02 we received an income from our investments of £403,000 (**£544K** if adjusted for RPI @ 35%) in 2011/12 it is expected to be **£10K** in 2011/12.*

In 2003/4 to meet the Labour Governments recycling targets but with absolutely no financial help whatsoever (we now know that the Labour Minister, a Mr. Morley, who denied us help, was, it has been suggested, too busy working on his own expenses at the time) we trialled an alternative weekly waste collection that was fully implemented in 2005/6. This has seen us hit a 50% recycling rate and is a great success but at an increased cost of refuse collection of 101% over the ten years.

Statutory duties have been increased in many departments but especially Environmental Health, Housing, Electoral Registration; licensing and Emergency planning, little or no financial aid is given to help with their implementation. We invest more in community consultation now and we are unable to escape the ever increasing rigours and expense of External Audit.

We have invested in Community centres, I feel that they are important but Labour may not. In 2011/12 we have budgeted to spend £65K on them – There was of course nothing in the 2001/02 accounts.

There has been an increasing shortfall in grant funding for Supporting People over this period and it also was not around in 2001/02 but this year because Conservatives believe it is right, we have budgeted for £44K.

Again because Conservatives believe that it is important the Community Safety budget has increased by 349% over this period.

The last few years have been tough on budgets and hard decisions had to be taken to keep our finances on track. We have always kept within the Government guidelines when setting our Council Tax and over this time strived to fix a balanced budget. Labour's capping legislation was a burden on us, as it removed the flexibility to adjust tax rates. We have not, like some Councils, overstretched ourselves by pursuing Government targets at any cost but stuck to those that we were instructed to and to those we felt were important.

I think that you will notice, that over the last ten years, that your Conservative lead Council has stuck to its main principles: Look after the finances – it has been hard but we have strong financial position, If you are going to do something – then do it well and that we must look after the more vulnerable members of our community.

You will notice that in the ten years since the vote of no confidence in the last Labour Leader of this Council, Finances have been targeted to priorities. I know that Labour members would wish to apologise for the fact that residents of Melton not only have to pick up the bill for 10 years of national incompetence and high taxation but that locally, the diverting of funds away from local delivery to Labour frippery meant that local tax payers had to pay a great deal more to create a similar level of funding than that given by the Conservative ten years earlier.

By far the biggest influence that there has been in the rise in Council Tax over this period, is the refusal of the Labour Government to properly fund the increased pressures of; legislation, targets, inspections, demand for consultants, reports, regulations, monitoring etc. etc. that they imposed on Local Authorities. In fact as the RPI was rising by 35% and the Labour Government was demanding more from us, as a Council, they only gave us an increase in our grant (RSG and NNDR) during the 10 year period of 9.7% or £268,260 (i.e. from £2,774,690 in 2001/02 to £3,042,950 in 2011/12). If the grant had risen by the inflation rate of 35% during this period the Council would have received a significant reduction in its grant from £3,745,831 in 2001/02 at today's rate to £3,042,950 in 2011/12 resulting in a reduction of £702,881 or 18%. Compare this to the inflation linked rise of our spend of £122,484. It was this cynical pilfering of local tax payers' money to pay for their national ill thought out programme that caused Council taxes to rise all over the Country.

So:

Labour then has the cheek to ask us where the money has gone. Go and ask Gordon Brown, whichever Milliband is in charge now or even a man called Balls and get the answer, so that we may all understand.

In response, Councillor Moncrieff requested clarification on whether the current promise of 0% Council Tax was just for the coming year.

The Leader responded that he did not understand the question but stated that the Conservatives had made no cuts in services and no Council Tax rise due to prudent financial management.

(Councillors Graham and Holmes declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item due to being Trustees of the Melton Carnegie Museum and here left the meeting.)

(Councillor Posnett declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item due to being the Council's representative on the Melton Carnegie Museum and being a County Councillor. She also referred to her interest in Minute CO86 due to her County Councillor role and here left the meeting.)

(Councillors J.T. Orson and Rhodes declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following two items due to their roles as County Councillors and here left the meeting.)

CO85. MOTION ON NOTICE: 'MELTON CARNEGIE MUSEUM' FROM COUNCILLORS O'CALLAGHAN AND MONCRIEFF

In accordance with Procedure Rule 11.1, the following motion was received on 11 April 2011 from Councillor O'Callaghan as proposer and Councillor Moncrieff as seconder :-

This Council notes the proposals by Leicestershire County Council to reduce the opening hours of the Melton Carnegie Museum by 46% in Option One and by 59% in Option Two.

This Council believes that these proposals will adversely affect tourism in Melton, visitors to the area, schools visits and others.

This Council opposes the scale of reductions proposed and asks the Leader to write to the Leader of the County Council expressing the Council's opposition.

Councillor O'Callaghan spoke in support of his motion and stated that he recognised that we lived in times of financial austerity and Melton relied on visitors and tourists. He stated that 10-12 coaches came to Melton each Tuesday and tourism was important to the Borough. He advised that there had been a £1m investment in the museum and he did not consider this good time to cut back on opening times. To cut the opening hours as suggested by either amount would have a huge effect on visitors and those that use the museum and requested that the Leader respond to the consultation by stating that the Council considered the proposals a step too far although he agreed there could be some shaving of opening hours.

Councillor Moncrieff seconded the motion and stated that he was in support of the motion. He stated that the proposed cuts were too much as the Borough relied on visitors and tourists.

Councillor Freer proposed an amendment to the motion which started after the words 'Melton Carnegie Museum' and replaced the remainder of Councillor O'Callaghan's motion. The amendment was as follows :-

This Council notes the proposals by Leicestershire County Council to reduce the opening hours of the Melton Carnegie Museum but recognises that savings have to be made in the national effort to reduce the country's deficit and will do all it can to help the County Council maintain its excellent museum service including encouraging more volunteers and provide support and assistance where this Council can.

Councillor Freer stated that collectively as a group they recognised that there were going to be some difficult decisions that had to be made by the County in the coming months and years due to the inherited economic situation. She felt sure that every Councillor, volunteer and member of the public felt sad and/or angry upon hearing about the proposed partial closure of the museum after so much money and time had been invested into it. As Councillors alongside the volunteers and the general public they had the opportunity to be involved in the consultation for the museum (library and heritage) and needed to have their voices heard during this process. Every Member had the opportunity to think of and put forward constructive ideas to prevent the partial closure of the museum.

They could look at this as an opportunity to work alongside partners in the County Council and create a positive outcome.

She further stated that as the Lead Member for the Town centre over the past 4 years she had the privilege of being involved in all aspects of the town and regard all culture and heritage which formed part of the Council's tourism offer as a key to the future of Melton . The tourism offer within Melton had begun to grow year on year and was bringing much needed footfall and revenue to the town centre. They could already see new businesses opening, events during the year that were well known for miles around, key products which were world renowned. All this had been achieved by a collaboration of local, county council and other funding which was then used by specific groups. These groups worked so hard and she felt that every member of every group she had met had one common theme that they had a passion for Melton Mowbray and the Borough. These key groups had been instrumental in achieving a success that all could be proud of. Work continued daily to raise the profile of Melton and the Borough and it was up to all to make sure local facilities did not fall foul of the legacy they had been left and work together to make sure that the museum stayed open and continued to be a part of the offer of Melton Mowbray. She advised that she had already sent a letter in response to the consultation which stated this and that the Council would work with the County Council to achieve a solution.

Councillor Angrave seconded the amendment.

Councillor O'Callaghan exercised his right of reply and stated that he was not too concerned about the percentages of opening times as he recognised that some cuts were needed but he objected to the use of increasing volunteers to replace Council officers. He stated that he did not support the amendment and considered that it was connected to the concept of the Big Society taking over people's jobs.

On the amendment being put to the vote, there were 15 in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention therefore the amendment was carried and it became the substantive motion.

Councillor O'Callaghan considered the vote set a dangerous precedent for people like the staff at the Melton Carnegie Museum and was a sign of things to come.

Councillor Botterill supported the proposed cuts and considered that new ideas were needed to help deal with the current financial situation.

Councillor Sheldon considered that there were plenty of volunteers in hospitals, as school governors and at the Citizens' Advice Bureau. He stated that if the museum was not subject to cuts then the Children's Centres could be at risk and he did not wish this to be the case.

Councillor O'Callaghan closed the debate by stating that it was necessary to reduce our expenditure but the scale of cuts needed to be considered and felt that the cuts were going too far, too fast. He considered there was some scope for reducing the opening hours but the amount proposed was too much. He did not consider that putting people out of work and replacing them with volunteers was the right way to keep the museum open.

On the substantive motion being put to the vote, there were 15 in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention therefore the substantive motion was carried.

RESOLVED that this Council notes the proposals by Leicestershire County Council to reduce the opening hours of the Melton Carnegie Museum but recognises that savings have to be made in the national effort to reduce the country's deficit and will do all it can to help the County Council maintain its excellent museum service including encouraging more volunteers and provide support and assistance where this Council can.

CO86. MOTION ON NOTICE: 'LOCAL SERVICES': FROM COUNCILLORS O'CALLAGHAN AND DUNGWORTH

In accordance with Procedure Rule 11.1, the following motion was received on 11 April 2011 from Councillor O'Callaghan as proposer and Councillor Dungworth as seconder :

This Council notes with concern the potential loss or reduction in local services in the Borough of Melton such as the Magistrates Courts, Museum and Library.

This Council also notes with concern the effect of current national policy on the delivery of health services and education in the Borough.

This Council calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister expressing these concerns on behalf of the Borough.

Councillor O'Callaghan spoke in support of his motion and stated that some cuts were ideological, and were aimed at breaking up the state and reducing the public sector which included major top down reform. He referred to the new school academies and the health service for Melton and the chaos of a proposed GP led service. He advised that those who would prosper would be consultants and professionals such as lawyers in setting up the schemes and running them. He considered that putting services into trusts of unelected people was removing democratic accountability and felt that there would be detrimental consequences, therefore he called on the Leader to write to the Prime Minister expressing these concerns.

Councillor Dungworth seconded the motion and stated that there was a danger in doing too many things that were not reversible. He considered that there could be no going back once the support systems, people and services were gone. He asked the Council to voice its concerns that changes may not always be for the benefit of the people of Melton.

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Wright, responded that the Council was working with the County Council to keep library services in Melton and had made representations on proposals to close the court. He considered that there was little value in writing to the Prime Minister to address the previous cuts made therefore he proposed that the Council did not write.

It was advised that as this was a direct negative to the motion, and those in favour of this proposal could vote against the motion.

Councillor Chandler spoke as a Belvoir High School governor and stated that trust schools were set up by Mr. Blair when he was Prime Minister. She stated that Belvoir High School achieved trust status, received the funding and had now got the most efficient and best school in Leicestershire.

Councillor O'Callaghan closed the debate by pointing out that school trusts had been advantageous and there had been a robust building schools for the future programme. However he felt that it was now being pushed on all schools to go academy and schools would suffer.

On the motion being put to the vote, there were 3 in favour, 15 against and 1 abstention therefore the motion was lost.

RESOLVED that there be no action taken.

(Councillors Graham, Holmes, J.T. Orson, Posnett and Rhodes here re-entered the meeting.)

CO87. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION 2010-11

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report which

- (a) requested the Council to consider a list of proposed amendments to the Constitution that were considered by the Constitution Review Task Group on 29 March 2011 and the Overview, Scrutiny and Audit Committee on 11 April 2011. The detail and associated appendices were enclosed at Appendix A;
- (b) requested the Council to note that there have been two items approved for inclusion in the Constitution at Council Meetings this Civic Year and they are as follows :-
 - the Petitions Scheme including E-Petitions
 - the Reduction in Site Visit Allowance for Members to £25 to allow a £5 contribution to a buffet between the Site Visit and the Committee meeting

Councillor Rhodes stated that this was an important report that needed careful consideration as it changed the Council's Constitution. He further stated that it should be considered by the new Council and not at the end of the term of this Council. Therefore he proposed that the report be deferred until the second meeting of the new Council. Councillor Posnett seconded the motion.

On being put to the vote, the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED that the report be deferred until the July meeting of the new Council.

The meeting which commenced at 6.30 p.m., closed at 7.50 p.m.

Mayor