



MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MELTON

PARKSIDE, STATION APPROACH, BURTON STREET, MELTON MOWBRAY

23 FEBRUARY 2012

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.C.R. Graham MBE, M. Gordon, L. Horton, E. Hutchison
J. Illingworth, V. Manderson, J. Moulding,
M. O'Callaghan, P.M. Posnett, J.B. Rhodes
M.R. Sheldon, J. Simpson, N. Slater, D.R. Wright, J. Wyatt

Chief Executive
Strategic Director (CM), Head of Central Services
Administrative Assistant Central Services

The Reverend Kevin Ashby offered prayers

CO84. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Holmes, Lumley, Moncrieff, and Orson.

CO85. MINUTES

The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 1 February 2012 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Mayor.

The Chief Executive advised that due to the tight timescale, the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 15 February 2012 had not been finalised ready for confirmation at this meeting. The minutes would be circulated to members and placed on the Council's website by the end of the following week and would stand referred to the next Full Council meeting on 18 April 2012. Members acquiesced to this course of action.

CO86. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors 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.

Minutes C15. : Garage Sites Review
Community and Social Affairs Committee : 24 January 2012

Councillors Chandler, Gordon, Moulding, and Wyatt declared a conflict of interest by virtue of them being members of the Development Committee and indicated they would withdraw from the meeting if there was any debate on this item.

CO87. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor

- (a) stated that she had attended the Warning Zone, a facility for school children which took a practical approach to making children aware of the potential dangers in the urban environment and rural areas;
- (b) advised she had recently attended the University of Leicester Space Research Centre and had viewed the new telescope lens developed to replace the Hubble telescope;
- (c) mentioned her visit to Holwell Works Foundry and expressed her appreciation of talent on display at the Melton Lions Concert which she attended on 18 February 2012;
- (d) reminded Members that the next Mayor's Quiz would take place on 23 March 2012.

The Deputy Young Mayor, Katie-Louise Hazard, advised that an area of concern for young people was the emotional health of those young people living in Melton. She explained that a group of people throughout the county were gathering ideas on ways in which support could be given and a questionnaire would soon be distributed in order to find out ways to offer help and assistance.

CO88. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- (a) a bid to DEFRA for a Rural Growth Bid has been submitted. A group which included a senior officer of this Council, had presented the bid to DEFRA in London. If successful, this would put the Borough well on the path to achieving its vision of becoming the food capital of the UK;
- (b) the Melton Local Development Framework had been approved last week for consultation beginning on 29 February for 6 weeks. This would also be covered in the next issue of the Melton Mail. The associated papers were being prepared and an Infrastructure Delivery Group would be set up;

- (c) the Council was working closely with the Leicestershire County Council who have prepared a Broadband Plan for Leicestershire. It was hoped this Plan would be approved in April and, if successful, would be awarded a slot in the Government's procurement framework. He expressed the hope that broadband connectivity could be brought to the Borough and the aim was to achieve as near as 100% connectivity as possible;
- (d) following the Mary Portas Independent Review of the High Street out of which 28 recommendations had been put forward to achieve the aim of multi functional High Streets, a competition had been launched for 12 towns to become 'Portas Pilots'. An application was being made by this Council. The closing date for applications was 30 March 2012 and successful bids would be announced in May 2012;
- (e) the Council had been successful in gaining £50K in Job Centre Plus flexible support grant which would be used to help support the vulnerable families in the Borough.

A point of clarification was sought on whether the next issue of the Melton Mail would be devoted to the Core Strategy. The Leader explained that although a substantial part of the issue would be about the Core Strategy, it would also cover the Queen's Jubilee and the Olympics. The Chief Executive advised that it was expected that the Melton Mail would be delivered by 19 March. A further comment was made in relation to the reference to the 'night time economy' in the Portas Review as this was a phrase with mixed connotations. The wish was expressed that the bid for Melton would include some evening events that would attract people to come into the town. The Leader confirmed that he would pass on this point to those preparing the bid.

CO89. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions received.

CO90. PETITIONS

There were no petitions received.

CO91. RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Overview, Scrutiny and Audit Committee: 7 February 2012
Minute OS41/11: Revised Counter Fraud Strategy

The following recommendation was approved by the OSA Committee at its meeting on 7 February 2012 and referred to the Council for approval :-

RECOMMENDED that the revised Counter Fraud Strategy and associated documents be endorsed for Council approval.

The Chairman, Councillor O'Callaghan, presented the recommendation from the OSA Committee. The Leader commended the Committee for overseeing this policy.

RESOLVED that the revised Counter Fraud Strategy and associated documents be approved.

CO92. 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 :-

Development Committee	1 December 2011
Overview, Scrutiny and Audit Committee	13 December 2011
Ad Hoc Development Committee	20 December 2011
Development Committee	22 December 2011
Ad Hoc Rural, Economic & Environmental Affairs Committee	11 January 2012
Community & Social Affairs Committee	24 January 2012
Policy, Finance & Administration Committee	25 January 2012
Development Committee	2 February 2012

OSA Committee 13 December 2011

Councillor Manderson had been listed as present but had given her apologies.

Ad Hoc REEA Committee 11 January 2012

Councillor Horton's apology for absence had not been recorded.

Community and Social Affairs Committee 24 January 2012

Councillor Gordon had left the meeting when minute C15. Garage Sites Review had been considered but this had not been recorded in the minutes.

These comments would be passed to the Committees concerned.

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

(c) In accordance with Procedure Rule 10.5(a), Councillor O'Callaghan submitted the following questions on 6 February 2012 :-

The papers for the Town Area Working Group gave a cost from General Expenses of running the Town Cemetery.

Can the Leader give a breakdown of the cost running each of the various services connected with the town including the direct elements e.g. grass cutting etc. and also the indirect elements (administration, finance etc.) e.g.

War Memorial

*Country Park
Cemetery etc.*

The Leader replied that Melton Borough Council had responsibility for the running of a number of services which were primarily for the benefit of the residents within the town of Melton Mowbray.

These were defined by the Council as those functions provided by the Council in part of the area, which were performed elsewhere in the area by a parish council and for which a separate Council Tax levy is raised. The Local Government Act 1992 had determined the following as special expenses for the Area of Former Urban District of Melton Mowbray:

Cemeteries	with	direct costs of £75,010 support costs of £90,660 capital charges of £5,040 income of £55,640 (Total cost £115,070)
Open Spaces (including War Memorial)	with	direct costs of £61,200 support costs of £232,250 Capital charges of £99,150 income of £3,550 (Total cost £389,050)
Town Area Community Centres	with	direct costs of £60,440 support costs of £50,090 Capital charges of £11,950 income of £30,220 (Total cost £92,260)
Corporate repairs And maintenance	with	direct costs of £14,500

Support costs for the town's special expenses were relatively high as the only directly charged employees in 2011/12 were at the cemetery.

CO93. SETTING OF COUNCIL TAXES

The Head of Central Services

- (a) submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which submitted the council tax calculations required under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for 2012/13;
- (b) reported that the Leicestershire County Council figures had been approved at their meeting held on 22 February 2012;
- (c) drew Members' attention to the revised version of the report circulated at the meeting;
- (d) advised that Budget Books were available to Members upon request and would also be available electronically on the Council's website.

Confirmation was sought that the figures for a Band D property represented an overall average increase of 0.1%. The Leader replied that the average change for the Melton Borough was actually a reduction of 0.13%. However, whilst the elected bodies of the Borough Council, the County Council, and the Combined Fire Authority had not increased their council tax levy; the Leicestershire Police Authority had increased its precept by 2.5% and the parish precepts had increased by 4.7%. The Leader so moved the recommendations contained in the report (as revised) and this was seconded by the Deputy Leader.

A Member queried the council tax figures across the bands for the parishes of Sproxtun (Sproxtun and Saltby) and Sproxtun (Stonesby & Bescaby) given that the latter should be the higher of the two as it had a closed churchyard. In order to permit the Head of Central Services time to confirm the figures, the Mayor proposed that the meeting stand adjourned for a short period. Members agreed to the adjournment.

The meeting stood adjourned from 7.07pm to 7.22pm

The Head of Central Services advised that the table of figures, although correct, had been misaligned within the report by one line. She apologised for this error and stated that if Members were happy to accept her assurance that the figures had been checked and verified, the correct table would be appended to the minutes of this meeting. She confirmed that this printing error did not affect the recommendation before Members. This explanation was accepted.

Following a statement by a Member on the Government's grant to peg council tax during which he expressed a view on the future impact of not raising the council tax, the motion was put to the vote, the majority were in favour and the motion was carried.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the Council note the calculations for the year 2012/13 made in accordance with regulations set out in the Local Government Finance Act 1992;
- (2) a correct table of council tax across all bands to replace that set out in paragraph 3.7 of the Head of Central Services' report is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

CO94. LOCALISM ACT STANDARDS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which informed Members of a specific change to the Standards arrangements as part of the Localism Act, in relation to the need to appoint an 'Independent Person' from 1 July 2012 and two potential options for doing so.

In moving the recommendations contained within the report, the Leader stated that there would still be a need to maintain and have a code of conduct. Accordingly arrangements would be required in order to deal with complaints and comply with the legislation. In seconding the motion, the Deputy Leader expressed the view that

there was potential merit in having a shared Member selection panel amongst participating authorities. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED

- (1) That delegated authority be given to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chairman of Policy, Finance and Administration Committee and the Chairman of Standards Committee to determine the arrangements for the appointment of 'Independent Person/s';
- (2) That the Monitoring Officer submit a report to the Full Council recommending the appointment of the Independent Person/s following completion of the agreed selection process.

The meeting which commenced at 6.30 p.m., closed at 7.34 p.m.

Mayor