



MEETING OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MELTON

PARKSIDE, STATION APPROACH, BURTON STREET, MELTON MOWBRAY

12 OCTOBER 2011

PRESENT

Councillors A. Freer (Mayor)  
P.M. Baguley, M.W. Barnes, G.E. Botterill  
G. Bush, P.M. Chandler, P. Cumbers, J. Douglas, S. Dungworth  
M. Gordon; M.C.R. Graham MBE, E. Holmes  
J. Illingworth, S. Lumley, V.J. Manderson, T. Moncrieff, J. Moulding  
M. O'Callaghan, J.T. Orson, P.M. Posnett, J.B. Rhodes  
M.R. Sheldon, J. Simpson, N. Slater, D.R. Wright, J. Wyatt

Chairman of Standards Committee : Mr. M. Mayes

Chief Executive  
Strategic Director (KA), Strategic Director (CM)  
Head of Central Services  
Senior Democracy Officer

Chhaya McDonald, Policy & Performance Officer of  
North West Leicestershire District Council

The Reverend Sharon Constable offered a prayer

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CO33. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Horton.

CO34. HONORARY ALDERMAN PRESENTATION CEREMONY

The Mayor invited the Leader to pay tribute to Honorary Alderman Colin Orson Chapman's contribution to the Council :-

The Leader stated

- It was passed unanimously by the Full Council on Wednesday 20 July 2011 that Colin Orson Chapman be granted Honorary Alderman status, the highest honour that this Council was able to bestow
- Alderman Chapman was elected to Melton Borough Council in 1987 as a

Councillor for Newport Ward and served for 24 years. His main roles on the Council were :-

- Deputy Leader 1989 to 1991
  - Chair of the Council's Direct Services Committee from 1989 -93
  - Deputy Mayor to him as Mayor in 1993 -94
  - Mayor 1994–95 and raised £7,500 for his Mayoral Charity, which epitomised his caring belief as he divided the amount raised between Melton Tiger Sports and Social Club for the Disabled, the Leicester Road Day Centre for Adults with Learning Difficulties and Age Concern at Gloucester House.
  - Member of the Housing Benefits Review Board 1995-97
  - Chair of Direct Services again from 1997 to 2002
  - Chair of the Appeals Committee from 2002 until his retirement from this Council in May
  - He was also a County Councillor from 1993 to 1997
- 
- The above are all things that show how he served this Council in a leadership role and the Council is extremely grateful. However they do not capture what Alderman Chapman did for the Council and his community and why he felt that he was so worthy of being awarded a top honour
  - Alderman Chapman was born in Kirby-in-Ashfield, he left school at 4 p.m. on a Friday evening and at 6 a.m. the following Monday, like so many of his friends, he was working some 800 feet underground in a coal mine
  - It was not long after that there was a serious accident and his workmate, a couple of feet away, was killed and Colin was injured, which meant that he had to leave the mine. Soon after this he received a brown envelope, 'On Her Majesty's Service', telling him to report to Maryhill Barracks, Glasgow for army training. Six weeks of training and he was posted to the Black Watch and then on to the 51<sup>st</sup> Highland Division where he saw service in Europe. In February 1945 his war finished when he was wounded in action in Western Germany
  - After demob he joined the Leicestershire Constabulary and served for 26 years leaving as he says 'the most experienced sergeant on the force' with five commendations. Of the five it was the last one that he was justifiably most proud – the citation read 'This officer was instrumental in saving the life of a 17 year old girl after she had taken an overdose of drugs'
  - After retirement from the police he became a Councillor and had two periods as President of Melton Bowling Association, 20 years as Chairman of the Melton Bowls League and 18 years as a School Governor. As well as being a great and generous friend to Melton Friends of Rainbows
  - Those who had been on the Council for a time will all have their own fond memories of Alderman Chapman and the battles that they have fought together. He particularly remembered the one over the sports hall at the King Edward School, the closure of Silverdale and many more. Councillors listened when he spoke at meetings because he had that brilliance of being able to mix humour with a serious point. He knew his Newport Ward and all those on it better than anyone and he represented it in a way that few could emulate. He never held with the modern nonsense of holding surgeries, he knew that when he walked down to the town everyday he would get his fill of gossip, praise and problems and he would fight hard to solve those problems. He was an honest and loyal Councillor, as Leader it was so important to know those who you can rely on, will tell the truth but will support you when things get tough, Alderman Chapman was

always there with the advice on who you could you trust and who to be wary of. Those who have served for some time also have such fond memories of Betty Chapman who served this Council selflessly during Alderman Chapman's Mayoral Year and was an asset at any party and to whom Alderman Chapman was devoted and to whom this Council owed a great debt

- Those who have known Alderman Chapman over the years know how deserving he is of this honour and are so thrilled that the Council was able to bestow it upon him

Other Councillors paid tribute to Alderman Chapman's time on the Council including the Mayor and Councillors Botterill, Holmes, O'Callaghan and Posnett.

The Mayor presented a scroll to Honorary Alderman Colin Orson Chapman in recognition of the Council's award for his eminent services to the Borough.

Alderman Chapman thanked the Council for nominating him for this award, he paid tribute to his colleagues and friends over the years and he also thanked all those he had served on his ward, he said they had been happy times and he had enjoyed every minute.

#### CO35. MINUTES

- (a) The minutes of the Special Meeting held on the 20 July 2011 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Mayor.
- (b) The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20 July 2011 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Mayor.

#### CO36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Minute CO42 – Questions from Members

Development Committee : 28 July 2011

Minute D22/11 – Application Reference 11/00055/FUL – Melton Meat Limited

Councillor Gordon declared a personal and prejudicial in this item due a family member being employed by the applicant.

Minute CO42 – Questions from Members

Community and Social Affairs Committee : 21 September 2011

Minute C17/11 – Council House Energy Efficiency Initiative

Councillors Gordon and Slater declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item due to being Council House Tenants and advised that they would leave the meeting if the minute was discussed.

Councillors Orson, Posnett and Rhodes each declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in any items relating to the County Council due to their roles as County Councillors.

#### CO37. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Young Mayor, David Downing, stated that

- (a) this was his last Council Meeting as Young Mayor;
- (b) he had read a bible passage at the Mayor's Civic Service and attended the Battle of Britain Service as well as the Mayor's Civic Dinner;
- (c) he had been honoured to receive the Melton Times Young Champion Award;
- (d) with regard to his manifesto, the free swimming had been a great success and the finances and arrangements for the Music Festival had been transferred to the Youth Council and the event would be held next year. There had been no feedback on the cycle maps but he assumed no news was good news;
- (e) he referred to his time as Young Mayor and paid tribute to the two Mayors he had worked with. He stated that the whole experience of being Young Mayor had been fantastic and had inspired him to follow a politics course at university and to pursue this he had been offered work experience in the local MP's office;
- (f) he was writing a paper on Young Mayors and their effectiveness;
- (g) the year as Young Mayor was one he would never forget and thanked Councillors for the opportunity and their support.

The Mayor and Councillors O'Callaghan, Orson, Posnett and Sheldon paid tribute to David Downing's time in the role of Young Mayor and wished him well for the future.

The Mayor read out her announcements as follows :-

- (a) she had started her school visits and so far these had been very successful;
- (b) she had been involved in several parades and marches at Market Harborough, Oadby and Wigston and for the Battle of Britain Service in Melton;
- (c) she had attended the Melton Community Awards;
- (d) she had been delighted to welcome Civic visitors from our twin town, Sochaczew, for her Civic Dinner and they had had a full itinerary of activities whilst they were here including a visit to the Houses of Parliament;
- (e) she had hosted several events since the last Council including the Civic Service and Civic Dinner as well as a fund-raising Quiz for her charity and a Treasure Hunt organised by Councillor Holmes;
- (f) she had attended the Ram Sale at the Cattle Market and she raised the importance of maintaining a strong relationship between the Council and the Cattle Market.

#### CO38. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader, Councillor Graham, stated that

- (a) this should have been an amazing evening of joy for Melton Borough Council. The first Council meeting in our new home and the acknowledgement, in the best way that we can, of an ex-Councillor who had served this Council with distinction for many years, that joy had though been tempered by the very sad and real loss of a great friend, Councillor Nigel Angrave. Councillors' hearts go out to his wife, Carmel, and family as they remember the enormous debt that the Council would always owe him;
- (b) August and September were traditionally quiet months in Local Government but this was not the case in Melton. He thanked the staff for the incredibly efficient way that the move had been handled. He stated that there were issues and there would continue to be but most were dealt with promptly and efficiently and he would at this time like to say how incredibly grateful he and the Council were to Christine Marshall who had overseen the project from the start. It was an amazing learning curve that she grasped fully in the summer of 2008 following his controversial suggestion that the Council could move to this site and capitalise on a possible capital receipt. It was a project that so many said, was too great a risk, for a small Borough like Melton to undertake and tried hard to undermine, including a gentleman who reported him to the Standards Committee on several charges, all of which he was totally cleared of but his efforts cost the ratepayers of this Borough £9,100 – money the Council could ill afford but was the price of democracy;
- (c) the Council had welcomed County Officers to work alongside Melton staff recently and he was grateful to Keith Aubrey for the work he had done to explain Melton's vision to County Hall. It was a challenge and he recommended to those who had not read it to obtain a copy of the Leicestershire Together report on The Melton Way. It was commissioned by the County Council to try and understand and learn lessons about why Melton was different and so successful at delivering its services. The conclusion was very obvious and simple - it was that this Council cares. It was this caring that drove those at Melton and this caring was also acknowledged at this meeting with Colin Chapman and remembered as an important part of Nigel Angrave's service to our Borough.

#### CO39. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions received.

#### CO40. PETITIONS

There were no petitions received.

#### CO41. RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

(a) Overview, Scrutiny and Audit Committee : 27 September 2011  
Minute OS28/11 : Future Delivery of the Audit Committee Function

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) *the Full Council establish a separate Audit Committee reporting direct to them consisting of five members independent from the Policy Chairs, meeting three times per annum, and this be implemented from the start of the new Council year in May 2012;*
- (2) *the proposed terms of reference for the Audit Committee be as set out below :-*
  - (a) *To adopt the current responsibilities allocated to the OSA Committee in fulfilling its audit committee role; and*
  - (b) *To review the financial statements, external auditor's opinion and reports to members and monitor management action in response to the issues;*
- (3) *appropriate training be arranged for Members before the implementation date.*

The Chairman of the Overview, Scrutiny and Audit Committee proposed the recommendations to the Council. Councillor Rhodes seconded the motion and stated that he considered it was best practice to deal with audit matters separately and this proposal would give assurance to the Council that the audit role was being carried out in an orderly way that met legislative requirements.

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

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the Full Council establish a separate Audit Committee reporting direct to them consisting of five members independent from the Policy Chairs, meeting three times per annum, and this be implemented from the start of the new Council year in May 2012;
- (2) the proposed terms of reference for the Audit Committee be as set out below :-
  - (a) To adopt the current responsibilities allocated to the OSA Committee in fulfilling its audit committee role; and
  - (b) To review the financial statements, external auditor's opinion and reports to members and monitor management action in response to the issues;
- (3) appropriate training be arranged for Members before the implementation date.

(b) Standards Committee : 26 July 2011  
Minute S4/11 : Annual Report of the Standards Committee

The Chairman of the Standards Committee, Mr. M. Mayes, was in attendance and presented the item.

**RESOLVED** *that the Monitoring Officer be delegated authority in consultation with the Chairman to amend the report in line with Members comments for onward reporting to Full Council.*

Further to the decision of the Standards Committee, the report has been amended slightly in line with the Overview, Scrutiny and Audit Committee and Section 151 Officer's recommendations

The Council considered the above and

**RESOLVED** that the Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2010/11 be noted.

#### CO42. 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 :-

Standards Committee	26 July 2011
Development Committee	28 July 2011
Ad hoc Policy, Finance & Administration Committee	3 August 2011
Development Committee	11 August 2011
Rural, Economic & Environmental Affairs Committee	7 September 2011
Development Committee	8 September 2011
Community and Social Affairs Committee	21 September 2011
Overview, Scrutiny and Audit Committee	27 September 2011
Policy, Finance & Administration Committee	28 September 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

#### Development Committee : 28 July 2011

##### Minute D22/11 – Application Reference 11/00055/FUL – Melton Meat Limited

(Councillor Gordon declared a personal and prejudicial in this item due a family member being employed by the applicant and here left the meeting.)

Councillor Holmes advised that the statement at the end of page 10 was not correct as she did not withdraw her request to speak.

Councillor Chandler, Chair of the Development Committee, stated that she would have taken the advice of the Solicitor to the Council on the matter.

Due to the minutes of this Development Committee meeting having already been approved, the Council noted the issue.

(Councillor Gordon re-entered the meeting.)

#### Rural, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee : 7 September 2011

##### Attendance

Councillor Lumley advised that the minutes wrongly stated that he left the meeting at 7.35 p.m., when he actually remained in the meeting until it ended.

##### Minute R16 : Chair's Briefing :Melton Local Area Development Framework : Page 3

It was pointed out that in the first line of the second paragraph on page 3, the minutes refer to Mr. Dalby instead of Mr. Digby.

It was noted that both of the above items would be referred to the Committee.

(c) In accordance with Procedure Rule 10.5(a), the following question was received from Councillor O'Callaghan on 3 October 2011 :-

1. How many outstanding standards cases are there?
2. How long has each been going for?
3. To date what is the cost of each of these both in terms of legal fees and also officers time (estimate)?
4. When are they likely to be concluded?

The Leader responded as follows :-

1. There was currently 1 outstanding Standards case which was number SB014.
2. The complaint was received by the Council on 8 November 2009.
3. The costs to 5 October 2011 were as follows :-

- External Legal Costs £8,310
- Staff Costs £7,707
- Total £16,017

4. The Council was ready to conclude SB014 in October 2010 and had a detailed timeline to substantiate all dates associated with this case and which had already had external scrutiny. Unfortunately for a variety of reasons this case was still outstanding. A new hearing date was currently being set.

Councillor O'Callaghan advised that he did not have a supplemental question.

(Mr. M. Mayes and the Strategic Director (CM) here left the meeting.)

#### CO43.MOTION FROM COUNCILLORS O'CALLAGHAN AND MOULDING

In accordance with Procedure Rule 11.1, the following motion was received on 3 October 2011 from Councillor O'Callaghan as proposer and Councillor Moulding as seconder :-

*'This Council notes the number of reports and issues that have been discussed under reserved matters in the Council including; Waterfield Pool, Sainsbury's development, Council Offices build, Cattle Market, Local Development Framework and Waste Management.*

*Council believes that parts of some of these might have been separated out and discussed in public to ensure complete transparency and public engagement.*

*Council resolves*

- (1) to request officers to take more care in separating out reserved and open business at meetings.*
- (2) to appoint a new monitoring officer at the next meeting a) who will not have responsibility for major projects and b) who will have a legal qualification.'*



Councillor O'Callaghan stated in support of his motion that since he first came on the Council there had been more and more items designated as exempt business such as :-

- Cattle Market
- Melton Local Development Framework
- New Council Offices
- Waste Management
- Waterfield Leisure Pool

He considered that some of these matters could have had reports that separated the public and exempt business. In particular, he mentioned a REEA MLDF report and a Waterfield Leisure Pool report that could have been dealt with in two parts. He referred to public interest and perception and that the Council had gone too far in using the exemption categories to deal with important matters which were of public interest.

With regard to the Monitoring Officer having responsibility for many of the Council's major projects, he considered that the two roles should be separated and the Monitoring Officer should be able to give advice on matters that she was not the Lead Officer on. He explained that he had thought this was a temporary arrangement but it had become permanent. He considered that the Monitoring Officer role required a legal qualification and no part in major projects.

The Leader stated that he did not understand these motions from Councillors O'Callaghan and Moulding. Firstly he considered that the officers advise the Councillors on whether they felt that the public should be excluded for an item of business – it was up to the relevant Committee to decide if they agreed with that recommendation. He stated that it was very easy to try and blur the edges between those matters that should be discussed as a reserved matter and those that were of general interest. Debates at meetings were usually taken as a whole and not piecemeal. Therefore if there was an item that included something that was relevant to that debate and that information included something that was either commercially sensitive or to do with individuals, that regardless of how open Councillors wished to be – these should be discussed in private session.

With regard to the second part of the motion, Councillor Graham stated that he had total confidence in the Monitoring Officer, like every officer on this Council she was under pressure but he could not justify the considerable additional expense of employing another legally qualified Monitoring Officer. He further stated that he would be more than happy to review the situation after the review of standards in public life had gone through the parliamentary system and become law.

The Leader therefore proposed an amendment to the motion as follows :-

- To request officers to continue taking care in separating out reserved and open business at meetings.
- That the issue of our Monitoring Officer be considered when the review of standards in public life has taken place and is passed into law.

Councillor Botterill seconded the amendment.

Councillor Rhodes expressed his support for the amendment and that he had some sympathy with Councillor O'Callaghan and referred to several occasions when he considered parts of a report could have been dealt with in public and yet the whole report was categorised as exempt. He agreed that officers needed to have in mind that reports be split if necessary to enable public involvement in part and reports not be exempt unless there was a pressing reason.

Councillor Holmes stated that she agreed with Councillor Rhodes and that there had been an increase in exempt reports at Committees. She considered that the public expected to be present for important decisions and for decisions to be open and transparent. She further stated that in her view the Monitoring Officer should have a legal knowledge and a lot of it.

Councillor Moncrieff agreed that there were too many exempt reports.

Councillor Chandler referred to the Development Committee meeting on 29 September 2011 and that an item was considered in exempt session for which many concerned residents had to be removed from the meeting. She stated that proper explanation was needed when matters needed to be considered in exempt session so that the public understood why they were excluded.

Councillor Moulding stated that as a new Councillor he was disappointed at the number of exempt papers received. He considered that greater care was needed to divide public and exempt matters.

Councillor Orson supported the Leader's amendment and considered the power of whether a matter was exempt was in the Members' own hands.

Councillor O'Callaghan responded on the amendment and stated that his motion was not that far apart from the amendment and accepted it as the substantive motion.

On the substantive motion being put to the vote, the motion was carried with 1 vote against.

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) officers be requested to continue taking care in separating out reserved and open business at meetings;
- (2) the issue of our Monitoring Officer be considered when the review of standards in public life has taken place and is passed into law.

(Councillor Holmes requested that her vote against the decision of the preceding item be recorded.)

**CO44. LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILS' EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP – SINGLE EQUALITY SCHEME**

The Head of Central Services submitted a report (copies of which had previously

been circulated to Members) which updated the Council and sought approval of the draft Leicestershire District Councils' Equality and Diversity Partnership – Single Equality Scheme 2011–2014. She introduced Chhaya McDonald, Policy & Performance Officer of North West Leicestershire District Council who was involved in the production of the scheme.

With regard to presenting reports, Councillor O'Callaghan considered that the Chair of the relevant Committee should present such reports as this in future but accepted the Head of Central Services to present this and the following report.

Councillor Posnett proposed the report for approval and Councillor Graham seconded the motion.

Councillor O'Callaghan stated that Councillor Horton had wanted to speak on the report but had not been able to attend the meeting. He explained that the Labour Group had concerns on the content of the scheme that it did not have the depth needed and he proposed that further work be done by the Steering Group and approval be deferred to a future Council meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Dungworth.

Councillor Posnett suggested that there be a meeting between the Lead Members for Equalities, Councillor Horton and the Head of Central Services to review the policy. She therefore proposed an amendment that the document be accepted subject to consideration of Councillor O'Callaghan's issues being taken on board. Councillor Graham accepted the amendment. Councillor Graham seconded Councillor Posnett's amendment.

The Chief Executive explained that this would mean that the document could be accepted and changes delegated to the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee to enable the Council to move forward and for Members look at any concerns in more detail.

Councillor Rhodes returned to Councillor O'Callaghan's point and asked for examples of what was wrong with the scheme and stated that in the absence of such detail he would vote for the recommendations.

Councillor O'Callaghan made a personal explanation of some of the concerns on the policy being that it was too simplistic and cut corners on equalities on partnerships, there were not enough statistics and data and it felt like things were being done on the cheap, the objectives were not SMART, there were no measurable outcomes, there were locality issues and how was training to be measured. He reiterated that he would like the policy deferred and referred back to the Steering Group for improvement and this was a procedural motion without notice, 12.1(d).

On Councillor O'Callaghan's procedural motion without notice (12.1(d)) being put to the vote, there were 6 in favour and the majority against, therefore the motion was lost.

On Councillor Posnett's amendment to accept the report and any changes be delegated to the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee, the majority were in favour.

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

**RESOLVED** that the report be accepted and any changes be delegated to the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee.

#### CO45. TREASURY MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Head of Central Services submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which outlined changes required to the 2011/12 Treasury Management Investment Strategy should the Council's balances for investment change significantly following receipt of a large capital sum.

With regard to presenting reports, Councillor O'Callaghan considered that the Chair of the relevant Committee should present such reports as this in future.

Councillor Chandler referred to the debt on the housing stock upgrade and a rumour that the Standards Committee had received funding from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

The Head of Central Services advised that the HRA was ring-fenced but did contain some democracy costs.

Councillor Holmes asked where funding for standards matters came from. She had heard that the HRA had been used for this and considered that Councillors needed to know this.

The Leader stated that he would write to all Councillors on this matter. He referred to the cost of the investigation into a complaint against himself being £9K and how the Standards complaints process could allow one individual to initiate such costs to the Council.

Councillor Holmes made a personal explanation relating to the Standards complaints process that individuals could make a complaint that may be not be true and the complainant would not be under oath when giving evidence.

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the revised Investment Strategy be approved together with the counterparty limits contained therein and the changes to take effect should the Council's balances significantly change at the conclusion of the sale of surplus land on Nottingham Road;
- (2) the Leader write to all Councillors on the rumour concerning the funding of standards matters by the HRA.

#### CO46. RURAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Due to the sudden and recent sad death of Councillor Nigel Angrave on 28 September 2011, (Chair of the Rural, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee), the Leader

- (a) requested the Council's approval to appoint Councillor Orson to the role of Chair of that Committee with immediate effect;
- (b) requested that with regard to the Conservative vacancy on the Committee, Councillor Sheldon be appointed to the Committee and he be appointed to the Vice Chair role;
- (c) advised that Councillor Lumley wished to be removed from the membership of the Committee and requested that Councillor Simpson take his place.

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) Councillor Orson be appointed the Chair of the Rural, Economic and Environmental Affairs to the Annual Meeting in May 2012;
- (2) Councillor Sheldon be appointed to the Conservative vacancy on the Committee and he be appointed to the Vice Chair to the Annual Meeting in May 2012;
- (3) Councillor Lumley be removed from the membership of the Committee and Councillor Simpson take his place.

**CO47. STANDARDS COMMITTEE : MEMBERSHIP**

Due to the sudden and recent sad death of Mr. Richard Putnam on 29 August 2011, (Parish Council Representative on the Standards Committee), the Chief Executive

- (a) requested the Council's approval to confirm Mr. John Machin to the role of Parish Council Representative with effect from 30 August 2011;
- (b) advised that Mr. Machin had already been involved in a selection process for the role with the Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils and had been attending training for this purpose

**RESOLVED** that Mr. John Machin be confirmed as a Parish Council Representative to the Standards Committee with effect from 30 August 2011.

Before closing the meeting, Members considered the sound arrangements for the meeting and commented on the effectiveness of the close-talk system.

Councillor O'Callaghan considered that had been some distortion and Councillor Rhodes stated that he had heard everything despite the slight distortion. Councillor Moncrieff added that he had heard better at the meeting than at any other for a long time and that there was some learning by Members needed on how to use the close-talk equipment. Councillor Bush considered the arrangements to be a vast improvement on previous Council meetings.

The meeting which commenced at 6.30 p.m., closed at 8.02 p.m.

Mayor