

Minutes

Meeting name	Council
Date	Thursday, 16 May 2024
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	M. Clay
H. Cliff	S. Cox
P. Cumbers	C. Evans
A. Freer	M. Glancy
M. Gordon	L. Higgins
S. Lumley	J. Orson
S. Orson	R. Sharp
A. Thwaites	T. Webster

Officers

Chief Executive
 Assistant Director for Governance and Democracy (Monitoring Officer)
 Director for Housing and Communities (Deputy Chief Executive)
 Director for Corporate Services
 Senior Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer
 Democratic Services Officer (HA)
 Democratic Services Officer (CB)
 Democratic Services Officer (SE)

The Reverend Dr Mary Barr offered prayers.

Minute No.	Minute
CO1	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mason and Pritchett.</p>
CO2	<p>MINUTES The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2024 were confirmed. (23 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention)</p>
CO3	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST A personal interest in respect of Councillor J Orson was noted as being on record for any matters which related to the Leicestershire County Council.</p>
CO4	<p>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS The Mayor gave an update on events he has attended since the last Council meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stamford Civic parade and Service attended by the Deputy Mayor • St Georges Day Parade attended by the Mayor • Men's international cycle classic race attended by the Mayor • 80 D Day service and parade attended by the Mayor <p>The Mayor then made the following speech:</p> <p><i>Honorary Aldermen, Guests, Fellow Councillors, Ladies & Gentlemen, these last two years have passed so quickly and although I feel a degree of sadness it is coming to an end, it will be good to have a rest!</i></p> <p><i>I would like to thank my wife, Jane, for all her support and encouragement throughout my term of office, for standing by me with weekends and evening events taking over our time alongside the running of the farm and our family life, I really could not have done it without her. Thank you.</i></p> <p><i>The Mayoress and I have found it a hugely rewarding experience though and we have been very grateful for the opportunity to meet so many interesting people and visit such a variety of places, the memories will stay with us for a long time to come.</i></p> <p><i>I have enjoyed and benefited from meeting other Civic Heads in Leicestershire and neighbouring districts; it is the people you meet that make the event so special.</i></p> <p><i>There have been many highlights of my two years in office; and one of my proudest events was hosting the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II, in May 2022, though this was sadly followed by her death in September 2022 and my reading of the Proclamation for King Charles III and that led to the Coronation in May 2023.</i></p>

	<p><i>On this final day in office as Mayor, I wish to thank all the people, organisations, and businesses of Melton Borough who continue to welcome and support the role of Mayor in our community, all invitations to the Mayor are important as someone has thought it worthwhile to invite you.</i></p> <p><i>I would like to thank Councillors, past and present, for their support and I must extend my appreciation to Officers and Staff of this Council for their help and advice during the year and in managing the Mayoral diary and events. I would especially like to express my thanks to Malise Graham, who, as you all know has now stepped down after 37 years from being a ward councillor, his guidance and advice has been invaluable having 3 years of Mayoralty experience to draw on. Thank you.</i></p> <p><i>I would like to also pass my thanks, to Reverend Mary Barr from St Mary's Parish Church, Pastor Neal Swettenham from the Melton Vineyard church and Reverend Ruth Simpson, Superintendent Minister Melton Mowbray Methodist Circuit, who have guided and assisted me on numerous occasions including the Christmas Carol Service, Armed Forces Fly the Flag service and in saying prayers at Full Council. Thank you</i></p> <p><i>I would like to pass my thanks and appreciation to the support of the Royal Air Force Cadets from the 1279 (Melton Mowbray) Squadron, for assisting me at armed forces events during the year. Thank you.</i></p> <p><i>I wish the incoming Mayor, Councillor Tim Webster, and his Consort, Mrs Sally-Anne Webster, an enjoyable and rewarding Mayoral Year, and thank Councillor Webster for his support during this past 12 months.</i></p> <p><i>On behalf of Jane and myself, thank you to you all for giving us the privilege of being the Mayor and Mayoress of Melton Borough. Thank you.</i></p> <p>At 6:45pm, Councillor R Browne entered the meeting.</p>
CO5	<p>ELECTION OF MAYOR</p> <p>Councillor Allnatt proposed Councillor Webster be elected Mayor of the Borough until the Annual Council meeting in 2025. Councillor Browne seconded the motion.</p> <p>Council</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>that Councillor Webster be elected Mayor of the Borough of Melton for the period until the Annual Council meeting in 2025.</p> <p>(24 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention)</p>

The Mayor signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and he and his consort, Mrs Sally-Anne Webster, were invested with the Chains of Office. Once invested, the Mayor gave the following speech:

Distinguished guests, fellow Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen, firstly, may I thank my fellow Councillors and my proposer, Cllr Pip Allnatt and seconder, Cllr Ronan Browne for their support and the trust they have placed in me, for the election of Mayor of the Borough of Melton.

I wish to pay tribute to Alan and Jane the out-going Mayor and Mayoress for the way in which they have carried out their numerous duties over the last 2 years above and beyond. It has been a pleasure for me and Sally-Anne to serve as your deputies for this last year, representing yourselves on several occasions throughout the year and we thank you, for all your help, advice and support in preparing us for our year as Mayor and Mayoress of the Borough of Melton.

Councillor Glancy proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Allnatt seconded the proposal.

Council confirmed the vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor and Mayoress.

The new Mayor Councillor Webster then made his announcements.

Thank you all again.

Myself and my wife, Sally-Anne, are honoured to have the opportunity to promote all that is best in the Borough and the town of Melton Mowbray and all they have to offer.

I can promise you, that I wear this chain with great pride, and I pledge to uphold the dignity and honour that this position demands, and I look forward to severing and promoting all that is best within the Borough and the Town of Melton Mowbray.

Having come from a Melton family, born, and bred, anyone who knows me, knows I am very passionate about Melton and will champion Melton wherever possible to my best ability.

My chosen charities are:

- *Belvoir Cricket & Countryside Trust – I invite Michael Cooke to come forward and make a 5 minute presentation, there is a short video for you to watch.*
Representatives from the Belvoir Cricket & Countryside Trust gave a short presentation and a video was played.

- *Prostaïd cancer support group – and I invite Rob White to come forward and make a 5 minute presentation.*

	<p>Rob White of Prostaïd gave a presentation to Council.</p> <p><i>I am sure these charities are very well known to you all and I hope you agree that they deserve all the support we can give.</i></p> <p><i>I would also like to give thanks to Richard Griffith from Samworth Brothers for producing a ceremonial pork pie for the new mayor, which you will be able to sample later.</i></p> <p><i>I ask you all for your generosity and support of my fundraising events during my Mayoral Year. Look out for Quizzes with auctions and daytime disco at Tubes Nightclub, which will be from 2pm-7pm.</i></p> <p><i>I have already accepted eight invitations to events in the next few weeks and I will cover these in further detail at the next council meeting in July 2024.</i></p> <p><i>Thank you for my election.</i></p>
CO6	<p>ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR</p> <p>Councillor Browne proposed Councillor S Atherton be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough until the Annual Council meeting in 2025. Councillor Allnatt seconded the motion.</p> <p>Council</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>that Councillor S Atherton be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Melton for the period until the Annual Council meeting in 2025.</p> <p>(23 For, 0 Against, 2 Abstentions)</p> <p>Councillor S Atherton signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and she and her consort, Councillor I Atherton, were invested with the Chains of Office. Councillor S Atherton gave thanks for her election as Deputy Mayor.</p>
CO7	<p>NOTIFICATION BY THE LEADER OF THE APPOINTMENT TO THE CABINET</p> <p>The Leader asked that:</p> <p>Council noted the Deputy Leader, Cabinet Membership, the Portfolio Holders and the Scheme of Delegation is unchanged for the new municipal year.</p> <p>The Leader gave thanks to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Alan Hewson for his work in the role of Mayor over the past year, as well as the support provided by the Mayoress. Helen Ainge behind the

scenes and ensuring the Mayor knew where he ought to be.

- The new Mayor, Councillor Tim Webster and his consort Sally-Ann for the past year and high hopes for the coming one.
- Councillor Siggy Atherton for agreeing to become Deputy Mayor and to her consort, Councillor Ian Atherton for his support.
- The Caretaking team for helping to make this building tick, they are always cheerful, helpful, the first to come and the last to leave.
- The Election Services team and the wider team who ran the recent election and count for the Police and Crime Commissioner so efficiently. Melton was the first to declare the result on the Friday.
- The Leader also gave thanks to the many hundreds of residents who contribute so much to the life of the local communities. Most are unpaid, self-sacrificing, and dedicated to the job in hand. Without this volunteer army, so much of what we value would not be possible.
- The Leader congratulated to the re-elected Police and Crime Commissioner in the recent election.
- Thanks, were also given to 3 staff members as they leave the Council: Amelia Bailey, David Hayton-Hill and Pranali Parikh. We wish them all well.

The Leader then reflected on the past year and his consideration of the next one. He started by stating that the past year started with the tail end of the previous administration, an election with many new faces, new partnerships and for officers a period of upheaval and uncertainty. The year has been one of consolidation, preparation and focusing on both urgent issues and big-ticket items. The coming year will continue some of that but with more detail, turning strategies into policies and policies into actions.

The Leader stated that on taking office, it was clear that in the short term the general position was stable but in the medium to long term it was precarious, based upon the Council's resources and regulation by central Government. The administration agreed to not over commit on revenue or running cost expenditure, minimise drawing down from reserves, seek additional external funding and Government grants. The approach continues into this year.

Debt, post COVID was too high on the Housing Revenue Account. By devoting more resources this is now coming down. In doing this the Council have also been active in supporting tenants in financial difficulty. Officers are working with other agencies and charities to achieve this aim. Naturally this work will continue.

Part of the financial environment is of course asset management including the disposal of assets. Due to insufficient staff, record keeping and monitoring has been poor in recent years. This problem has been recognised with vacancies filled, and a start made to improve. The Leader thanked all staff involved for responding to Councillor Cox's leadership on these matters. They are doing this at the same time as supporting multi-million-pound projects, Council housing and new proposals.

On sale of assets, the Council have proceeded with the previous decision to sell “site A” at the cattle market. The general policy options for a similar disposal of “site B” is on hold pending the works for the LUF constructions on sites E and D. From a practical point of view this will be the case for the whole of this municipal year. The Council must proceed with caution, as assets provide utility as well as one-off cash when sold.

The Council have made real progress in adopting the new asset management plan, as well as reset the focus for a GP surgery and rejected the scheme to provide a completely new build at the Melton Sports Village campus.

The new administration rejected the notion of a hotel development at Parkside.

As a result, the Council has secured a commitment from the NHS Integrated Care Board to develop a plan for incorporating a GP surgery at Parkside. The costed business case is being developed and will be considered over the coming months. This will mean surplus space at Parkside will cease to be a financial burden and local private hotels are expanding without uncertainty.

The Council have been able to retain an improved swimming pool serving 18 school curriculums and several other groups. The Council have a 10-year contract for Waterfield and MSV turning a £0.8m net loss into a £1m gain. While investing nearly £2m for building and service improvements. Thanks to our local schools, dry sport groups affected by the changes have been accommodated.

The Leader was very pleased that the Council were able to give a grant for the town’s soft play venue, Jungle Bugs.

Looking to the future, work is progressing on schedule for completion this year at Waterfield and MSV. Local Groups are being invited to consider the shape and provision more generally across the Borough and replacement facilities at the end of the 10-year contract.

The early focus of the new Council was to increase engagement with communities and make Melton Cleaner and Greener. The administration delivered a number of early quick wins, while developing our new corporate strategy, these included:

- Officers and members working alongside tenants with community cleanups and community action days.
- Promoted responsible dog ownership to combat environmental crime, ensuring local businesses can dispose of their waste and working alongside the Police on stop and search initiatives to catch fly-tippers as part of a focus on rural crime.
- Launched the Well-Kept Garden recognition scheme and unveiled the ‘Letters to Heaven’ memorial post box.
- Significant progress was made in planting trees with thanks to Councillors Glancy and Lumley for their support in this.

The administration established new working groups to focus on our Town Centre and Asset Development Programme and this has helped guide the work that has been undertaken this last year. With the conclusion of the Governance work it is hoped that the collaborative approach is enshrined into the Constitution at Council later this year.

The Council have allocated funding from the UKSPF, as well as the Council's own resources to invest in greening the town, developing a new design guide, and supporting partners at Melton in Bloom.

The Council held a cost-of-living event in Bottesford and established the Rural Food Hub to increase focus on rural communities. A new health screening clinic for Farmers at the Livestock Market was launched, which focuses on mental health support.

As a Council more access to Household Support Grants has been provided than any other Leicestershire District Council, with almost 5000 household benefiting. Alongside this the Community Support Hub based as Phoenix House have supported hundreds of residents across the Borough. The digital support at Phoenix House is in demand and the digital support across the Borough is being increased through our UKSPF funding.

The Council have had incredible success with UKSPF funded work and skills project and are on course to exceed its targets by the end of the reporting period. The Council will shortly be launching a scheme for residents to access retail discounts on an ongoing basis,

The 'Let's Get Moving' Roadshow was taken out to a number of rural communities, following the success of these events, the Council hosted the first Let's Get Moving Awards in October for community and sports groups who have made huge contributions to physical activity, health, and wellbeing across the district.

Work on making the best use of the Levelling Up Fund continues, it is anticipated the application for the Stockyard would be submitted in the next month. Regrettably the College are not in a position to utilise the £2m Levelling Up Funding allocated to the theatre, due to intervention of the Further Education Commissioner. An agreement has been reached with Rutland to retain this money in Melton, options are being explored on how best this could be used to support the original aspirations of the bid, albeit in a different way. The Council will continue to work with the college on how to support them in safeguarding the future of the theatre and educational provision within Melton.

It has been a pleasure for the Council to administer capital community grants totalling £147K and business grants just over £152K.

The Council continue to manage our finances well, setting another balanced budget

in February and have introduced e-billing for Council Tax bills to increase efficiency. The Council have completed the first stage of the Healthy Workplaces accreditation, showing focus on attracting and retaining the best possible team by being a great place to work. The importance of Civic occasions is recognised with the co-ordinating a fantastic Remembrance Parade and service working alongside the Royal British Legion.

The Council have continued to focus on housing quality and improvement, a number of new tenant policies have been implemented and the Housing Asset Management plan has been refreshed. A tenant's corner webpage has been launched and at Gretton Court there is a new independent living officer and the kitchens and bathrooms are being replaced. A Housing Support Review is being undertaken and a number of new council homes have been acquired. Alongside making preparations for the regulatory changes that took effect in April.

Melton Borough Council are one of the first Councils in the country subject to the first inspections and whilst the outcome is being awaited, the Leader stated that he is proud that the teams that have risen to the challenge.

The review of the existing Local Plan, which runs until 2036 is progressing well, the Council have set the agenda through a new Corporate Strategy to set out a longer-term vision, alongside a more detailed 4 year delivery plan.

The Council is continuing its commitment to engage with rural communities by establishing two Rural Area Liaison Forums. These are due to take place in August, with invites and more details to follow.

An issue that concerns many people is flooding, whilst the Council's statutory responsibilities and resources are limited, the Council has played a full and active part in responding to issues caused by the storms over the last year and administering Flood Recovery Support grants to households and businesses affected. These issues will be discussed at the aforementioned Rural Area Liaison Forums.

The Council are committed to making Melton a cleaner and greener place and are in the process of appointing a dedicated new Waste and Environmental Services Manager. The Council will be undertaking an evaluation of current service delivery, so it can be clear what is possible within current resources to see which areas can be improved, alongside accelerating our focus on food waste collection which needs to be in place from April 2026.

The Council would maintain our focus on the town centre, delivering the investments promised within the UKSPF and reviewing our approach to car parking.

The Leader gave thanks to all Members and Officers, who have made this possible. It has been a privilege to lead the Council and he looks forward to more progress in

	the coming year.
CO8	<p>POLITICAL BALANCE AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS</p> <p>The Monitoring Officer introduced the report the political balance and allocation of seats to political groups. Councillor Allnatt moved the recommendations of the report and Councillor Glancy seconded the motion.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>Council</p> <p>2.1 APPOINTED the Scrutiny Committee and Standing Committees as set out in paragraph 5.1.1 for the municipal year 2024/25;</p> <p>2.2 ESTABLISHED an additional Licensing Committee as detailed in Appendix D (Exempt document by virtue of Paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972);</p> <p>2.3 AGREED the terms of reference and number of voting places on the Scrutiny Committee, Standing Committees and newly established Licensing Committee as detailed at paragraphs 5.1.2 – 5.1.4 for the municipal year 2024/25;</p> <p>2.4 APPROVED the political balance calculation at paragraphs 5.2.1 – 5.2.4;</p> <p>2.5 APPROVED the allocation of seats on the Committees as set out in paragraph 5.3.1 and Working Groups as set out in paragraph 5.4.1.</p> <p>2.6 RECEIVED nominations and make appointments to Committees and Working Groups as notified by the Group Leaders and set out in Appendix A;</p> <p>2.7 AUTHROISED the Monitoring Officer to:</p> <p>2.7.1 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;</p> <p>2.7.2 amend the Constitution to reflect the role of the newly established Licensing Committee;</p> <p>2.8 APPOINTED non-aligned members to their allocation of seats on Committees and Working Groups as set out in Appendix A;</p> <p>2.9 ELECTED the Chairman and Vice Chairman for each of the Committees as set out below.</p> <p>2.9.1 Councillor Higgins was elected Chair of Audit & Standards Committee with Councillor Mason as the Vice Chair;</p>

	<p>2.9.2 Councillor Allnatt was elected Chair of the Employment Committee with Councillor Glancy elected as Vice Chair;</p> <p>2.9.3 Councillor Carter was elected Chair of the Licensing Committee (Taxi and General) with Councillor Lumley elected as Vice Chair;</p> <p>2.9.4 Councillor Carter was elected Chair of the Licensing Committee (Alcohol and Gambling) with Councillor Lumley elected as Vice Chair;</p> <p>2.9.5 Councillor Thwaites was elected Chair of the Planning Committee with Councillor Mason elected as Vice Chair; and</p> <p>2.9.6 Councillor Brown was elected Chair of the Scrutiny Committee with Councillor Thwaites elected as the Vice Chair.</p> <p>(Unanimous)</p>
CO9	<p>CONSTITUTION AND OFFICER SCHEME OF DELEGATION</p> <p>The 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>
CO10	<p>PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2024/25</p> <p>The Monitoring Officer introduced the report on the Programme of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2024/25. 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 2024/25 (Appendix A).</p> <p>(Unanimous)</p>
CO11	<p>APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES</p> <p>The Monitoring Officer introduced the report on appointments to outside bodies and</p>

working groups.

There was an amendment to the appointment of the Police and Crime Commissioner representative. Councillor Cox was appointed in place of the Leader, Councillor Allnatt.

Councillor Allnatt moved the recommendations of the report and Councillor Glancy seconded the motion with the amendment.

RESOLVED

Council

2.1 NOTED the appointments in Column A of Appendix A (designated according to the role/portfolio holder/ward member).

2.2 APPOINTED representatives to serve on the outside bodies and working groups listed at Appendix A (other than those in Column A).

(For 18, Against 0, Abstentions 7)

The meeting closed at: 8.12 pm

Mayor