



MEETING OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MELTON

PARKSIDE, STATION APPROACH, BURTON STREET, MELTON MOWBRAY

30 April 2014

PRESENT

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

Strategic Director (CM); Strategic Director (KA);  
Head of Communications & Monitoring Officer  
Head of Regulatory Services; Local Plans Manager;  
Democracy & Involvement Officer

Deputy Young Mayor, Kelsey Mackie

Prayers were offered by Steven Wright, Pastor, Valley Christian Church, Harby

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CO78. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Barnes, P.M. Baguley, and L. Horton.

CO79. MINUTES

After it was moved by Councillor Rhodes and seconded by Councillor Posnett, the minutes of the last meeting held on 20 February 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and authorised to be signed by the Mayor.

CO80. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Graham MBE declared a pecuniary interest in Minutes CO89 and CO90 relating to the Melton Local Plan by virtue of his membership of the John Sedley Trust and stated he would leave the room when these items were discussed.

Councillor Holmes declared a personal and pecuniary interest in Minutes CO89 and CO90 relating to the Melton Local Plan as she owned land on the north side of Melton and stated she would leave the room when these items were discussed.

Councillor Twitney declared a pecuniary interest in Minutes CO89 and CO90 relating to the Melton Local Plan as he was an employee of Brooksby Melton College and stated he would leave the room when these items were discussed.

Councillor Orson declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Leicestershire County Council due to his role as a County Councillor. He also declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Minutes CO89 and CO90 relating to the Melton Local Plan arising and stated he would leave the room when these items were discussed.

Councillor Rhodes declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Leicestershire County Council due his role as a County Councillor. He informed the meeting that as he no longer had any responsibility in that role for County Council owned Melton properties he had no interest to declare in relation to the Melton Local Plan.

Councillor Posnett declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Leicestershire County Council due her role as a County Councillor. She advised the meeting that as she had never taken part in any discussions about items relating to Melton Borough at Cabinet meetings in her capacity as a County Member, she had no interest to declare in relation to the Melton Local Plan.

#### CO81. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) The Mayor stated that she had attended 202 events to date during which she had the most wonderful time and expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to represent the Melton Borough during her Mayoral year. She went on to highlight some of the events she had attended since the last meeting of the Council:

- Melton Stallions Wheelchair Basketball launch
- Her Civic Dinner at Salford Hall which had raised over £800 for Dove Cottage Day Hospice
- A new event at Parkside, Fly the Flag for the Commonwealth, where she had lead the service and composed a poem especially for the occasion
- Opening the new LOROS shop in Melton Mowbray
- A tour of the John Taylor Bell Foundry in Loughborough
- Age UK Leicestershire & Rutland, Gloucester House Open Day
- The opening of the new branch of the Harrison Murray Estate Agency jointly with the Nottingham Building Society in Melton Mowbray which was a new concept
- ABL The Soldiers' Charity Curry Lunch
- Opening of the National Indoor Bowls Championship at Melton Indoor Bowls Club which was a very prestigious event for the town to host
- The Rutland- Melton International CiCYCLE Classic race which finished in the town centre
- The RAVC Freedom of the Borough Right of Passage Parade, a uniquely memorable occasion at which she had felt proud to be a Meltonian and which cemented the town's relationship with the RAVC. It was significant that this event co-incided with the Centenary of the First World War

- ABF The Soldiers Charity, Battle of Mirbat Presentation on the events which took place in 1972
- The Scouts St George's Day Service and Parade at which it had been wonderful to see young people proudly taking part
- A visit to Gaddesby Primary School's assembly where she had enjoyed a very interactive session with the children
- Judging the British Pie Awards at St Mary's Parish Church earlier in the day and commended Councillor O'Callaghan for his promotion of this event
- An enjoyable musical afternoon at Asfordby Hill primary school

(2) The Council then received a report from the Deputy Young Mayor, Kelsey Mackie. Kelsey gave the Young Mayor's apologies as she was busy with revision. Kelsey said she had recently attended the Sports Relief Mile Run at Melton Country Park and a meeting about the Skate Park, a project in which she was very proud to be involved.

(3) The Mayor made the following Award of Merit presentations:

Peter Smith in respect of:

- Volunteering at Bradgate Flats, undertaking gardening at the flats and in Asfordby village centre.
- Organising fund raising activities for the residents' fund and providing lunches and putting up Christmas decorations.
- Greatly enhancing the quality of life for all the residents of Bradgate Flats sheltered housing and other residents of Asfordby.
- Giving his time freely for the benefit of the residents of the scheme plus the many residents and visitors to Asfordby.
- Not only giving up large amounts of his free time but often funds it with his own money e.g. pays for plants out of his own pocket.
- Looking after the village's Millenium Gardens and is a member of the Asfordby in Bloom team.

Vicki Williamson in respect of:

- Tirelessly working to organise many fundraising events for both local and national charities.
- Examples of the fund raising and community events in which Vicki has been involved include: Lions Swimarathon, the Mayor's Appeal, Dove Cottage Day Hospice Moonlight Walk, Children in Need, Comic Relief, Breast Cancer Awareness campaigns, and the Christmas Tree Festival at St. Mary's Church
- Currently organising a community "Bake Off" to raise funds for the Melton Project on Dalby Road, Melton Mowbray.
- Encouraging hundreds of participants over the last 10 years which has helped to raise in the region of £100,000 for good causes

The Mayor made the following presentation for the Melton Borough Award:

Mars Petcare Melton Factory Associate Teams in respect of:

- The Teams, through their passion and drive for the project, successfully created the Pet Activity Trail in the Melton Country Park.
- Only the third kind of facility in the UK, it is designed to encourage activities that promote responsible pet ownership and enhance opportunities for people to experience and enjoy responsible, healthy exercise and interaction with their dogs in the local community.
- Enhances the enjoyment of the Melton Country Park for all and makes a positive impact in the local community.

The Mayor made the following presentation for the Young Citizen Award:

Megan Lyles and Megan Naylor in respect of:

- Before the annual Children in Need day in November 2013, Megan Lyles and Megan Naylor decided to undertake a fundraising activity by living on a total of £10 each for one week;
- They carefully researched what someone on the poverty line would get in a week and having deducted for things like electricity and rent, they decided to try and survive on £10 each for a week;
- They lived in a caravan for the week with no heating or running water and did daily shops to make the combined £20 budget to feed themselves last;
- Their eye opening experience had made them appreciate the lives they had and question their need for many material possessions they previously thought they needed.
- To raise awareness of their journey, they wrote their own blog on the Children in Need website. To date they have raised over £500 in aid of Children in Need.

The Mayor presented the Robert Hyslop Citizen of the Year Award to Peter Smith.

The Mayor presented the Derek Sanders Cup for the Outstanding Young Citizen collectively to Megan Lyles and Megan Naylor. They were each given an individual trophy to keep as a memento of the occasion.

In concluding the presentations, the Mayor said how privileged she had been to meet all the winners and how gratifying it was to see the love that was in the community from those who were prepared to do something extra for others. All the awards were thoroughly deserved.

## CO82. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader, Councillor Rhodes, reported he had two matters to raise:

- Complaints: he was concerned at the number of complaints which were being made about Councillors. In the last 2 years there had been 25 complaints mostly concerning Parish Councillors, but these were taking up a great deal of officer and member time. Without commenting on the merits of each case, few resulted in a satisfactory outcome for anyone. The Localism Act 2011 removed the Council's power to suspend a Councillor and therefore any effective sanction. Effectively, the only remedy for a complainant who felt aggrieved was the Courts, if applicable, or the ballot box. If the number of complaints did not go down, then the Council would have to consider additional staff which would be a pointless use of public money;
- The Local Plan: Members would be considering two papers on the agenda about the development of the Local Plan. Many people had strong views about the scope of future development and the consequences for their lifestyles and wellbeing; the issue of concern to most was the traffic congestion in Melton Mowbray. Peak times result in long traffic queues in all directions and significant delays at major junctions.
- The Core Strategy which was rejected a year ago this month had a part solution: a road linking the A606 and A607 roads to the north of the town paid for by the developer's contributions from the proposed housing development. This was only a part solution but would have been a significant start but that was not to be. Now the Council was seeing planning applications without any offer of new road infrastructure which if they succeed will mean the congestion would get worse.
- The Council was not indifferent to the problem and all Parties were in agreement that a new road infrastructure was essential. The Council had the task of persuading Government that the town must have similar help to build a new road that other towns have had. The wait had been long enough and he and his group do what they can in the coming years to campaign for the new road. Currently a bypass would cost about £40M and a full ring road more than £60M. Both were beyond the resources of the County or Borough Councils, but a Government which this week secured all Party support in Parliament for £50 billion for HS2 – 1000 times the sum needed by Melton – could surely find £40 million for us. He urged everyone to get behind the campaign to help Melton live and breathe again.

The Leader concluded by reporting that the Chairman of REEA Committee wished to inform Members that a meeting of the Cattle Market Task Group would take place at 5.30pm on Monday 19 May 2014.

Councillor O'Callaghan expressed the hope that the campaign for the bypass would be more successful than the one running during the time of the former Leader of the County Council when he had attended a meeting at the Cattle Market. The cost had risen significantly as the opportunities had slipped. He referred to reasons that had been given in the past such as funding being needed to widen the A46 at Newark. However, this money was refunded by the Government but none of it had found its way to improve Melton's infrastructure.

Councillor Holmes expressed concern at what she considered to be 'fine words' by the Leader but fine words meant nothing and action was needed as the town was already congested. The Leader acknowledged that action was key and urged a concerted effort by the whole Council with full commitment from all Members behind it.

#### CO83. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following question to the Leader was received from Mr David Ogden:

“Can the Leader of the Council advise me why it has been necessary to provide a subsidy of up to £30,000 to the Green Waste Subscription service?”

The Leader responded as follows:

The reason for this subsidy is to offset costs which would otherwise be passed onto users of the service. The extent of the increases proposed by Biffa were not acceptable and hence it was proposed that a modest contribution to this large contract be provided. Officers undertook detailed scrutiny of the costs associated with this service and negotiated as far as was possible before this proposal was brought forward for Members' consideration. These issues will need to be looked at with any future arrangement the Council may have post 2017 when this current contract ends.

Mr Ogden then put a supplementary question to the Leader. He prefaced the question by making reference to the externalised service to Biffa and the terms of the agreement which enabled the contractor to determine its own fees. Biffa would seek to impose year on year increases in order to deliver profits. He suggested that the subsidy meant the Council had found itself with a privatised service failure and had taken £30K of council tax payers' money and “thrown it” to the contractor to subsidise Biffa's shareholders. Mr Ogden asked if the Council was going to continue to subsidise Biffa year after year – yes or no?

The Leader replied that it would be down to the Rural, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee to decide and the Committee would take a fresh look at the matter next year.

#### CO84. PETITIONS

There were no petitions received.

#### CO85. RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

##### **(a) Governance Committee: 2 April 2014 – Minute G81: review of Corporate Counter Fraud Strategy**

The report of the Head of the Welland Internal Audit Consortium on the review of the Counter Fraud Strategy previously considered by the Governance Committee was circulated at the meeting.

The Chairman of the Governance Committee, Councillor Graham, moved approval of the revised document and this was seconded by Councillor Douglas.

Councillor O'Callaghan expressed concern that he had not had sufficient time to read the document. The Mayor suggested that a 10 minute adjournment take place in order that Members could read the paper. Councillor O'Callaghan said he would prefer that the matter be deferred to the next meeting after the Annual Meeting. Councillor Graham, with the consent of his seconder, withdrew his motion, in favour of deferring the matter. A vote took place on the deferral and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED:** That approval of the revised Corporate Counter-Fraud Strategy for adoption in the Constitution be deferred to the 16 July meeting.

**(b) Governance Committee: 2 April 2014 – Minute G85 Constitution Update 2013/14**

The Chairman of the Governance Committee, Councillor Graham moved the following changes to the Constitution, subject to an amendment to the recommendations from the Committee as shown in bold type at part 15.5 (b) Recorded Vote. The motion was seconded by Councillor Douglas:

(a) following the Policy, Finance & Administration Committee's approval of an operational change to booking arrangements for the Civic Rooms on 23 January 2013, the Committee is requested to note that the consequential changes have been made to item 7 of the Corporate Property Officer's Delegations and a new item numbered 50 to the Head of Central Services' delegations within the Constitution :-

*'To approve a concession for the use of the civic suite rooms 1 and 2 in consultation with a member of Corporate Management Team.'*

(b) an additional delegated function to the Appeals Committee to reflect the appeals provision included within the Member Complaints Process as follows :-

*'3. To determine any appeals in respect of the Member Complaints Process.'*

(c) the following be added to the Chief Executive's delegations to be in line with the Corporate Compensation Policy :-

*'17. Approval to make compensation payments of over £250 and up to £10,000 with the Section 151 Officer and an agreement from the Legal department.'*

(d) following a recommendation from the Planning Committee on 13 March 2014, the Planning Committee site inspections procedure and associated protocol be changed as indicated in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 of this report with the addition that the Ward Member(s) be included in Site Inspections;

(e) at the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee meeting on 12 February 2014 (Minute P71- Business Rates Retail Relief Scheme) the following was resolved, therefore the Officer Delegations be updated accordingly :-

*'Delegated Authority is given to the Head of Central Services in consultation with the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods to make any necessary changes to the Retail Relief Scheme, in accordance with further guidance from Central Government, consultation with partners across Leicestershire and to improve the*

*scheme based on experience from delivery of the scheme.'*

(f) further to the Minister for Local Government's request that there be recorded votes of all Members on any decision involving the budget or Council Tax, the Terms of Reference for Full Council at Part 3 of the Constitution be amended at item 2 to read as follows :-

***'2. Approving or adopting the policy framework, the budget (by recorded vote of all Members) and any application to the Secretary of State in respect of any housing land transfer.'***

And there also be reference in the Procedure Rules at Part 4 that 15.5 become 15.5(a) and a new 15.5(b) read as follows :-

#### **Recorded vote**

15.5 (a) *If three Members present at the meeting demand it, the names for and against the motion or amendment or abstaining from voting will be taken down in writing and entered into the minutes. A demand for a recorded vote will override a demand for a ballot.*

***(b) As directed by The Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2014 (2014 No 165) which came into force on 25 February 2014, there will be a recorded vote of all Members as indicated at 15.5(a) at any budget decision meeting where the authority makes a decision on the making of the calculation of the precept or the issuing of the precept.***

Councillor O'Callaghan referred to the change to part (b) of para. 15.5 concerning Recorded Votes and whilst neither against the proposal or having recorded votes on the budget, he expressed his resentment that the Government Minister was issuing an edict to local government. A number of councils of all political make ups had exceeded the Minister's instruction and Councillor O'Callaghan stated his objection to a 'one size fits all' policy and the imposition from Central Government.

Councillor Sheldon then queried why the wording in para. 15.5 (b) referred to the 'precept' rather than council tax as they were different things. In Melton Mowbray, residents paid council tax. Councillor Cumbers asked where the wording had originated. The Strategic Director (CM) explained that the wording was derived from the legislation. Officers could look into how it related to the detailed legislation and explore the nuances in the wording. Councillor Graham proposed that the Council pass the motion as currently worded and ask officers to come back to the next meeting with an explanation of the meaning as laid down in the statute. Councillor O'Callaghan asked that the Leader write to the Minister to ask for clarification on the use of the word 'precept'.

Councillor Holmes sought clarification on that part of the motion relating to the Member complaints process. The Monitoring Officer explained that this was a tidying up procedure to the Constitution so that the delegation to the Appeals Committee reflected what the Council had previously agreed in terms of the complaints process.

Councillor Cumbers then asked for a list of any compensation payments made and the reasons for those payments. Councillor O'Callaghan also queried the circumstances in which compensation payments were made. The Strategic Director (CM) stated that in certain circumstances, the Council may wish to settle a



complaint before referral to the Ombudsman where there was a dispute in process.

Councillor Moncrieff referred to the report previously considered by the Governance Committee, specifically Appendix 3 concerning planning site inspections. He said that Councillor Orson had proposed this include Ward Members and that he had seconded this. Councillor Orson confirmed this was agreed in the Governance Committee's recommendations. Accordingly a vote was taken on the motion proposed by Councillor Graham and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED:** that the following items be adopted for incorporation into the Constitution :

(1) following the Policy, Finance & Administration Committee's approval of an operational change to booking arrangements for the Civic Rooms on 23 January 2013, the Committee is requested to note that the consequential changes have been made to item 7 of the Corporate Property Officer's Delegations and a new item numbered 50 to the Head of Central Services' delegations within the Constitution :-

*'To approve a concession for the use of the civic suite rooms 1 and 2 in consultation with a member of Corporate Management Team.'*

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(2) an additional delegated function to the Appeals Committee to reflect the appeals provision included within the Member Complaints Process as follows :-

*'3. To determine any appeals in respect of the Member Complaints Process.'*

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(3) the following be added to the Chief Executive's delegations to be in line with the Corporate Compensation Policy :-

*'17. Approval to make compensation payments of over £250 and up to £10,000 with the Section 151 Officer and an agreement from the Legal department.'*

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(4) following a recommendation from the Planning Committee on 13 March 2014, the Planning Committee site inspections procedure and associated protocol be changed as indicated in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 of the report to the Governance Committee on 2 April 2014 with the addition that the Ward Member(s) be included in Site Inspections;

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(5) at the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee meeting on 12 February 2014 (Minute P71- Business Rates Retail Relief Scheme) the following was resolved, therefore the Officer Delegations be updated accordingly :-

*'Delegated Authority is given to the Head of Central Services in consultation with the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods to make any necessary changes to the Retail Relief Scheme, in accordance with further guidance from Central*

*Government, consultation with partners across Leicestershire and to improve the scheme based on experience from delivery of the scheme.'*

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**(6)** further to the Minister for Local Government's request that there be recorded votes of all Members on any decision involving the budget or Council Tax, the Terms of Reference for Full Council at Part 3 of the Constitution be amended at item 2 to read as follows :-

*'2. Approving or adopting the policy framework, the budget (**by recorded vote of all Members**) and any application to the Secretary of State in respect of any housing land transfer.'*

And there also be reference in the Procedure Rules at Part 4 that 15.5 become 15.5(a) and a new 15.5(b) read as follows :-

**Recorded vote**

15.5 (a) *If three Members present at the meeting demand it, the names for and against the motion or amendment or abstaining from voting will be taken down in writing and entered into the minutes. A demand for a recorded vote will override a demand for a ballot.*

**(b) As directed by The Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2014 (2014 No 165) which came into force on 25 February 2014, there will be a recorded vote of all Members as indicated at 15.5(a) at any budget decision meeting where the authority makes a decision on the making of the calculation of the precept or the issuing of the precept.**

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**(c) Policy, Finance & Administration Committee: 16 April 2014 – Minute P90: recording Council and Committee Meetings**

The Chairman of the Policy, Finance & Administration Committee, Councillor Rhodes, moved the following recommendation:

(1) a six month trial of audio recordings be taken of Full Council meetings and these be uploaded to the website within 48 hours of the meeting and at the end of the trial, feedback on quality and public interest be reported to the next available Policy, Finance and Administration Committee;

(2) a Protocol for Audio Recording of Meetings and other documentation be developed for reference in future and for training.

Councillor Rhodes stated that this recommendation had originated from the motion previously submitted by Councillor Twitney. The Committee had looked at alternatives such as webcasting but had felt this option was too expensive to pursue at this stage. The motion was seconded by Councillor Posnett.

Councillor Twitney stated that he was very pleased that this matter had been progressed and supported the lower cost option as it was important to test people's interest and allow access to democracy. He referred to the question put by a member of the public tonight which he said illustrated that the most important decisions were often made at committee meetings, particularly Planning Committee.

He therefore proposed an amendment to add the words “and committee meetings” to part (1) of the motion after the words Full Council meetings. This would allow people to hear the debate which had led to a decision; for the trial to work and in the interests of openness and transparency, audio recordings should include committee meetings.

In support of the amendment, Councillor Moncrieff said that in the future he would welcome the use of Members’ names again the minutes to record who had said what. Councillor Graham replied that he had raised this point at the PFA Committee and was advised that this would need to be incorporated into the protocol arrangements.

Councillor O’Callaghan referred to meetings held in the Nottingham Road offices which had all been recorded suggesting that the Council had taken a retrograde step in terms of accountability. He questioned why a protocol was needed. In expressing support for the amendment he said he would have preferred to see the webcasting option taken up; audio was a completely different medium and it would be very boring to listen to a whole meeting in only audio format. Councillor Graham commented that a considerable amount of the former recordings of meetings was of poor quality and urged caution about extending the recordings to committees. Committee meetings were often a forum for bouncing around ideas and testing the waters. He would not want to see this fettered by Members’ reluctance to speak out because of audio recording. He suggested that this be first discussed at group meetings. Councillor Cumbers voiced her support for Councillor Graham’s point saying she would not want to see discussions taking place outside of meetings instead of the open debate in committees.

Councillor Simpson agreed that all committees should be recorded but conceded that further debate was required and more costs taken into account first as it may be necessary to employ additional staff. She stated that she would prefer the inclusion of committee recordings be deferred for further consideration of the cost implications.

Councillor Holmes reminded Members that Planning Committee meetings were being recorded and agreed that this should continue as it was helpful for the clerks’ minute taking. The Strategic Director (CM) advised that she had listened to the recordings and there was no issue regarding quality but there were protocol considerations, for example an introduction to who is speaking. There was a need to introduce some practices in order for it to make sense to the listeners. Issues around downloading were also acknowledged.

Councillor Rhodes referred to the debate at PFA Committee when webcasting had been considered alongside just audio recording and how this would sound to the listener at home. Meetings would have to be ordered in such a way so that it was clear to the listener what was happening. He urged a cautious approach; first trial the Full Council meetings and take a critical ear to these recordings. Officers could then consider the results and suggest how Members should conduct their meetings. If that could be done successfully, we could move forward to include committees. This Council had resolved to stick with the “4<sup>th</sup> option” and not move to a Cabinet system as committees were more informal. He stated he would not support the amendment as he felt the Council would be better to follow the motion he had moved and then review the matter to see if we could produce something meaningful for the listener first.

Councillor Freer-Jones asked if any lessons had been learnt already from the initial Full Council recordings. The Strategic Director (CM) replied that a meeting protocol had been drafted and this was easier for a more formal meeting. She advised that it would be useful to continue the trial and then look at how this could be applied to a committee setting.

A vote was then taken on the amendment which resulted in 8 votes in favour and 17 votes against. The amendment was therefore lost. A vote was then taken on the original motion and subsequently carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** that

- (1) a six month trial of audio recordings be taken of Full Council meetings and these be uploaded to the website within 48 hours of the meeting and at the end of the trial, feedback on quality and public interest be reported to the next available Policy, Finance and Administration Committee;
- (2) a Protocol for Audio Recording of Meetings and other documentation be developed for reference in future and for training.

#### **CO86. 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	30 January 2014
Policy, Finance & Administration Committee	12 February 2014
Ad Hoc Planning Committee	13 February 2014
Planning Committee	18 February 2014
Rural, Economic & Environmental Affairs Committee	5 March 2014
Ad Hoc Policy, Finance & Administration Committee	11 March 2014
Development Committee	13 March 2014
Community & Social Affairs Committee	18 March 2014
Governance Committee	2 April 2014
Planning Committee	3 April 2014

- (b) Councillor Moncrieff referred to the PFA Committee minutes for the meeting held on 12 February 2014 and stated that it had not been recorded that he had acted as substitute for Councillor O'Callaghan;
- (c) Councillor Gordon referred to the REEA Committee minutes for the meeting held on 5 March 2014 and stated that she had declared an interest in minute R15 and had left the room before the exempt report had been considered but this had not been recorded;
- (d) No questions under Procedure Rule 10.5, were put to the Mayor, the Leader or the Chairmen of Committees.

#### CO87. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

No motions were submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.1

#### CO88. PAY POLICY 2014/15

Members had before them a report prepared by the Head of Communications which had previously been circulated with the agenda. Appended to the report was the Council's Annual Pay Policy Statement as required by the Localism Act 2011. Members' approval was sought to the document in order to facilitate its publications as required by the legislation.

Councillor Graham moved acceptance of the pay policy and this was seconded by Councillor Douglas. Upon being put to the vote, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED:** to approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2014/15.

[Councillors Graham, Holmes, Orson, and Twitney here left the meeting.]

#### CO89. MELTON LOCAL PLAN : VISION, OBJECTIVES AND KEY ISSUES

Members had before them a report prepared by the Head of Regulatory Services which set out the proposed Vision, Objectives, and Key Issues for inclusion in the new Melton Local Plan. These had been developed following meetings of the Melton Local Plan Reference Groups and a consultation under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

Councillor Wright moved acceptance of the Working Group's recommendation and approval of the Vision, Objectives and Key Issues for inclusion in the new Melton Local Plan. In so doing, he stated:

- That the vision and objectives had been informed by consultation on the scope of the Local Plan in accordance with 'Regulation 18' consultation, comprising a number of drop in sessions and Borough wide publicity carried out in February 2014 and 2 rounds of Reference Group meetings;
- The Vision would be the 'golden thread' running through the Plan and would inform policies as they develop through the stages of plan preparation. The Vision and Objectives would also need to evolve thorough the various stages of consultation;
- The proposed vision for the new Melton Local Plan had been considered and developed by the Melton Local Plan Working Group and was set out in para 3.21 of the report;
- The Vision sought to retain the intrinsic character and environment of Melton Borough, whilst also providing for the future needs of the Borough and its population;
- That to realise the Vision for Melton, a set of Objectives for the new Melton Local Plan had been developed. The Objectives covered a range of topics from housing through to community development;

- As Chairman of the Melton Local Plan Working Group, he commended the report to Full Council and sought approval of the Vision and Objectives for the new Melton Local Plan.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Rhodes who added that this would be the first in a series of reports from the Working Group. The Council had a challenging job ahead and would work closely with the Reference Groups.

A vote was then taken on the motion before the Council and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED:** to accept the recommendations of the Melton Local Plan Working Group and to approve the Vision, Objectives and Key Issues for inclusion in the new Melton Local Plan as set out in the report.

#### CO90. MELTON LOCAL PLAN: LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME AND STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Members had previously been circulated with a report prepared by the Head of Regulatory Services which sought approval of the recommendation made by the Melton Local Plan Working Group for the adoption of the Melton Local Development Scheme (LDS) and the Melton Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). Approval was also sought for associated amendments to the Local Plan Phasing Plan and Timetable that were previously approved by Full Council on 17 July 2013.

Councillor Rhodes drew Members' attention to amendments to page 4, para 4.7 where the dates referred to should read 'summer 2014' not 2015 and reference to summer 2016 should read 'summer 2015'. Councillor Rhodes then

- Explained that it was a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (as amended) 2004 and the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012 to publish and prepare a Local Plan in accordance with a LDS and a SCI;
- Reminded the Council that it had agreed a timetable in July 2013 for preparing the Local Plan on the understanding that this would need to be kept under review. Local Plan progress particularly surrounding the Duty to Co-operate and the evidence base had highlighted the need to reconsider the timetable in order to keep momentum;
- Stated the new LDS set out a phasing plan including a 12 week consultation on the Issues and Option in August 2014 followed by a 12 week consultation on Preferred Options Draft Plan in May 2015, with a view to adoption of the Local Plan in May 2017. The revisions were in the main re-ordering of the stages of work rather than slippage;
- At the examination into the Core Strategy the Inspector suggested that a figure of 200 homes per annum could be appropriate for Melton. However work being undertaken through a Strategic Housing Market Assessment for Leicester and Leicestershire will provide an up to assessment of housing needed in Melton and the wider housing market area. All Leicester and Leicestershire will need to work together to meet the need through their Local Plans;

- Stated that the SCI sets out how the community would be engaged through the development of the Melton Local Plan in accordance with the stages of work set out in the LDS. It also sets out how the Council would consult on applications for planning permission. If approved, it will need to be subject to 6 weeks public consultation;
- Advised that the Melton Local Plan Working Group had endorsed the LDS, SCI and revised Timetable;
- Moved that Full Council approve the recommendations contained in the report.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Wright.

In commending the report, Councillor Freer-Jones questioned the risks to delivery having regard to the work involved and the current staffing levels and resources. Councillor Rhodes replied that senior managers were very conscious of this from the start and had appointed a deputy for the Head of Regulatory Services, the Local Plan Manager, who had reinforced the team.

Councillor O'Callaghan asked when the new housing data was due. The Strategic Director (CM) replied that the SHMA was due to be reported in May to the Member Advisory Group. This would be a technical exercise to arrive at the numbers, not the Duty to Co-operate which would take longer. Councillor O'Callaghan asked if Melton's figures were satisfactory, could the Council go straight ahead. The Local Plan Manager explained that the Inspector was keen to ensure housing needs across the housing market areas were adequately accommodated; the Leicestershire councils were in partnership and accordingly this Council must co-operate to meet the overall needs of the county and therefore could not necessarily go straight ahead. Councillor O'Callaghan said he had attended a meeting at Charnwood where it had been reported that if their SHMA figures did not differ significantly then they would proceed immediately. He asked the officer if this Council would agree with this approach. The Local Plan Manager responded that the first proposed route would be to achieve the co-operation required by the Localism Act 2011 which would have to be tested. It would be down to the Inspector to consider. Councillor Rhodes added that it would be down to each local planning authority to sign up.

A vote was then taken on the motion which was carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** That the following documents, as appended to the report circulated, be adopted:

- (1) The Melton Local Development Scheme April 2014;
- (2) The Local Plan Phasing Plan and Timetable 2014 Update;
- (3) The Draft Melton Statement of Community Involvement April 2014 for a six week consultation, with authority delegated to the Head of Regulatory Services to approve and minor amendments following the responses received..

[Councillors Holmes, Orson, and Twitney here returned to the meeting.]

After Councillor Simpson sought and received clarification from the Strategic Director (CM) on the decision taken at minute CO85(b) regarding the amended wording to the changes to the Constitution in relation to Recorded Votes, the meeting which had commenced at 6.30pm was closed by the Mayor at 8.36pm.

Mayor