

Minutes

Meeting name	Council
Date	Wednesday, 24 May 2023
Start time	6.30 pm
Venue	Parkside, Station Approach, Burton Street, Melton Mowbray LE13 1GH

Present:

Chair Councillor A. Hewson (Chair)

Councillors

J. Adcock	P. Allnatt
I. Atherton	S. Atherton
M. Brown	R. Browne
S. Butcher	S. Carter
R. Child	H. Cliff
S. Cox	P. Cumbers
C. Evans	A. Freer
M. Glancy	M. Gordon
M. Graham MBE	L. Higgins
S. Lumley	J. Mason
J. Orson	S. Orson
C. Pitt Miller	D. Pritchett
R. Sharp	A. Thwaites
T. Webster	

Officers

- Chief Executive
- Director for Housing and Communities (Deputy Chief Executive)
- Director for Corporate Services
- Director for Growth and Regeneration
- Deputy Monitoring Officer
- Senior Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer
- Democratic Services Officer (HA)
- Democratic Services Officer (SE)
- Democratic Services Officer (CT)

Minute No.	Minute
CO1	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>No apologies for absence were received.</p>
CO2	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2023 and the Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 26 April 2023 were confirmed.</p> <p>(9 For, 0 Against, 19 Abstentions)</p>
CO3	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>Councillor Butcher declared an other registerable interest in relation to the report on Appointments to Outside Bodies and Working Groups as she is a Director of the Business Improvement District. Butcher</p> <p>Councillor Freer declared an other registerable interest in relation to the report on Appointments to Outside Bodies and Working Groups as she is a Director of the Business Improvement District.</p> <p>A personal interest in respect of Councillor Orson was noted as being on record for any matters which related to the Leicestershire County Council.</p>
CO4	<p>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <p>The Mayor made the following speech.</p> <p><i>“During my year in office, I have been honoured to represent the people of the Borough at so many events and activities both in Melton and beyond. I have seen at first hand all the good work that goes on behind the scenes to make our community come together for the good of us all.</i></p> <p><i>The fund-raising, ceremonies, businesses and community gatherings have shown me how important it is for people to work together to improve and shape the lives of those who live, work and visit the Borough and at all times, I have seen such huge community spirit across the Borough.</i></p> <p><i>£6,200 has been raised for my nominated charities of Loros and Dove Cottage and I am grateful to all those who have contributed and supported me to reach this amazing sum which will positively impact on the lives of all those using these facilities.</i></p> <p><i>During the year, I have attended over 120 engagements and have felt welcomed and privileged to be invited to so many events.</i></p> <p><i>It has been difficult for me to select just a few events that have stood out but three of them have been momentous occasions for all of us:</i></p> <p><i>Platinum Jubilee – June 2022</i></p> <p><i>The concert in the park was a wonderful day with a great turnout and the sun shone for us too! A beautiful piece of music called Happy and Glorious was especially</i></p>

written for the event by Leigh Baker and there was a competition for the lyrics to the piece run through the Borough's schools. The event involved local school pupils, the Melton Town Band, the Melton Church Choir and the Global Harmony Choir.

The Proclamation – September 2022

There was a time of enormous sadness and mourning last September with the passing of the late Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Following this most devastating event, the Council was required to swear its allegiance and make a proclamation to the new King, King Charles III.

The Proclamation was held at the Council Offices and although we were still mourning our Queen, it was a ceremonial event full of hope for the future. It was a highlight of my year in office and an experience I will never forget.

Coronation of King Charles III

I also had the privilege of being the Mayor of the Borough for the coronation events of King Charles III just a few weeks ago. I represented the Borough at a service in St Mary's Church alongside the Lord Lieutenant which included the unveiling of the Coronation Oak at Egerton Park and a tour of the Market Place.

Outgoing Members

I would like to pay tribute to the outgoing and recently retired members, some of whom are with us this evening.

Each and every one championed the people and needs of their ward as well as enthusiastically taking up their Council appointments.

They were all trusted and well-respected Councillors by colleagues and officers alike and their services to the Borough have been much valued and appreciated. I formally thank those previous Members for your service to Melton Borough Council – and for some that service reached over 20 years.

I am delighted to present a certificate of recognition to each of the following outgoing Councillors:

- *Rob Bindloss*
- *Pru Chandler*
- *Ronnie de Burle*
- *Jeanne Douglas*
- *Peter Faulkner*
- *Chris Fisher*
- *Elaine Holmes*
- *John Illingworth*
- *Pam Posnett MBE*
- *Rebecca Smith*
- *Jacob Wilkinson*
- *Philip Wood*

The Mayor then presented a certificate of recognition to those past Councillors present at the meeting before finishing his speech.

Arrangements for this evening

Finally, should this meeting still be ongoing, a motion will be proposed as we approach 9 pm.

	<p><i>The purpose of this is so that the Mayoress and I can host our guests for refreshments before reconvening the meeting at 9:30 pm.</i></p> <p><i>Thank you.”</i></p>
CO5	<p>ELECTION OF MAYOR (Chief Executive in the Chair)</p> <p>Councillor Glancy proposed Councillor Hewson be elected Mayor of the Borough until the Annual Council meeting in 2024. Councillor Allnatt seconded the motion and Council</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>that Councillor Hewson be elected Mayor of the Borough of Melton for the period until the Annual Council meeting in 2024.</p> <p>(27 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention)</p> <p>Councillor Hewson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, resumed the Chair and thanked Members for re-electing him to the position of Mayor.</p>
CO6	<p>ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR</p> <p>Councillor S Atherton proposed Councillor Webster be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough until the Annual Council meeting in 2024. Councillor Graham seconded the motion and Council</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>that Councillor Webster be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Melton for the period until the Annual Council meeting in 2024.</p> <p>(27 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstentions)</p> <p>Councillor Webster signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and he and his consort, Mrs Webster, were invested with the Chains of Office. Councillor Webster gave thanks for his election as Deputy Mayor.</p>
CO7	<p>ELECTION OF LEADER</p> <p>Councillor Freer proposed Councillor Graham be elected Leader of the Council until the Annual Council meeting in 2027. Councillor Evans seconded the motion.</p> <p>Councillor Glancy proposed Councillor Allnatt be elected Leader of the Council until the Annual Council meeting in 2027. Councillor Cox seconded the motion.</p> <p>Both candidates made short speeches in favour of their candidacies with Councillor Graham speaking first and Cllr Allnatt speaking after, and Council</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>that Councillor Allnatt be elected Leader of the Council for the period until</p>

	<p>the Annual Council Meeting in 2027.</p> <p>(Graham 11, Allnatt 13, Abstentions 4)</p>
CO8	<p>NOTIFICATION BY THE LEADER OF THE APPOINTMENT TO THE CABINET</p> <p>Councillor Allnatt thanked Council for electing him Leader of the Council. He stated that he would operate a Cabinet of five Members. This includes himself as Leader and Councillor Glancy as Deputy Leader. Councillors Butcher, Cox and Cumbers will also join the Cabinet.</p> <p>It was noted that the Leader’s Scheme of Delegation including a breakdown of the Portfolios will follow the meeting. Councillor Allnatt then made the following speech.</p> <p><i>“I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have gone before and have endeavoured to serve our community, something which I do respect.</i></p> <p><i>All Members will start with me with a clean slate. This is not a meritocracy, this is a democracy and every Member who comes to the table comes because they've been elected and have something to say. From me you will get complete patience, perseverance and wherever possible an accommodation for what your opinion happens to be at that time but the election is over and it's been said before and I will repeat it again the public expects us to get on with the job we must all earn that trust and for my part I'm clear that their mandate is for change and for all of us to work together for the common good.</i></p> <p><i>I am honoured and grateful that councillors have put their trust in me to lead this task. Our efforts must be for the whole Borough as well as for the town of Melton, so I do look forward to working with Parish councils who are at the heart of our broader community.</i></p> <p><i>On policy we have already agreed a slimmer Cabinet this will [involve] more focus and better involvement by all Members before decisions are made. To this end, and I think broadly speaking I agree with Councillor Graham on this, what's important is to analyse the problems properly, prepare thoroughly and implement in an orderly manner and that must of course include an eye on the cost of everything and where we go in the long term.</i></p> <p><i>To ensure this happens we believe it is time to review the strong cabinet system and implement a return to either a full committee system or at least a hybrid one under a no overall control. This is a rather pragmatic approach anyway but we believe in a Local Authority of this size is actually rather better than trying to ape some of the larger authorities.</i></p> <p><i>Our policies will be firmly rooted in providing our core services to our communities in a timely, effective and efficient manner. Now I recognise outside of those core facilities there are other things which prey on our minds that some of them are very aspirational and some stretch the capital program to its limits and new members and old members who attended briefings in since the election will be fully aware by now that local government here, and throughout the country, is on a knife edge for the reasons which have been relayed including Covid, the war in Ukraine and other things that ripple through the system and we can't avoid it.</i></p> <p><i>Now I just want to conclude by repeating something I've heard since the election</i></p>

and it really relates to what's on a lot of minds here and that's the future of the High Street in in Melton and other related matters.

Long-standing trades people in the town said that they gave this High Street a year and they were really pessimistic and at the cheese fair I visited in the Stockyard I heard another trader in this Borough reference the fact that he finds no difficulty in selling his products across the country but he finds great difficulty in selling it into Europe, so much so that is now producing the goods in the Middle East. That's not an argument about Brexit, it's just a statement of fact that our local trades people are encountering difficulties. I don't know how true that is, it's what I heard, but I will certainly be looking into that because if it is true I think we as an interested party ought to consider how we can perhaps encourage him not to manufacture his products in the Middle East.

I will conclude with one metaphor that I heard many years ago and it was when England were playing Wales at the old Cardiff Arms Park and in those days rugby was a slow-moving game and it had been very muddy and it was bogged down, the ball had hardly got out of the scrum for about 20 minutes and eventually it came out it went to a fly half and he kicked it out of the stadium and 10 minutes later the cry came back we've lost the ball and somebody in the back row said never mind the ball let's get on with the game. The point he was making when I first heard that and I make now, we've got to keep our eye on the ball and that's making certain that everything we do for our community is relevant for the people who have elected us, so that's my plea and that's my resolve to go forward and listen to everybody, look at the facts, look at the alternatives and seek consensus wherever.

Thank you, Mr Mayor."

(At 7:33pm the Mayor adjourned the meeting.)
(The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 7:46pm.)

CO9

POLITICAL BALANCE AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS

(Prior to the consideration of this report, a revised Appendix A was circulated to Members.)

The Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced the report the political balance and allocation of seats to political groups. Councillor Allnatt moved the recommendations 2.1-2.7 of the report and Councillor Glancy seconded the motion.

RESOLVED

Council

- (1) APPOINTED the Scrutiny Committee and Standing Committees as set out in paragraph 5.3 for the Municipal Year 2023/24;**
- (2) AGREED the terms of reference and number of voting places on the Scrutiny Committee and Standing Committees as detailed at paragraphs 5.2 – 5.5 for the Municipal Year 2023/24;**
- (3) APPROVED the political balance calculation at paragraphs 5.6 – 5.9;**
- (4) APPROVED the allocation of seats on the Committees as set out in**

paragraph 5.10 and Working Groups as set out in paragraph 5.16.

(5) RECEIVED nominations and make appointments to Committees and Working Groups as notified by the Group Leaders and set out in Appendix A;

(6) AUTHORISED the Monitoring Officer to give effect to the wishes of the group in relation to adjustments to committee appointments where properly notified in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990;

(7) APPOINTED non-aligned members to their allocation of seats on Committees and Working Groups as set out in Appendix A;

(Unanimous)

Election of the Audit and Standards Committee Chair

Councillor Glancy proposed Councillor Higgins be elected Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee until the Annual Council meeting in 2024. Councillor Allnatt seconded the motion.

RESOLVED

that Councillor Higgins be elected Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee for the period until the Annual Council meeting in 2024.

(For 16, Against 0, Abstentions 12)

Election of the Audit and Standards Committee Vice Chair

Councillor Glancy proposed Councillor Mason be elected Vice Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee until the Annual Council meeting in 2024. Councillor Allnatt seconded the motion.

RESOLVED

that Councillor Mason be elected Vice Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee for the period until the Annual Council meeting in 2024.

(For 15, Against 0, Abstentions 13)

Election of the Employment Committee Chair

Councillor Glancy proposed Councillor Allnatt be elected Chair of the Employment Committee until the Annual Council meeting in 2024. Councillor Brown seconded the motion.

RESOLVED

that Councillor Allnatt be elected Chair of the Employment Committee for the period until the Annual Council meeting in 2024.

(For 15, Against 0, Abstentions 13)

Election of the Employment Committee Vice Chair

Councillor Allnatt proposed Councillor Glancy be elected Vice Chair of the Employment Committee until the Annual Council meeting in 2024. Councillor Higgins seconded the motion.

RESOLVED

that Councillor Glancy be elected Vice Chair of the Employment Committee for the period until the Annual Council meeting in 2024.

(For 16, Against 0, Abstentions 12)

Election of the Licensing Committee Chair

Councillor Glancy proposed Councillor Carter be elected Chair of the Licensing Committee until the Annual Council meeting in 2024. Councillor Allnatt seconded the motion.

Councillor Graham proposed Councillor S Atherton be elected Chair of the Licensing Committee until the Annual Council meeting in 2024. Councillor Browne seconded the motion.

RESOLVED

that Councillor Carter be elected Chair of the Licensing Committee for the period until the Annual Council meeting in 2024.

(Carter 15, S Atherton 12, Abstentions 1)

Election of the Licensing Committee Vice Chair

Councillor Glancy proposed Councillor Lumley be elected Vice Chair of the Licensing Committee until the Annual Council meeting in 2024. Councillor Allnatt seconded the motion.

RESOLVED

that Councillor Lumley be elected Vice Chair of the Licensing Committee for the period until the Annual Council meeting in 2024.

(For 16, Against 0, Abstentions 12)

Election of the Planning Committee Chair

Councillor Glancy proposed Councillor Thwaites be elected Chair of the Planning Committee until the Annual Council meeting in 2024. Councillor Allnatt seconded the motion.

Councillor Graham proposed Councillor Evans be elected Chair of the Planning Committee until the Annual Council meeting in 2024. Councillor Browne seconded the motion.

RESOLVED

that Councillor Thwaites be elected Chair of the Planning Committee for the period until the Annual Council meeting in 2024.

	<p>(Thwaites 15, Evans 11, Abstentions 2)</p> <p>Election of the Planning Committee Vice Chair Councillor Allnatt proposed Councillor Mason be elected Vice Chair of the Planning Committee until the Annual Council meeting in 2024. Councillor Glancy seconded the motion.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>that Councillor Mason be elected Vice Chair of the Planning Committee for the period until the Annual Council meeting in 2024.</p> <p>(For 14, Against 0, Abstentions 14)</p> <p>Election of the Scrutiny Committee Chair Councillor Allnatt proposed Councillor Brown be elected Chair of the Scrutiny Committee until the Annual Council meeting in 2024. Councillor Glancy seconded the motion.</p> <p>Councillor Graham proposed Councillor Child be elected Chair of the Scrutiny Committee until the Annual Council meeting in 2024. Councillor Browne seconded the motion.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>that Councillor Brown be elected Chair of the Scrutiny Committee for the period until the Annual Council meeting in 2024.</p> <p>(Brown 13, Child 11, Abstentions 4)</p> <p>Election of the Scrutiny Committee Vice Chair Councillor Glancy proposed Councillor Thwaites be elected Vice Chair of the Scrutiny Committee until the Annual Council meeting in 2024. Councillor Allnatt seconded the motion.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>that Councillor Thwaites be elected Vice Chair of the Scrutiny Committee for the period until the Annual Council meeting in 2024.</p> <p>(For 16, Against 0, Abstentions 12)</p>
CO10	<p>SCHEME OF DELEGATION AND THE CONSTITUTION The Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced a report on the Scheme of Delegation and the Constitution. Councillor Allnatt moved the recommendations of the report and Councillor Glancy seconded the motion.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>Council</p> <p>(1) APPROVED the Officer Scheme of Delegation.</p>

	<p>(2) CONFIRMED the Constitution.</p> <p>(Unanimous)</p>
CO11	<p>PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2023/24</p> <p>The Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced the report on the Programme of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2023/24. Councillor Allnatt moved the recommendations of the report and Councillor Glancy seconded the motion.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>Council</p> <p>APPROVED the Programme of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2023/24.</p> <p>(Unanimous)</p>
CO12	<p>APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND WORKING GROUPS</p> <p>The Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced the report on appointments to outside bodies and working groups. Councillor Allnatt moved the recommendations of the report and Councillor Glancy seconded the motion.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>Council</p> <p>(1) NOTED the appointments in Column A of Appendix A (designated according to the role/portfolio holder/ward member).</p> <p>(2) APPOINTED representatives to serve on the outside bodies and working groups listed at Appendix A (other than those in Column A).</p> <p>(3) AGREED the proposed allocation of seats on the Constitution Review Working Group and the Climate Change Emergency Working Group as indicated in Appendix A.</p> <p>(Unanimously)</p>

The meeting closed at: 8.28 pm

Mayor