



MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MELTON

PARKSIDE, STATION APPROACH, BURTON STREET, MELTON MOWBRAY

16 DECEMBER 2014

PRESENT

Councillor J. Wyatt (Mayor)
G. Bush, P.M. Chandler, P. Cumbers,
R. de Burle, J.M. Douglas, A. Freer-Jones, M. Gordon,
M.C.R. Graham MBE, E. Holmes, L. Horton,
E. Hutchison, V. J. Manderson, J.T. Orson
J.B. Rhodes, N. Slater, J. Simpson,
M.N. Twitney, D.R. Wright

Strategic Director (CM), Strategic Director (KA),
Head of Communications & Monitoring Officer
Head of Central Services, Head of Regulatory Services,
Solicitor to the Council, Local Plans Manager,
Democracy & Involvement Officer

The Reverend Kevin Ashby offered prayers

CO43. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P. Baguley, J. Illingworth, S. Lumley, J. Moulding, P. Posnett, and M. Sheldon.

CO44. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and authorised to be signed by the Mayor.

CO45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Orson and Rhodes each declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Leicestershire County Council due to their roles as County Councillors.

Councillor Twitney declared a personal and pecuniary interest in minute CO56 Melton Local Plan Forward Plan as his employer was a land owner. He indicated he would leave the room when this item was under consideration.

CO46. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor congratulated Councillor Ronnie de Burle on his successful election to Melton Borough Council and welcomed him to his first meeting of the Council.

The Mayor stated that since the last meeting in October, he had attended 35 engagements. These had included a number of school visits, a very enjoyable Requiem concert at St Mary's Church hosted by the Rotary Club of Melton Mowbray, the Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance at De Montfort Hall, plus the RBL Melton Branch's own parade and service in Melton;

Other highlights included his reception to thank the CCTV Volunteers for their dedication and commitment to help keeping the town centre a safe place, the official unveiling of the remaining two working dog sculptures at Parkside by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant, Lady Gretton, and a visit to the Council's affiliate ship, HMS Quorn, whilst it was berthed in Ipswich.

The Mayor commented on the number of people who had turned out on 5 December for the official Christmas lights switch on and fireworks to mark the start of the Christmas festivities in Melton. This was followed by his Carols by Candlelight service at St Mary's Church on 11 December which was a delightful occasion with over 200 in the congregation. The Mayor expressed his thanks to the Reverend Kevin Ashby, Reverend Catriona Cumming, and the Church's Musical Director, James Gutteridge for all their help and support. The Mayor referred to an early start the previous day when he and Councillor Posnett had visited the Melton Sorting Office to see how all the mail was sorted at this busy time of year;

The Deputy Mayor has been continuing to attend some engagements on the Mayor's behalf. These included a public lecture at De Montfort University on the role of Sikhs and Commonwealth Soldiers in World War 1, the Mayor of Kettering's Civic Ball, Menphys Catholic Schools' Carol Concert at which Melton's St Francis Primary School was represented, and the Chairman of Blaby's Carol Service. The Deputy Mayor and her Consort, Robert also accompanied the Mayor and Mayoress and Councillor Graham to the HMS Quorn reception at the end of last month.

On Thursday 18 December at 12 noon the Mayor advised he would be hosting the Christmas lunch for staff and partners here in the Chamber. All Members were welcome to come along and take the opportunity to chat with staff in a relaxed environment. The occasion was also an opportunity to recognise staff, their teams and the Council's partners in the Pride of Parkside awards for outstanding achievement in 2014. There were three categories of awards Pride of Parkside, Best Team, and Partnership Performance.

The Mayor asked Members to note the following forthcoming events:

- After the Christmas break on Tuesday 13 January, the Council would be holding another "Prospective Councillor" event. November's event was well supported and he would encouraged any Member who is available that evening to come along and share their experiences with those thinking about representing their community.

- The Civic Dinner would be on Friday 6 March at Scaford Hall Hotel and invitations to Members and a guest would be sent out in due course.
- Plans were currently in hand to host a “Right of Passage Parade” for the Commander and crew of HMS Quorn in the town centre next year. Once a date had been agreed, Members would be sent an invitation and further details.

Apologies for absence had been received from the Young Mayor and Deputy Mayor and therefore no report on their activities was received.

CO47. LEADER’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader, Councillor Rhodes introduced his report by stating that he was pleased to report on much good news:

- (1) Melton Leisure Sports Village: The Council had reached agreement with the County Council to acquire the freehold of the former King Edward VII Upper School site including the existing sports hall, multi use games area, and pitches. In all 43 acres of ground were being acquired. The deal concluded a long period of negotiations and the Leader commended the persistence and tenacity of the Council’s negotiating team in overcoming the legal obstacles that had held it up for many months. The acquisition would enable the Council to develop a new Sports and Leisure Centre with new facilities for the Rugby Club, Football Club, and Hockey Club together with more badminton courts, health and fitness facilities, and provision for other minority sports. Bids were being prepared for external funding and indications from national funding bodies were very favourable. In the meantime the Council would operate the existing facilities with its private sector partners;
- (2) Melton Mowbray Cattle Market: The REEA and PFA Committees had approved the overall project scheme for redeveloping and modernising the Cattle Market. The Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership would allocate funds in 2016/17, or earlier if other projects in the county were delayed. In the meantime, preparation work had begun and plans were being drawn up. Exploratory drilling and excavation works would start in the coming weeks to ascertain what lay beneath the surface of the site. This much needed scheme would set up the cattle market for the 21st century and counter any criticism that the Council was not committed to investing and developing the market.
- (3) Leader Bids: The Leader bid to the European Union led by the County Council on behalf of East Leicestershire had been successful. A total of £1.6M would come to Leicestershire, most of it to Melton. This was for a number of projects in the countryside to support and develop rural businesses and improve job opportunities. The priorities were defined by DEFRA. The Rural Partnership was chaired by Councillor Posnett who would oversee its application.

- (4) Me and My Learning: The Public Service Transformation Network (PSTN) bid for Me and My Learning had been successful which would see the project through to 2016. The Leader referred to the video which had been showing in the Chamber before the meeting started with members of delivery partner organisations talking about Me and My Learning as well as participants talking about their experiences.
- (5) Lightbulb Project: In conjunction with partners Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, sufficient funding to 2016 had been secured for the Lightbulb Project which was a project to assist elderly people to live independently in their own homes;
- (6) Visit by the PSTN Service Transformation Challenge Panel to Parkside and Phoenix House: Members were reminded about the recent visit by the Panel following which a number of very complementary remarks were posted on Twitter. The Leader read out a few of the comments. The Panel had now published its report “Bolder, Braver, and Better: why we need local deals to save public services” in which Melton Borough Council had been held up as an example of best practice. He quoted a few examples from the report which referred to the Council’s work and highlighted the recommendations put forward – all three of which Melton was meeting. Melton was therefore leading the way nationally in how to deliver local public services.

The Leader concluded his report by expressing satisfaction that the Council was ending 2014 on a high point and could look forward to the challenges of 2015. He wished everyone a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Councillor Bush added his congratulations to the officers on the successful negotiations for the Leisure Sports Village and welcomed the development. He also stated he was very pleased about the investment into the cattle market.

CO48. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions received.

CO49. PETITIONS

There were no petitions received.

CO50. RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Governance Committee: 18 November 2014 Minute G44: Constitution Update

Councillor Graham moved and Councillor Manderson seconded the recommendations from the Governance Committee regarding updates to the Constitution.

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

RESOLVED: that the following be approved for inclusion in the Council's Constitution:-

(1) that item 11 be removed from the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee's delegations due to this function now being carried out by the Governance Committee and for clarity the Governance Committee's item 3 delegation be amended to include the words 'and approve' as set out below in red.

PFA Committee

Remove :

11. To consider and approve the Council's Statement of Accounts.

Governance Committee

Amend :

3. To review **and approve** the Financial Statements, External Audit opinion and report to Members and monitor Management Action in response to any issues raised.

(2) to agree the following additions, shown in red below, to the General Delegations in connection with Staffing Matters within Part 3 at page 5 of the Officer Delegations:-

<i>In consultation with Management Team, to approve minor additions to the staff establishment subject to :-</i>	<i>Chief Executive</i>
(1) There being adequate budgetary provision OR	
In each case the gross cost not exceeding £5,000 per annum when implemented AND	
The total cost in any financial year not exceeding the sum of £20,000 AND	
Members of the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee being informed of any such changes when updated copies of the Council's staff list are issued. (Annually in July)	

(3) (a) To agree the following new Officer Delegation to the Head of Communications in consultation with the Head of Central Services :-

When a Member or employee dies in service, to have discretion to waive overpayment of allowance or salary up to a maximum of £1,000.

(b) this new delegation to be applied from 1 September 2014.

CO51. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

- (a) In accordance with Procedure Rule 10.1, the Chairmen of Committees were to respond to any questions upon items of reports of Committees when those items were received or were under consideration by the Council as follows :-

Planning Committee	25 September 2014
Policy, Finance & Administration Committee	30 September 2014
Ad Hoc Planning Committee	2 October 2014
Planning Committee	16 October 2014
Rural, Economic & Environmental Affairs Committee	29 October 2014
Planning Committee	6 November 2014
Community & Social Affairs Committee	12 November 2014
Governance Committee	18 November 2014
Ad Hoc Rural, Economic & Environmental Affairs Committee	27 November 2014

(b) Councillor Gordon referred to Minute R48 concerning the Cattle Market regeneration and requested that consideration be given to providing a facility whereby farmers could have access to a counsellor and/or be able to discuss issues and problems they may be facing. Councillor Gordon referred to the economic pressures upon farmers and those reliant on the rural economy and the incidents, both national and local, of suicides. She felt such a facility for the farming community would be of great benefit.

Councillor Orson replied that although this was not part of the remit of the Cattle Market Task Group, he was aware of the high rate of suicide amongst farmers, second only to dentists. Farmers could also suffer from social isolation as well. Councillor Orson undertook to refer Councillor Gordon's suggestion to the next meeting of the Conservative chairs and would also make enquiries of the Citizens Advice Bureau, and would keep Councillor Gordon informed on this issue.

Councillor Holmes thanked Councillor Gordon for raising this issue. The farming community did have access to a helpline and she would also raise this with the NFU. Councillor Holmes also stated that the users of the cattle market would welcome an opportunity to have the plans for the development of the market explained to them. Councillor Orson agreed that discussion with the clients of the market was important; the exploratory work was ongoing but once plans had reached an application stage, it would be possible to have an information day at the market.

(c) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.5(a), the following question was received from Councillor J.T. Orson on 3 December 2014:

"Melton Borough Council has evolved over the past years to become a top performing council, with a heavy reliance on IT systems to run an efficient service to all customers. Given the concerns that the nation could face serious power cuts from this winter, what resilience planning is in place to protect the council and vulnerable service users?"

The Leader responded as follows:

“The Council has a Business Continuity Plan that is prepared for circumstances that interrupt our day to day services. It is currently under review. It follows the principal of ‘consequences planning’, that is, preparing the Council’s response to such interruptions regardless of their cause (as opposed to a ‘scenario planning’ approach, which would have a separate plan for each kind of potential threat – fire, flood, electricity supply etc). It is also flexible in order to take account of different forms of interruption, and the business priorities at the time an interruption occurs. This is in order to remain applicable and resilient to wide range of threats – there is no certainty what scale of severity a threat may take or indeed what its cause may be, or when it may strike or how long it might last.

In terms of the specific threat of electrical supply, the main offices have a generator that maintains supply and can be refuelled as required. This powers approx. 2/3 of the building. However the Council is much better placed than in previous years for a threat of this nature - its mobile workforce and range of equipped work locations, and remote/homeworking capabilities, mean that our services are less dependent upon the availability of Parkside.

In the event of such an interruption the Council would respond by considering the priorities at that time and the availability of accommodation and/or workplace options and assign staff accordingly. This may mean that some services are seriously reduced and redeployment is undertaken to ensure priority services are maintained, but this would be done in a deliberate and co-ordinate manner with a corporate approach; services would not be expected to take care of themselves in an isolated manner.

In the event of larger scale disruption, e.g. longer lasting or so widespread that all of our accommodation options are affected, the Council could invoke its disaster recovery contract. This provides for alternative premises accommodating up to 50 staff with independent power supplies, and use of the space would again be carefully managed to maximise its use and to prioritise the most essential services.

We are also liaising with major supply companies regarding the more general issues of supply capacity and reliability for the town as a whole, as we have become aware of limitations in the course of our Local Plan investigations.”

Councillor Orson thanked the Leader for his response and referred to the Council’s fire on Friday 31 May 2008. By Monday over 90% of services were up and running and it was good to know that the Leader had this in mind. However, given that just a 2% power surge this winter would cause a national blackout, it was important to have resilience planning and he was aware that the Council was a member of the local Resilience Board. Councillor Orson asked who was the Lead Member for Resilience at this Council. The Leader replied that he was the Lead Member with this responsibility.

CO52. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

There were no motions on notice received.

CO53. BY-ELECTION: 27 NOVEMBER 2014 – ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND THE CATTLE MARKET WORKING GROUP AND MELTON LOCAL PLAN WORKING GROUP, AND LEADERSHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

Members had before them a report by the Chief Executive which set out the changes to the allocation of seats on Committees as a result of the change in political balance following the by-election for the Asfordby ward on 27 November 2014. The Conservatives had gained a seat and the Labour Group had lost a seat. The Chief Executive had been advised of some consequential amendments to committee memberships requested.

The report also referred to the situation whereby both Opposition Groups now had an equal number of Members and the Council was requested to consider and determine the question of the Leader of the Opposition.

The Leader commended the report for its concise description of the situation following the by-election. He stated that:

- Councillor Barnes had resigned from the Policy, Finance & Administration Committee and would become a substitute Member for that Committee;
- Councillor Orson would replace Councillor Barnes on PFA Committee;
- The vacant seat on the Planning Committee would be filled by Councillor de Burle but that Councillor de Burle would not take up that position until such time as he had received the requisite training.

Subject to the above, the Leader moved the recommendations as contained in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.5 in the Chief Executives report. The motion was seconded by Councillor Orson, and following a vote was unanimously carried.

The Leader then turned to the question of the Leadership of the Opposition. He stated that having regard to the present equality of members of both the Labour and Independent groups, the fact that the Borough elections were imminent in May next year, and having sought advice from officers, it was proposed that the Council does not make an appointment to the Leader of the Opposition. There was no legal obligation to do so although there was provision in the Council's Constitution. He emphasised that the Council would continue to regard the two Opposition Group Leaders as having equal importance and that they would be involved in all consultations.

Councillor Holmes expressed her agreement to the Leader's proposal and that it represented the commitment of everyone to work for the benefit of the Borough. She welcomed the inclusion of both herself and the Leader of the Labour Group in all relevant consultations. Before seconding the motion, Councillor Holmes congratulated Councillor de Burle on his election and paid tribute to the late Councillor Trevor Moncrieff. Upon being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED:

(1) To approve the political balance percentages and number of seats allocated to

each political group as set out in the tables below:

Group	No. of Councillors	Percentage		Allocation of Seats over 6 Committees
Conservative	19	68%	(67.85)	38.76 = 39
Labour	4	14%	(14.29)	7.98 = 8
Independent	4	14%	(14.29)	7.98 = 8
Single Councillor	1	4%	(3.57)	2.28 = 2
Totals	28	100%	100.00	57 seats

2014/15	APP	CSA	PLNG	GOV	PFA	REEA	TOTALS
Conservative	3 (3.40%)	7 (6.80%)	8 (7.48%)	7 (6.80%)	7 (6.80%)	7 (7.48%)	39 (✓)
Labour	1 (0.7%)	2 (1.4%)	1 (1.54%)	1 (1.4%)	1 (1.8%)	2 (1.54%)	8 (✓)
Independent	1 (0.7%)	1 (1.4%)	2 (1.54%)	1 (1.4%)	1 (1.8%)	2 (1.54%)	8 (✓)
Single Cllr	0 (0.2%)	0 (0.4%)	0 (0.44%)	1 (0.4%)	1 (0.4%)	0 (0.44%)	2 (✓)
Totals	5 (✓)	10 (✓)	11 (✓)	10 (✓)	10 (✓)	11 (✓)	57 (✓)

(2) To approve the proposals of the political groups for membership of the Cattle Market Working Group and the Melton Local Plan Working Group for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2015 as set out below:

Membership of Working Cattle Market Working Group :
December 2014 to May 2015

Working Group	Current Membership 2014/15	Nominations December 2014
Cattle Market Working Group Political Balance required: = 8 6 Conservative (5.4%) 1 Labour (1.12%) 1 Independent (1.12%) 0 Single Cllr (0.32%)	Conservative P.M. Chandler J.T. Orson P.M. Posnett J. Simpson J. Wyatt Labour G. Bush vacancy Independent E. Holmes	Conservative P.M. Chandler J.T. Orson P.M. Posnett J. Simpson J. Wyatt vacancy Labour G. Bush Independent E. Holmes

Membership of Melton Local Plan Working Group :
December 2014 to May 2015

Working Group	Current Membership 2014/15	Nominations December 2014
Melton Local Plan Working Group Political Balance required: = 9 6 Conservative (6.12%) 1 Labour (1.26%) 1 Independent (1.26%) 1 Single Cllr (0.36%)	Conservative P.M. Chandler J. Douglas J. Illingworth V. Manderson J. Simpson D.R. Wright Labour G. Bush J. Moulding Independent E. Hutchison	Conservative P.M. Chandler J. Douglas J. Illingworth V. Manderson J. Simpson D.R. Wright Labour To be confirmed Independent E. Hutchison Single Cllr M.M. Gordon

- (3) To note that as a result of the by-election, there is no change to Chairs, Vice Chairs, Forums, Partnerships, Outside Organisations, Lead Members and memberships of the Working Groups apart from the Cattle Market and the Melton Local Plan;
- (4) To note that in accordance with the political balance rules set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, S15-17 (as amended) political balance is to be achieved in total across all the Committees and within all individual Committees requiring political balance and to note also that political balance applies to Sub-Committees as required;
- (5) To approve the changes in membership of Committees as follows:
- (a) Councillor Ronnie de Burle to take a seat on the Policy, Finance & Administration Committee;
- (b) Councillor Mark Barnes' resignation from the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee to be replaced by Councillor Joe Orson;
- (c) Following the requisite training, Councillor de Burle to take the vacant Conservative seat on the Planning Committee. The Chief Executive thereafter to exercise her delegated authority.
- (6) To not appoint a Leader of the Opposition Group.

CO54. MID YEAR REPORT ON THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2014-15

In a report previously circulated, the Head of Central Services had provided Members with a mid year treasury review in order that the Council could monitor its performance in accordance with CIPFA Treasury Management Panel's recommendations. The report also incorporated the needs of the Prudential Code to ensure adequate monitoring of capital expenditure and the Council's Prudential indicators.

In moving the recommendations contained in the report, the Leader stated that the Council's financial affairs were on course and it was meeting the benchmarks and operating within the prescribed limits. Councillor Orson seconded the recommendations and commented on the economic update stating that he was of the view that interest rates would continue at a low level for longer than was suggested in the report.

RESOLVED: To

- (1) note the mid year position on treasury activity for 2014-15;
- (2) note and approve the mid year position on prudential indicators;
- (3) approve the reference to the changes to the investment counterparty criteria selection in the Treasury Management Strategy Statement.

CO55. MELTON MOWBRAY CUMULATIVE DEVELOPMENT TRANSPORT IMPACT STUDY

In a report previously circulated, the Head of Regulatory Services had provided Members with an update on the Melton Mowbray Cumulative Development Transport Impact Study that had been carried out by Jacobs UK Ltd procured through the Leicestershire County Council framework contract. The study would provide evidence and be used as a material consideration when determining planning applications which impact on the highway network in and around Melton Mowbray. It would also provide information that would be critical in formulating recommendations to develop an infrastructure policy as part of the Melton Local Plan.

Councillor Wright commended the report and moved the recommendation. This was seconded by Councillor Chandler.

Councillor Twitney welcomed the report stating that the findings bore out what the residents of the town already knew about the traffic situation. The Core Strategy which had approved development in the town had impacted on the levels of traffic and cited as an example the busy Scafford Road junction. He referred to the good progress being made on the leisure vision and the cattle market and expressed the hope that the Council could make similar progress on the transport infrastructure with potential solutions including a bypass. He asked the Leader to keep the Council informed of progress as it moved towards a solution.

The Leader referred to the section of the report which outlined the next stages of work. The County Highways engineers were actively pursuing work on mitigation and the results were due shortly. Following a vote, it was unanimously

RESOLVED: to note that the information in the Head of Regulatory Services' report is a material consideration in determining planning applications for relevant development, and that it be approved as technical evidence to inform the Melton Local Plan.

[Councillor Twitney here left the meeting at 7.23pm]

CO56. MELTON LOCAL PLAN FORWARD PLAN – THE STEPS BETWEEN “ISSUES AND OPTIONS” AND “PREFERRED OPTIONS” (DRAFT MELTON LOCAL PLAN)

Members had before them a report by the Head of Regulatory Services which set out the stages of work needed between the Issues and Options through to the Preferred Options to feed into the Draft Melton Local Plan. Appended to the report was a timetable of the key steps in this process and a summary of the decisions required by the Council at each stage.

Councillor Wright drew Members' attention to key aspects of the report and moved the recommendation contained therein. The motion was seconded by Councillor Chandler. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED: to note the stages of work set out in the report and the need for strategic direction through the programme of Full Council meetings between now and May 2015.

Before the Mayor closed the meeting, he wished everyone a Happy Christmas. Councillors Wright and Cumbers advised Members that in lieu of sending Christmas cards, they would be making a donation to the Mayor's Appeal.

The meeting, which commenced at 6.30 p.m., closed at 7.26 p.m.

Mayor