



MEETING OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MELTON

PARKSIDE, STATION APPROACH, BURTON STREET, MELTON MOWBRAY

14 DECEMBER 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, L. Horton  
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

Sarah Boyce - Young Mayor

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

The Reverend Kevin Ashby offered prayers

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CO51. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

The Mayor announced that Agenda Item 14 – Motion on Notice – Tourism - had been withdrawn.

CO52. MINUTES

- (a) The minutes of the Meeting held on the 12 October 2011 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Mayor.
- (b) The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 29 November 2011 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Mayor.

CO53. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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.

Minute CO59 – New Leader and Other Vacancies : Seats on Committees and Sub-Committees, Membership of Forums, Partnerships, Working Groups, Appointment to Outside Organisations and Lead Members

Councillor Orson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in matters relating to the Cattle Market Working Group due to his friendship with one of the Cattle Market Partners. He further advised that he could take up the role of Chair of that group in the New Year following the retirement of his friend from that partnership.

Minute CO63(b) – Member Questions  
Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB)

Councillor Manderson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item due to being a former trustee of the CAB.

Minute CO63(c) – Member Questions  
Solar Panels on Council owned properties

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 when the matter was discussed.

**CO54. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor

- (a) expressed her thanks to The Reverend Kevin Ashby for the prayers given for the Day family;
- (b) stated that since becoming Mayor in May she had attended many local appointments and had thoroughly enjoyed school visits and talking to the very young children about being Mayor. On occasions she had been accompanied by the Ward Councillor;
- (c) stated that they had all recently enjoyed a lovely ceremony when Colin Chapman became Honorary Alderman and then sadly just a few weeks later his dear wife Betty passed away which was so sad for Alderman Chapman;
- (d) stated that the HMS Quorn newsletter had been received and would be circulated to Councillors to update them on the ship's latest activities. The ship had continued to play its part in protecting lawful maritime enterprise. The current Commanding Officer was leaving the ship shortly. The Captain and Crew sent their wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year;
- (e) stated that during December, she was to attend many Christmas events and at those that she had already been to she had been received with warmth and enthusiasm and it had been a great pleasure to pass on the Seasons' Greetings to so many people;

- (f) stated her thanks to all who had supported her in her Mayor's Appeal. Although she was supporting a local charity she was not aiming to beat records. Her priority this year was to celebrate and support local communities and achievement;
- (g) stated that she was delighted with the great success of the Carol Concert with over 100 children taking part. As ever, St. Mary's Church portrayed the Christmas scene by candlelight. She was most grateful to The Reverend Kevin Ashby, James Gutteridge and the Mayor's office and all those who had helped with the organisation to make it such a highlight of her year;
- (h) stated that the Melton and Belvoir Christmas Livestock Show and Sale went from strength to strength attracting many entrants and visitors. Her Deputy Mayor had the pleasure of presenting the prizes on show day and attended the Livestock Christmas Dinner with the Mayor the following evening. They had raised over £500 for her charity which she was very grateful for;
- (i) stated that the Victorian Christmas Fayre and Christmas Lights Switch on were enjoyed by tremendous crowds that had a very positive impact on the town's economy. The Victorian Christmas Fayre organised by Ruth Wakeling did a remarkable job. She hoped that it would remain a permanent fixture in the town's calendar of events;
- (j) gave a reminder to Councillors to try and attend the Christmas Drinks for staff on Thursday 22 December at 12 Noon. This event provided a good opportunity to catch up with staff and colleagues;
- (k) stated that all were welcome to join her for drinks and mince pies after the meeting;
- (l) wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The Young Mayor, Sarah Boyce, stated that

- (a) she had been lucky to go to so many Civic events so far including the Armistice Supper, Christmas lights Switch on, the Prince's Trust opening, Mayor's Carol Concert and the Victorian Christmas Fayre;
- (b) she had been working on her manifesto and the Youth Council was helping by working on the youth festival and she had organised a petition which was going around schools to lower bus fares;
- (c) she had completed the Santa Fun Run to raise money for the Youth Council;
- (d) she had been involved in an MV16 School meeting where the following was raised :-
  - The road junction into Station Approach from Burton Street had been discussed. Young people found it difficult to cross the junction in the mornings and would like to see an island in the middle, similar to the one on Ankle Hill

- The pavements on Burton Road leading up to the school needed to be gritted as well as the roads when it was icy in winter
- Due to the distance involved, a bus was needed from the John Ferneley side of town to the Sixth Form Centre

## CO55. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

'Madam Mayor - my last Leader's announcements – a relief to many. Can I start by saying how shocked and devastated we all were with the tragic news of the Day family. Whilst I was the public voice of the Council, the real work was done by officers and Councillors Cumbers and Moulding and I am grateful to both of them for fulfilling with competence and compassion their roles as Ward Councillors. It is always difficult at times like this to know how we should react and on this occasion a clear message was sent, that whilst we did not want to intrude, the Council was here and ready to help in any way that was needed.

Melton Borough Council has reached a turning point. We have a brand new office, hopefully in the New Year we will have a considerable sum of money, that if used wisely will secure the future of our Borough for many years to come. We have a staff structure and a new way of working that makes us fit for the future. We have led the way in getting rid of the silo mentality that affects so many Councils. I really do believe that we have officers that are second to none and a culture that encourages them to take responsibility and use their initiative. We have Councillors ,that as I have shown earlier, represent this Council to the highest standard.

The turning point, I have mentioned, has been reached and these attributes are now a foundation on which to build such an exciting future. It is this future that we now have to plan for. As Delwyn Burbidge, our last Chief Executive used to say to me, there are issues but few problems – we have to deal with the SUE and how we are going to accommodate extra houses and people into our community. There is the supply of sports provision to our community. There is the very real issue of how we can enhance our market town status – retailers have so many issues with decreased spending nationally, on-line shopping to name just two. The Mary Portas report issued yesterday highlights several suggestions, so many of which we already have in place and we await the Government's response to it in the spring. We must though bring forward the plans we have, to attract the many extra people coming to Sainsbury's to come on into our town centre.

Our refuse and recycling system may need revision to make it economically sustainable. We will always have those of our community who are vulnerable for one reason or another and we must continue the work that is already in place and do more to help them stand on their own two feet. I am pleased that national government is coming around to the view that this Council has had for many years, about not just the personal heartache but also the financial cost to our community and other agencies of problem families and let us hope that practical help is given to support, what at the moment looks just like rhetoric. I cannot speak too highly of Keith Aubrey, who along with his team, has guided our agenda on this and who is respected everywhere for his knowledge and practical approach, the benefit of which I have been very grateful for.

These are just a few of the many issues that will be faced by the new Leadership, I wish Councillor Byron Rhodes well as Leader of our Council, it is a role that he will bring his immense knowledge of local government to. The economic future of this country will be uncertain for several years to come but I am certain that although we may be one of the smallest District Councils in terms of population, he will ensure that Melton continues to be the one that many others aspire to match in terms of aspirations and accomplishments. The future of our Borough is exciting and it is up to us all to set the agenda and then help the new Leader take our aspirations forward.

I have enjoyed enormously my stints as Leader of this Council. Of course there have been frustrations and low points but the vast majority of the time have been high points. I would like to thank the Chief Executives that I have served with as Leader, Peter Herrick, Peter Murphy, Delwyn Burbidge and especially Lynn Aisbett, without whose calmness, expertise, confidence, humour and friendship this Council would not be held in the respect that it is.

I would like to mention all officers that I have served with past and present but that would take too long, so hopefully they all know how incredibly grateful I am to all of them for whatever role they have played. To Councillors past and present thank you, democracy is a wonderful system, because much as a Leader would prefer a dictatorship, help, advice, knowledge and differing views are always important to find the correct way forward.

To finish in an act of total self indulgence at this time of year when I wish you all and your families a very happy Christmas and New Year I would like to present to the Council a small gift that hopefully may find a useful place in this new building.'

The Leader presented the gift to the Mayor. The Mayor thanked the Leader on behalf of the Council.

## CO56. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

(a) The Chairmen of Committees were 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 :-

Development Committee	29 September 2011
Licensing & Regulatory Committee	4 October 2011
Development Committee	20 October 2011
Development Committee	10 November 2011
Rural, Economic & Environmental Affairs Committee	16 November 2011
Policy, Finance & Administration Committee	7 December 2011

Rural, Economic & Environmental Affairs Committee : 16 November 2011

Minute R42 : Melton Green Infrastructure Strategy : Revised Melton Borough Biodiversity and Geodiversity Study; and Melton Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study

Councillor Gordon stated that she had expected to see reference to the following in the minutes and would like it added as an amendment :-

'Councillor Gordon, after listening to young people at McDonalds that there was nothing to do in Melton, recommended that McDonalds was approached with a request to ascertain if they would distribute information on activities to their young customers.

It was agreed that the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods would pass this on to the Community and Social Affairs Committee.'

As Chair of the Committee, Councillor Orson stated that he would ensure this matter was followed up with the Community and Social Affairs Committee.

Policy, Finance and Administration Committee : 7 December 2011  
Minute P63 : Fees and Charges – Civic Suite, Parkside

Councillor Holmes stated her concern at the charges for Parkside and that people were not using the building. She felt that there were issues with the heating system and this could be a reason for the lack of external bookings.

The Mayor advised that these matters were already in hand and being looked into.

#### CO57. ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Graham proposed that Councillor Rhodes be appointed Leader of the Council for the period until the Annual Meeting in 2012 and stated :-

'Madam Mayor, many of us will have been part of a committee or an organisation which has an annual general meeting. When it comes to election of officers, people look at their feet and the ceiling and are careful not to catch anyone's eye. By and large we avoid responsibility if possible.

So it came as a slight surprise to me twelve hours after the Conservative election victory to be approached by Councillor Rhodes and be told that he wished to be Leader of this Council. I had two immediate thoughts; I am ashamed to say both negative. The first was, even more shaming because it was personal. There are few times in Local Government that you could see a scheme through from conception to birth and I really wanted to oversee the move into these offices and witness the arrival of a large capital receipt. I am grateful to my group, as I realise that the responsibility of Leadership of our Council, is a gift that only they can bestow, for allowing me to remain as Leader until now, when the move is complete and the sale of Nottingham Road all but finalised.

The advantage of electing a new Leader at this time, is that the budget for 2012/13 is in the early stages of preparation and therefore the direction that the new Leader wishes to set can be reflected in those spending plans.

My second immediate reaction was, that this was yet another takeover attempt from County Hall. A lot of my time as Leader was spent securing our independence and not being afraid to say no when necessary as I had nothing to lose. To paraphrase the Conservative view on Europe – Melton is in Leicestershire but not ruled by Leicestershire. The County, for a number of reasons are experiencing financial

difficulties and we have to consider very carefully where we pool budgets and where we align them and that decision is this Council's and ours alone. Once that is established – we are, like Europe – stronger working together than apart.

I genuinely believe that Councillor Rhodes sees this point and I am sure that on all occasions his responsibilities to Melton Borough Council will be paramount. I also know that he will be continually reminded of it by all sides of this Council. He will of course have the advantage of being able to put our case to the top decision makers at County Hall, a privilege recently denied to myself.

Melton Borough Council has many issues to face, it is no longer a Council that needs to work out, what it can do to maximise a return from a meagre balanced budget. It has all the issues that I mentioned in my Leader's Announcements and many more. Its Leader needs time, drive, enthusiasm and commitment to succeed and build on this Council's foundations and I believe that Councillor Rhodes has these qualities to take us forward and I therefore have great pleasure in proposing that he be Leader of this Council until our Annual Meeting in May.'

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Lumley.

Councillor Wright stated that he wished to take the opportunity to thank and congratulate Councillor Graham for his many years service as Leader of the Council. He added that it had been both a pleasure and a privilege to serve under his leadership. During his time as Chair of the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee, he had shown enthusiasm and passion for the committee work as well as for the planning and construction of the new Council offices. He stated that he was a true gentleman and you could not find a tougher act to follow. He wished him well for the future.

Councillor O'Callaghan stated that he and his group would not be voting for the new Leader and wished him well. He stated that he wished the outgoing Leader a long and happy retirement. He added that Councillor Graham had always acted in the best interests of the Borough and had done a sterling job. He would watch with interest and delight on how the new Leader would manage his County commitments with his new role. Again he congratulated Councillor Graham for all his work for Melton Borough Council.

Following a vote, the motion was carried with none against and 7 abstentions.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Rhodes be appointed Leader of the Council for the period until the Annual Meeting in 2012.

#### CO58. NEW LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader, Councillor Rhodes,

- (a) stated that it was a great honour to be elected Leader of Melton Borough Council;
- (b) referred to how his interest in politics began when he was very young and that it was his great aunt, who was born in Harby in 1878, who had started him on his political journey;

- (c) advised that he would outline his vision of how the Borough Council would develop over the coming years;
- (d) thanked Councillor Graham for his leadership over the years and referred to the changes that had occurred during his leadership including the development of ICT and that it had revolutionised how information was now handled. He stated that Councillor Graham's greatest moment was after the fire in 2008 - this being that the fire was on the Friday and the Council was open for business on the Monday morning – this was a great tribute to all involved at that time. He referred to Councillor Graham's resolve on building the new offices on the derelict site at the Town Station and that he had stood resolute against public campaigns and petitions to change this decision. This was a great tribute to his qualities as a Leader and the final part of that decision would soon come to fruition and bring a large capital receipt to the Council with the sale of the Nottingham Road site;
- (e) referred to the challenge to maintain services and balance the books and how the Council needed to be even more careful as they could not depend on grant funding in the future;
- (f) stated that working closely with partners would be essential and he did not consider there would be a conflict of interest between the County Council and the Borough Council as they all served the public interest – each provided different services but there was often the opportunity to interlink;
- (g) stated that communications was going to be even more important to the Council and a priority was to update the website and make it easier for people to access services, pay online and respond to consultations. He referred to the importance of asking for public opinion before taking major decisions;
- (h) stated that completing the local planning framework would be the Council's priority in early 2012 and although the preparations had taken several years it was almost complete;
- (i) advised that there were 700 people on the waiting list for Council housing and the Borough did not have sufficient social housing to meet this need;
- (j) stated that Labour policies had taken £14M from the Borough and now that housing was a national priority, the Council must seize the opportunity to provide affordable homes to help meet the needs of the projected increase in population;
- (k) referred to the new Localism Act which would reverse 15 years of centralisation of power by the government. He explained that more would be known in the coming months as to what it meant for Melton;
- (l) stated that ideas as to how to spend the capital windfall from the sale of the Nottingham Road site were coming in. He advised that the Council needed to stand firm and be responsible with how this money was used. He explained that the economic conditions were the worst in a lifetime and the Council's grant was £400,000 less this year than last year and may well be less in the following year. He added that it was his priority to maintain the Council's financial health and protect its revenue;



(m)stated that he was looking forward to the challenge in leading the Council. He referred to the team of outstanding and talented Councillors and with the officers' support the goal should be to make this the best Council in the country from now to 2015.

(Councillor Orson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item with regard to matters relating to the Cattle Market Working Group due to his friendship with one of the Cattle Market Partners. He further advised that he could take up the role of Chair of that group in the New Year following the retirement of his friend from that partnership. He remained in the meeting.)

**CO59. NEW LEADER AND OTHER VACANCIES : SEATS ON COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES, MEMBERSHIP OF FORUMS, PARTNERSHIPS, WORKING GROUPS, APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS AND LEAD MEMBERS**

Following the election of a new Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which requested the Council to review the membership of Committees, Sub Committees, forums, partnerships, working groups and appointments to Outside Organisations and Lead Members where required. The report also requested the Council to consider other vacancies also listed in the amended Appendix A, which was circulated to Members at the meeting.

On the changes listed in the amended Appendix A being put to the vote with Councillor Orson taking up the Chair of the Cattle Market Working Group position from 1 January 2012, the majority were in favour with 7 abstentions.

**RESOLVED** that the changes listed in the amended Appendix A with Councillor Orson taking up the Chair of the Cattle Market Working Group from 1 January 2012 be approved as follows and any other vacancies be considered following the By Election for the Frisby on the Wreake Ward on the 15 December 2011 :-

<b>Committee &amp; Sub Committee</b>	<b>Current Position</b>	<b>Current Chair</b>	<b>New arrangements</b>
<u>Community &amp; Social Affairs</u>  <b>10 Members inc. Leader</b>  <b>Political Balance : Required</b>  7 Conservative 2 Labour 1 Single Councillor	<u>Conservative</u> P.M. Chandler J.B. Rhodes M.C.R. Graham MBE V.J. Manderson (VC) P.M. Posnett D.R. Wright (C) J. Wyatt  <u>Labour</u> T. Moncrieff J. Moulding  E. Holmes		No change

<b>Committee &amp; Sub Committee</b>	<b>Current Position</b>	<b>Current Chair</b>	<b>New arrangements</b>
<b>Policy, Finance &amp; Administration</b>  <b>10 Members inc. Leader</b>  <b>Political Balance :</b> Required  7 Conservative 2 Labour 1 Single Councillor	<u>Conservative</u> M.W. Barnes M.C.R. Graham MBE (C) J.T. Orson P.M. Posnett (VC) J.B. Rhodes D.R. Wright *Conservative Vacancy  <b>Labour</b> G. Bush S. Dungworth  E. Holmes	Leader	Chair : J.B. Rhodes   To be reviewed after By Election under delegated powers
Rural, Economic and Environmental Affairs  <b>11 Members inc. Leader</b>  <b>Political Balance :</b> Required  8 Conservative 3 Labour	<u>Conservative</u> P. Baguley M.W. Barnes G.E. Botterill M.C.R. Graham MBE J.T. Orson (C) J.B. Rhodes M.R. Sheldon (VC) J. Simpson  <b>Labour</b> M. Gordon L. Horton M. O'Callaghan		M.C.R. Graham resignation  To be reviewed after By Election under delegated powers
Council Business Development Sub-Committee  6 Members <b>Political Balance :</b> Required 4 Conservative <b>2 Labour</b>	<u>Conservative</u> M.C.R. Graham MBE (C) P.M. Posnett J.B. Rhodes D.R. Wright (VC)  <b>Labour</b> G. Bush S. Dungworth	Leader	Chair : J.B. Rhodes

<b>Partnership</b>	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Current Position</b>	<b>New Arrangements</b>
Leicestershire Household Waste Management Steering Group	1	Vacancy J.T. Orson	M.R. Sheldon
Melton Community Partnership	1	M.C.R. Graham MBE	J.B. Rhodes

Welland Partnership Board	2 + 1 sub	M.C.R. Graham MBE P.M. Posnett J. Wyatt	J.B. Rhodes
Welland Joint Committee	2 + 2 subs	M.C.R. Graham MBE P.M. Posnett **Vacancy **Vacancy **Vacancies not filled at Annual Meeting – next item refers	J.B. Rhodes J. Wyatt

Working Group	Current Position	Current Chair	New Arrangements
Budget & Strategic Planning Working Group <i>Political Balance required: = 6 4 Conservative 2 Labour</i>	G. Bush S. Dungworth M.C.R. Graham MBE J.B. Rhodes D.R. Wright *Conservative Vacancy	Leader	Chair : J.B. Rhodes  J.T. Orson to fill Conservative vacancy
Cattle Market Working Group  Political Balance required: = 8 6 Conservative 2 Labour	P.M. Chandler M. Gordon M.C.R. Graham MBE M. O'Callaghan J.T. Orson J.B. Rhodes D.R. Wright J. Wyatt		Chair : J.T. Orson (with effect from 1 January 2012)
Joint Staff Working Group  Political Balance required: = 8 5 Conservative 2 Labour	P. Cumbers J. Douglas S. Dungworth M.C.R. Graham MBE T. Moncrieff J.T. Orson J. Simpson	TU Chair	M.C.R. Graham resignation  P.M. Posnett to fill vacancy
Waterfield Leisure Pools Working Group	M.W. Barnes M.C.R. Graham MBE P.M. Posnett N. Slater D.R. Wright		No change

\*Vacancy from Cllr Angrave

Outside Organisation	No. Cllrs	Current Position	New Arrangements
East Midlands Leaders' Board	1	M.C.R. Graham MBE P.M. Posnett (Sub)	J.B. Rhodes

LGA –General Assembly	1	M.C.R. Graham MBE	J.B. Rhodes
LGA – Performance Management	1	M.C.R. Graham MBE	To be considered at Annual Meeting
LGA – Rural Commission	1	M.C.R. Graham MBE	To be considered at Annual Meeting
Sir John Sedley Educational Foundation	1	M.C.R. Graham MBE	No change

Lead Members	No.	Current Position	New Arrangements
Resources :- Assets Efficiencies Procurement Training/Culture/ Workforce Strategic Finance	1	M.C.R. Graham MBE	J.B. Rhodes
Performance Management	1	M.C.R. Graham MBE	No change

#### CO60. QUESTION BY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

In accordance with Procedure Rule 9 and 9.3, the following question was received from Mr. John Beech on behalf the Melton North Action Group on 5 December 2011 :-

*‘Question to the leader / chairperson*

*Bearing in mind the unfortunate lack of communication in the local press and to the public, in particular to residents in the North of Melton, regarding the open night held on the 9<sup>th</sup> November for the proposed S.U.E. development. Does the council intend to hold a second exhibition night at the Council Office as we have heard proposed and as a consequence of this does the Council intend to extend the period of consultation appropriately?’*

The Leader thanked the questioner for putting the question and welcomed the members of the Action Group to the meeting and responded as follows :-

Whilst we did not formally advertise the public exhibition held on 9 November 2011 we did send out over 1,000 invitations to members of the public and other interested parties who had previously been in touch with us and had expressed an interest in the Core Strategy, and this resulted in around 300 people attending. Nevertheless, we want to make sure that the community have the maximum opportunity to engage in the process and for that reason we will commit to a second exhibition.

As the Christmas period is upon us we will hold the second event in the New Year on the 12 January 2012 at Parkside – from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and will extend the consultation period to 31 January 2012 to allow time for interested parties to

consider their view and send that in to us.

#### CO61. PETITIONS

There were no petitions received.

#### CO62. RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations and reports from Committees.

#### CO63. MEMBER QUESTIONS

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 has been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.5

(a) In accordance with Procedure Rule 10.5(a), the following question was received from Councillor Bush on 5 December 2011 :-

Would the Leader assist in extending the Alcohol Control Zone Order to the area around St John's Court & St Mary's Park in the Town Centre?

The Leader responded as follows :-

I have asked officers to discuss this item at the next appropriate Safer Melton Partnership, extending the area will require support from partners, who may be asked to enforce it, but also needs to be justified through suitable evidence. And there will be an adequate hearing at the partnership meeting.

Councillor Bush stated that residents had raised the matter and he appreciated the response.

The Leader further stated that he was sure that the Safer Melton Partnership would make a considered and appropriate decision.

(Councillor Manderson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item due to being a former trustee of the Citizens' Advice Bureau and remained in the meeting.)

(b) In accordance with Procedure Rule 10.5(a), the following questions were received from Councillor Dungworth on 5 December 2011 :-

1. What was the date when MBC first became aware of the financial difficulties of the Melton CAB and how was this news communicated to the Council?
2. What was the date when MBC became aware of the CAB's Trustees' decision to close their operations in Melton and how was this news communicated to the

Council?

3. Does MBC have any outstanding financial obligations with the CAB - in other words is the MBC a creditor or debtor of the CAB?
4. How much of MBC's "donation" or "grant" to the CAB is left for the financial year ending March 2012 and if any will this residue be used to ensure some replacement advice service for the remainder of the financial year?
5. Is the Council considering offering a more comprehensive advice service in collaboration with other organisations for the year 2012/13 and will the financial contribution to this service be at least at the same level as provided in the Budget during 2011/12?

The Leader responded as follows :-

I would draw Councillor Dungworth's attention to the urgent item concerning the CAB presented to the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee on 7 December 2011. This report covered all of the questions asked.

Councillor Dungworth stated that he had asked the questions before the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee's report was in the public domain. He congratulated Keith Aubrey and his team on the speed of their proposals to help deal with the demise of the CAB post January and possibly in the longer term. He further stated that at the December meeting of the Overview, Scrutiny and Audit Committee, an enquiry on the closure was requested, primarily to learn lessons on how the Council can safeguard services when working with partners in the future.

The Leader confirmed his agreement with the arrangements that had been put in place and advised that the Council would do all it could to help the successor to the CAB including helping with accommodation at Parkside.

(Councillors Gordon and Slater declared an interest in the following item due to being Council Tenants and here left the meeting.)

(c) In accordance with Procedure Rule 10.5(a), the following question was received from Councillor Moncrieff on 5 December 2011 :-

In the light of recent Government changes to the FIT subsidies. Can the Leader please explain the authorities current stance and immediate strategy around putting Solar Panels on Council owned properties?

The Leader responded as follows :-

Whilst the FIT subsidy changes were disappointing, the Council in recognition of the escalating fuels costs for some of our most vulnerable residents, is still committed to the 'Solar Panels' project. Officers are currently analysing the implications of the FIT changes both financially but also at a practical level, to understand how the industry (both the manufactures and installers) have reacted to the changes, so that a clear project can be developed. This information will be presented to the relevant Task

Group on 22 December 2011. The task group would then be able to recommend to the Community & Social Affairs Committee the way forward. He further stated that he had been contacted about this matter at his local Parish Council meetings and by others. He looked forward to seeing the Task Group's recommendations at a future meeting of the Community and Social Affairs Committee.

Councillor Moncrieff asked a supplementary question that the Leader commit to doing all in his power to create a sense of urgency to the matter as he understood there was a requirement to meet a 31 March 2012 deadline.

The Leader responded that he would take an objective view when the matter came before him at the Community and Social Affairs Committee.

(Councillors Gordon and Slater here re-entered the meeting.)

The following item was withdrawn.

#### CO64. MOTION ON NOTICE : TOURISM

This item was withdrawn.

#### CO65. MOTION ON NOTICE : LEISURE FACILITIES

In accordance with Procedure Rule 11.1, the following motion was received on 5 December 2011 from Councillor Moncrieff as proposer and Councillor Bush as seconder :-

##### ***Leisure Facilities***

*'Council notes the current work on the provision of new leisure facilities in the Borough.*

*Council resolves*

- 1. To build new leisure facilities, including a new swimming pool, with a view to their being open prior to the expiry of this current Council in May 2015.*
- 2. That the Council itself will lead this work in consultation and engagement with partners and the community.*
- 3. That an ideal site for the new facilities would be the sports complex off Burton Road but that this should not exclude investigating other sites.*
- 4. That all avenues of funding for these facilities be explored including a significant level of funding from capital receipts from the sale of Council land to Sainsbury's or whoever.*
- 5. To refer this issue to the Community and Social Affairs Committee to establish the mechanisms to achieve the aims of this resolution.'*

Councillor Moncrieff proposed his motion and stated that he had never been a fan of the Waterfield Leisure Pool scheme. He explained that this was the last opportunity to look at a new leisure scheme and not waste the money on the Waterfield Leisure Pool scheme. He referred to an article in the Melton Times that suggested a new sports centre should be built including a pool. He considered that a new facility and pool could be built for not much more than twice the cost of the current scheme. He requested support for his motion.

Councillor Bush seconded the motion and reserved his right to speak last.

Councillor Sheldon stated that it was too early to look for a new site for a leisure facility and proposed an amendment to the motion as follows :-

Delete items 1-5 and replace with the following :-

1. The Council work with partners to build new leisure facilities including a new swimming pool;
2. All avenues of funding for these facilities be explored;
- 3 Regular reports on progress go to the Community and Social Affairs Committee.

Councillor Posnett seconded the amendment and reserved her right to speak later.

Councillor O'Callaghan stated that there was very little in the amendment that was new or different from points 1, 2 and 4 of the motion however he considered it was a 'do nothing' motion and continued to waste money on the Waterfield Leisure Pool scheme. He considered that the impending windfall provided a once in a lifetime opportunity that should be seized to engage people in a new leisure facility especially with the Olympics coming to the UK.

Councillor Posnett responded to the motion that this was a typical Labour motion to spend the Sainsbury's windfall immediately on a new leisure facility. She explained that the Council would work towards a new facility that would involve proper consultation with the people of Melton. She stated that any new leisure centre needed to involve partners and be costed out and planned so as not to put the Council in debt.

Councillors Chandler and Holmes supported the current Waterfield Leisure Pool scheme and considered that these improved facilities were needed now.

Councillor Moncrieff commented that he was concerned about the amendment and the delay involved in planning and consulting. He felt that a new facility could be built within the life of this Council and much less could be spent to keep the current facilities going during that period.

On the amendment being put to the vote, there were 18 in favour and 7 against. Therefore the amendment was carried.

The Mayor permitted the following comments.

Councillor O'Callaghan spoke of the Sainsbury's money and stated that the Council



must not fund revenue from a capital receipt on a long term basis. He further explained that there was no mention of debt in the motion. He considered that the Sainsbury's money could be used as leverage to get funding from other sources and the money provided a unique opportunity to do this. He stated that there was still risk involved at the Waterfield Leisure Pool despite the refurbishment due to severe maintenance problems. When asking people what they wanted in the town, a leisure facility was a priority.

Councillor Moncrieff asked the Council not to forget the 3,000 people that had signed a petition to keep the Leisure Pool and that the Sainbury's capital receipt was taxpayers' money.

On the substantive motion being put to the vote, there were 18 in favour and 7 against. Therefore the substantive motion was carried.

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the Council work with partners to build new leisure facilities including a new swimming pool;
- (2) all avenues of funding for these facilities be explored;
- (3) regular reports on progress go to the Community and Social Affairs Committee.

#### **CO66. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES**

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the Review of Polling Districts and Places on behalf of the Electoral Registration Officer (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members), the purpose of which was to

- (a) implement the Review of Polling District and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006 in carrying out a review every four years;
- (b) implement the recommendations of the Review which commenced on 8 August 2011.

A revised appendix for the Wymondham Ward was circulated to Members at the meeting.

Councillor O'Callaghan stated his concern at the use of the Springfield Street Polling Station for such a large electorate and agreed with the proposal to find another polling station for the ward between Nottingham and Scalford Road. He suggested other venues with disabled access such as the John Ferneley High School or the Fairmead Community Centre.

Councillor Posnett stated her concern at the use of the Pavilion at Willow Drive for the Newport Ward due to its dreadful state of repair. She suggested the Pavilion be replaced with a new facility which would encourage sport at the Country Park as well as provide a better venue for elections.

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the Polling Districts and Polling Places be designated as per the schedule within the report;
- (2) there be continued monitoring of all Polling Districts and Polling Places on an on going basis.

**CO67. MID YEAR REPORT ON THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2011-12**

The Head of Central Services submitted a report which

- (a) stated that revisions to the regulatory framework of Treasury Management during 2009 introduced a requirement that the Council receive a mid year treasury review in addition to the annual report and strategy on treasury management;
- (b) met the requirement and incorporated the needs of the Prudential Code to ensure adequate monitoring of capital expenditure and the Council's prudential indicators (PI's). The treasury strategy and PI's were previously reported to Council on 2 February 2011. Revisions to future years were provided where required.

Councillor Graham thanked the Financial Team for the report and their professional approach in dealing with financial matters during his time as Leader.

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the mid year position on treasury activity for 2011-12 be noted;
- (2) the mid year position on prudential indicators be noted.

**CO68. CONSIDERATION OF THE INTRODUCTION INTO THE COUNCIL'S ARRANGEMENTS OF A GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which requested the Council to consider whether Members wished to introduce a Governance Committee and to settle how it functioned and Terms of Reference would be determined.

Councillor O'Callaghan supported the introduction of a new Governance Committee and proposed that the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee consider the detail of its functions and terms of reference and report back to the Council.

The Leader seconded the proposal.

**RESOLVED** that the Council supported the introduction of a new Governance Committee and the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee consider the detail of its functions and terms of reference and report back to the Council with its proposals.

Before the meeting closed, the Leader presented a wedding gift to the Mayor on behalf of Councillors.

Councillors Botterill, Holmes, Moncrieff and Wright stated that they would give a donation to the Mayor's Appeal in lieu of sending Christmas Cards.

The meeting which commenced at 6.30 p.m., closed at 8 p.m.

Mayor