



MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE BOROUGH OF MELTON

PARKSIDE, STATION APPROACH, BURTON STREET, MELTON MOWBRAY

23 FEBRUARY 2017

PRESENT

Councillor D.R. Wright (Mayor)
P.J. Baguley, T.S. Bains, T. Beaken, M. Blase,
G.E. Botterill, P.M. Chandler, T. Culley, P. Cumbers,
R.A. de Burle, J.M. Douglas, M. Glancy, M.C.R. Graham,
L. Higgins, E. Holmes, E. Hutchison, J. Illingworth,
J.T. Orson, A. Pearson, P.M. Posnett,
J.B. Rhodes, M.R. Sheldon, J. Wyatt

Chief Executive,
Strategic Director (KA), Head of Central Services,
Head of Communications, Democracy & Involvement Officer,
Administration Assistant – Communications & Member Support

Deacon Dawn Canham from Melton Mowbray Methodist Church offered prayers. A Prayer was offered and a minute silence was held in respect of Councillor Valerie Manderson, who passed away on Monday, 20 February 2017.

CO86. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Greenow, Hurrell, Lumley and Simpson.

CO87. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2017 were moved and seconded as a true record of the meeting by Councillor Posnett and Councillor Higgins and following a vote, were signed by the Mayor.

CO88. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillors Graham and Orson each declared a personal interest in paragraph 3.1.3 of the Council Tax 2017/18 Report, due to their roles on the Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Panel.

CO89. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor

- (a) expressed his condolences to the family of Councillor Manderson, who would be sadly missed. The Melton Borough flag had been flown half-mast at Parkside, as a mark of respect.
- (b) reported that since the Full Council meeting on 8 February, he had attended
 - i. an enjoyable Valentine's Day event at Scaford Hall
 - ii. the Melton Lions Seniors Concert at the Melton Theatre, where he had a very entertaining afternoon with a variety of local talent
 - iii. assisted MARS to promote Melton as a 'Pet Friendly Town', which included having a number of promotional photo's taken
- (b) advised that his diary continued to fill with forthcoming events and invitations, including HM The Queen's visit to Leicester for the Maundy Service on 13th April
- (c) reminded Members of the 6 March closing date of his Mayor's Awards, encouraging all to nominate individuals or groups they knew worthy of recognition. He also asked those Members who had not responded to the invitation to his Civic Dinner on 10 March to do so and expressed the hope that as many Members as possible would attend
- (d) confirmed that on 13 March, Melton would again participate in the shared celebration of the family of nations and territories, which represented a third of the world's population by flying the flag for Commonwealth Day
- (e) thanked Councillor Bains for deputising for him at the Charity Curry Night, hosted by the Mayor of Oadby and Wigston.

CO90. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader presented her report to Council, during which she

- (a) referred to the paper before Members, concerning the setting of the Council Tax for 2017/18, highlighting
 - between 2015/16 and 2019/20, this Council's grant from the Government would reduce by £933k, which was a reduction of 42%. This was in addition to a previous reduction of 1.9m or 52% from 2010/11 to 2015/16
 - the Government had allowed rural Councils to manage these cuts by allowing an increase to the average Council Tax by a flat rate of £5 a year. If approved, this is an average 2.69% increase, including the parish precepts, which was an increase of just under 10p per week, in an average band D

property would mean the delivery of a balanced budget, demonstrating that this Council had lived within its means

- in future, this Council would need to look at how to maximise its income and grow its economy by initiatives such as the Community Lottery, in order to continue to support those in our community who are the most in need

(b) advised that she and the Deputy Leader had met with five Bidders, who were interested in working with this Council to develop our Sports and Leisure Vision. It was a positive meeting with many questions being asked

(c) confirmed that the following day, she would meet with the Consultant who was assisting with the recruitment of a new Chief Executive

(d) concluded that following on from the previous Facebook Live session on the Local Plan, there had been some interest in doing another, following Council's decision on whether or not to approve Local Plan.

Following the presentation of her report, the Leader and Members paid tribute to Councillor Manderson. She would be missed by Members, Council Staff and residents and would be remembered as conscientious, courageous and fun, with a wealth of experience that brought great value to this Council. Members recalled her popularity, kind disposition and concern for others and the encouragement she gave and high esteem she held for people. A Member remembered the words of encouragement she offered to others as 'Dust yourself down. Onward and upward'.

CO91. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions submitted from members of the public.

CO92. PETITIONS

No petitions had been received.

CO93. RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Governance Committee: 7 February 2017 – Constitution Update 2016/17

Councillor Chandler moved the recommendation on the Order Paper, stating that Members had before them proposed updates and amendments for adoption and inclusion in the Constitution. These involved Planning matters, the Substitute Policy for Committees and Sub Committees and updating reference to the Equality Act to 2010, in the Members' Code of Conduct. With regard to the Substitute Policy, Councillor Chandler highlighted that some Committee meetings had been poorly attended and Members had commented that they were unsure of their Substitute Members. As such, Governance Committee had requested that all Substitute Members be listed on agendas, so that Members could always send Substitutes if they were unable to attend a meeting. Councillor Sheldon seconded the motion and upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

RESOLVED: that the following be adopted and incorporated into this Council's Constitution:-

- (1) Part 4 – Rules of Procedure
Procedure Rule 22.2 – Public Speaking at Planning Committee
To approve the tracked changed amendments to Part 4 (Appendix A), Procedure Rule 22.2 relating to public speaking at the Planning Committee
- (2) Part 5 – Codes and Protocols
Code of Conduct for Members and Officers dealing with Planning Matters

To approve the tracked changed amendments to Part 5 (Appendix B), relating to the Code of Conduct for Members and Officers dealing with Planning Matters
- (3) Part 4 – Rules of Procedure
Substitute Policy for Committees and Sub Committees
To approve a slightly updated version of the Substitute Policy which amends the example Attendance Register to reflect current Members
- (4) Part 5 – Codes and Protocols
Members' Code of Conduct – Page 5
To update reference to the Equality Act to be 2010 and not 2006

CO94. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

- (a) Members had before them the reports of the following Committees, upon which the Chairmen of those Committees may be asked to answer any questions upon items when those items are being received or under consideration by the Council in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.1 of the Constitution :-

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Planning Committee | 1 December 2016 |
| Town Area Committee | 19 December 2016 |
| Planning Committee | 22 December 2016 |
| Rural, Economic & Environmental Affairs Committee | 11 January 2017 |
| Planning Committee | 12 January 2017 |
| Community & Social Affairs Committee | 24 January 2017 |
| Policy, Finance & Administration Committee | 25 January 2017 |
| Ad hoc Policy, Finance & Administration Committee | 1 February 2017 |
| Planning Committee | 2 February 2017 |
| Ad hoc Policy, Finance & | 6 February 2017 |

- (b) Councillor Culley stated that her name had been spelled incorrectly in the section recording Members present for Town Area Committee held on 19 December 2016. There being no other comments or questions in relation to the sets of minutes presented, the reports of the committees were noted.

CO95. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

There were no motions on notice submitted.

CO96. COUNCIL TAX 2017/18

The Leader presented the report prepared by the Head of Central Services, as circulated with the agenda, concerning the calculation and setting of the Council Tax for 2017/18, as required under the Local Government Finance Act 1992. She explained that the figures took into account the precept level of other precepting bodies and the paper contained detailed information about how this was done. She moved the recommendation as contained in the report and this was seconded by Councillor Higgins, who commented that living within a balanced budget was crucially important for the residents of Melton Mowbray. He said that as a representative for the Sparse Group, representations had been made to Government, informing them what the grant reduction would mean to this council and the residents of Melton Mowbray.

Before moving to the vote, the Head of Central Services acknowledged that it had been difficult to set the Council Tax for 2017/18, due to the late receipt of the financial settlement and the Bottesford Parish Council precept and a Member spoke in agreement with Councillor Higgins' comments, stating that rural areas appeared to be at a disadvantage in respect of Council Tax rates compared with London and this needed to be challenged.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 15.5(b), a recorded vote was then taken

| Councillor | For | Against | Abstain | Absent |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|--------|
| Baguley | √ | | | |
| Bains | √ | | | |
| Beaken | √ | | | |
| Blase | √ | | | |
| Botterill | √ | | | |
| Chandler | √ | | | |
| Culley | √ | | | |

| | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Cumbers | √ | | | |
| De Burle | √ | | | |
| Douglas | √ | | | |
| Glancy | √ | | | |
| Graham | √ | | | |
| Greenow | | | | √ |
| Higgins | √ | | | |
| Holmes | √ | | | |
| Hurrell | | | | √ |
| Hutchison | √ | | | |
| Illingworth | √ | | | |
| Lumley | | | | √ |
| Orson | √ | | | |
| Pearson | √ | | | |
| Posnett | √ | | | |
| Rhodes | √ | | | |
| Sheldon | √ | | | |
| Simpson | | | | √ |
| Wright | √ | | | |
| Wyatt | √ | | | |
| Vacancy | | | | |
| Totals | 23 | 0 | 0 | 4 |

RESOLVED: that this Council note the calculations and set the Council Tax for the year 2017/18, in accordance with regulations set out in the Local Government Finance Act 1992

CO97. SENIOR MANAGEMENT REVIEW SUB COMMITTEE

The Leader moved the recommendation on the Order Paper, stating that the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee had set up the above mentioned Sub-Committee at its meeting on 6 February 2017. The Sub-Committee would be subject to the rules of Political Balance, with six Conservative and one Independent Member. The Chief Executive would exercise her delegated authority to implement the wishes of the Groups as appropriate. The Conservative Group wished two of those Members to be appointed to the Sub-Committee who did not sit on the

Committee. This was to ensure views and understanding across the Council's priorities were appropriately represented. The Consultant, who was assisting with the recruitment of the new Chief Executive had advised that the selection process could involve a group of Members, whose views would be formally fed through to the Sub Committee. Councillor Higgins seconded the motion and upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

RESOLVED: that Councillor John Illingworth and Councillor Malise Graham be appointed to the Senior Management Review Sub-Committee for the duration of its tenure.

The meeting, which commenced at 6.30 p.m., closed at 7.05 p.m.

Mayor