

Minutes

Meeting name	Council
Date	Thursday, 25 July 2024
Start time	6.45 pm
Venue	Parkside, Station Approach, Burton Street, Melton Mowbray LE13 1GH

Present:

Chair Councillor T. Webster (Chair)

Councillors

J. Adcock	P. Allnatt
I. Atherton	S. Atherton
M. Brown	R. Browne
S. Butcher	S. Carter
R. Child	D. Chubb
M. Clay	H. Cliff
S. Cox	P. Cumbers
M. Glancy	M. Gordon
L. Higgins	S. Lumley
J. Mason	S. Orson
R. Sharp	A. Thwaites

Officers

Chief Executive
 Director for Housing and Communities (Deputy Chief Executive)
 Director for Corporate Services
 Interim Director for Growth and Regeneration
 Assistant Director for Governance and Democracy (Monitoring Officer)
 Assistant Director for Customers and Communities
 Strategic Lead for Healthy and Active Communities
 Senior Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer
 Democratic Services Officer (CB)

The Reverend Dr Mary Barr offered prayers.

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CO12	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Evans, Freer, Hewson, J Orson and Pritchett.</p>																																				
CO13	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2024 were confirmed.</p> <p>(For 21, Against 0, Abstentions 1)</p>																																				
CO14	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>Councillor Cox declared an interest in Minute Item CO24 (Safer Melton Partnership), as the charity she works for is mentioned. She stressed that she doesn't receive any financial interest, but she is mentioning it as it is referenced in the report.</p>																																				
CO15	<p>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <p>The Mayor provided Members with an update on events he has attended since the last Council meeting. The full list of events are outlined below.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Event</th> <th>Location</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Saturday 18 May 2024</td> <td>Fairtrade Fashion Show</td> <td>Gloucester House</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday 1 June 2024</td> <td>Melton Lions 50th anniversary dinner</td> <td>Melton Bowls Club</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday 2 June 2024</td> <td>RAFA Standard Laying up and New Dedication Service</td> <td>Asfordby, All Saints Church</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday 5 June 2024</td> <td>Meet the Lord Lieutenant and other civic heads</td> <td>County Hall</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday 6 June 2024</td> <td>Training - Role of the Civic Head</td> <td>North Kesteven District Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday 6 June 2024</td> <td>Service 80th Anniversary D-Day</td> <td>Leicester Cathedral</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday 9 June 2024</td> <td>RNLI Lifeboats 200 Celebratory Concert</td> <td>De Montford Hall, Leicester</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday 11 June 2024</td> <td>Judging of Belvoir Hunt Puppy Show</td> <td>Belvoir Castle</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday 13 June 2024</td> <td>Opening of Ye Olde Pork Pie Shoppe</td> <td>Melton Town centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday 24 June 2024</td> <td>Armed Forces Fly the Flag event</td> <td>Parkside</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday 27 June 2024</td> <td>Leicestershire & Rutland School Games Summer Festival</td> <td>Loughborough University</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Event	Location	Saturday 18 May 2024	Fairtrade Fashion Show	Gloucester House	Saturday 1 June 2024	Melton Lions 50th anniversary dinner	Melton Bowls Club	Sunday 2 June 2024	RAFA Standard Laying up and New Dedication Service	Asfordby, All Saints Church	Wednesday 5 June 2024	Meet the Lord Lieutenant and other civic heads	County Hall	Thursday 6 June 2024	Training - Role of the Civic Head	North Kesteven District Council	Thursday 6 June 2024	Service 80th Anniversary D-Day	Leicester Cathedral	Sunday 9 June 2024	RNLI Lifeboats 200 Celebratory Concert	De Montford Hall, Leicester	Tuesday 11 June 2024	Judging of Belvoir Hunt Puppy Show	Belvoir Castle	Thursday 13 June 2024	Opening of Ye Olde Pork Pie Shoppe	Melton Town centre	Monday 24 June 2024	Armed Forces Fly the Flag event	Parkside	Thursday 27 June 2024	Leicestershire & Rutland School Games Summer Festival	Loughborough University
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Friday 28 June 2024	Quorn Hunt judging of young hounds	Kirby Bellars, Quorn Hunt Kennels
Saturday 29 June 2024	Egerton Park Cricket Club - past players and members lunch	Egerton Park
Sunday 30 June 2024	Institute of Mechanical Engineers Railway Challenge	Stapleford Park
Tuesday 9 July 2024	Rotary Ukrainian evening	SOI restaurant Melton
Saturday 13 July 2024	Melton Market with Prostaïd charity stall	Melton Market
Sunday 14 July 2024	Euro Finals – England vs Spain	Melton Park

The Deputy Mayor then outlined the events she had attended since the last Council meeting. The full list of events are outlined below.

Date	Event	Location
Saturday 8 June 2024	RAF Saltby D Day anniversary	Saltby Airfield
Monday 24 June 2024	Armed Forces Fly the Flag event - County Hall	County Hall
Tuesday 2 July 2024	Goadby Marwood Village Hall	Goadby Marwood
Friday 5 July 2024	Melton in Bloom judging	Melton Mowbray

Recognition of Malise Graham

Malise Graham was a Councillor at Melton Borough Council between 1987 and 2024. The Mayor began the recognition of Malise by providing his own tribute. The Mayor thanked Malise for the help and support he has provided since he has been a Councillor and he was there when he was elected. The Mayor explained that he had known Malise for many years and 20 years ago the Mayor oversaw an auction for one of Malise's charities. The Mayor thanked Malise for being a mentor.

This was followed by tributes from the Leader, Councillor Allnatt, who explained that they had not known each other very long but the measure of the man was obvious, as Malise is, without any false affection, an individual of deep personal integrity with desire to help people. The Leader also thanked Malise's wife, Pam, who has provided Malise with support throughout the years.

Councillor Browne who, on behalf of Conservative Group, thanked Malise for his years of service. He recalled that he had originally met Malise in 2002 and remembered that Malise took Council through two best value inspections, one for

housing and another for running of the Council. Councillor Browne recognised that Parkside was Malise's vision which was to bring all public services into one building. He commented that Malise was a rural Councillor and committed to the rural way of life.

In paying tribute, Councillor Gordon stated that she had know Malise for many years and stated that he was always good company.

Councillor Chubb recognised the enthusiasm and dedication of Malise and his wife Pam. He recognised his efforts in raising money for the charity Rainbows. He thanked him for his service to the residents of Wymondham Ward.

Councillor Cumbers stated that she had known Malise since 1997, when she was elected at by-election. Stated that he was interested in helping the vulnerable and recognised that Malise suggested the name Parkside for the building.

Councillor Child recognised that Malise had done a lot for the Council and for the charity Rainbows.

Councillor Glancy stated that she would personally miss Malise and recognised that he had helped her as a Councillor. She thanked him and his wife on behalf of the Independent Group.

At this point, Malise approached the top table and received his gift from the Mayor.

Malise addressed Council and in doing so, he thanked everyone for their kindness, he thanked Officers for all the work they do. He recognised that Officers do the work and Councillors take the credit. He mentioned some memories he had seen during his time at the Council.

He said that the Council are a team and that he has seen many retirements and transfers. He singled out Dawn Garton and Sarah Evans and thanked them for their efforts over the years. In summing up he thanked his wife, children and grandchildren. He stated that Mayor's Consorts have never been given the credit they deserve.

Leisure Presentation

The Strategic Lead for Healthy and Active Communities, Jake Betts, and Lloyd Barraclough from Everyone Active provided Members with a presentation updating them on the improvements that have been made to the Council's leisure facilities. A video of the renovated facilities was shown. The Leader provided a few words about the Leisure facilities. He informed Council that there will be a Members' walk around on 9 August, ahead of the official opening on 17 August.

CO16

LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader began his announcements by thanking the previous Member of Parliament (MP), Alicia Kearns, who has moved on to become MP for Rutland and Stamford. He welcomed the new MP for Melton and Syston, Edward Argar.

The Leader welcomed the new interim Director for Growth and Regeneration, Caroline Bruce and the new Waste and Environmental Services Manager, Ryan Finnegan who is due to start in September.

Members were informed that the Council have submitted its productivity plan and it awaits the new Government's response.

The Leader thanked the Lions Club and Councillor Cox in bringing back the allotments into use. The allotments have had under-used plots and a long waiting list. The Leader outlined the benefits of using allotments including providing opportunities for increased health and mental wellbeing.

Planning Officers were thanked for the recent training and discussion session and for their efforts in improving reporting and analysis.

The Leader informed Members that the Housing Regulatory Inspection has been completed and that the judgement has been embargoed until August, at which point all Members and the public would be able to read it.

Council was informed that on 18 July, the Safer Melton Partnership unveiled the skate park graffiti art to the public, with the aim of creating a more vibrant and inviting space for young people and park users. The design was chosen after a competition was run between February and April, with a judging panel in May selecting the winner.

The Leader informed Council that since the General Election, he had been busy attending meetings of Councillors through the Local Government Association, meeting Ministers and writing to Ministers on a variety of issues that affect the Borough of Melton.

Members were informed that 2023/24 see the Council Chair meetings of the Leicestershire District Council Leaders. This provides the Council with an opportunity to steer the discussion and agenda on issues of mutual interest.

The Leader informed Members that August will see the first meetings of the Rural Area Liaison Forms. The North meeting would take place at Long Clawson on 5 August and the South meeting will take place at Edmondthorpe on 12 August. An issue which would be discussed is flooding. The Leader announced that Cabinet would be considering a year-on-year funding for modest programmes of flood resilience working in partnership with the Parishes.

	<p>The Leader informed Council that the Cabinet would be considering increasing car parking charges in the town of Melton. The last Cabinet decision on car parking charges was January 2020 and since then inflation has been approximately 30%. At the current rate of inflation, the cost of running and maintaining existing car parks may eventually outstrip revenue and would become a burden on the general fund. The Leader assured Members that a balance would be struck but that charge might have to be increased.</p> <p>The Leader outlined the Levelling Up Fund and reminded Members of the £1.9m which had been allocated to theatre enhancements. Due to the Further Education Commissioner intervention into the college, they had confirmed that they were no longer able to deliver the improvements that were originally envisaged. The choice for the council was therefore to either divert the money to another project or hand it back to government. To safeguard the funding and keep it in Melton, it will be reallocated, potentially to the trader hall at the cattle market. The trader hall was identified as part of a potential phase two development by the previous administration. Now that the theatre enhancements are no longer proceeding, the trader hall could be renovated but the council continues to work to support the college.</p>
CO17	<p>PUBLIC QUESTION TIME No questions from the public were received.</p>
CO18	<p>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS Seven questions from Members had been received and they were taken in the order that they were received.</p> <p>Question 1 Councillor Lumley asked the Leader the following question:</p> <p><i>I support Councillor Helen Cliff's past campaign to try to save Melton Hospital's Birthing Unit which has a continued very high satisfaction score from users. The Health Commissioning Group recently announced the good news that its use would be extended. Can the Leader meet with the Commissioning Group's officials, and request:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) that the Birthing Unit does not close at all? And</i> <i>b) request an Urgent Health Care Centre, on this under-utilised Melton Hospital site for our growing population?</i> <p>In responding to the questions, the Leader stated that yes he can meet with the Commissioning Group officials, however he added that he has to make sure he is speaking to the right people. The Leader confirmed that he had already raised it in discussions elsewhere.</p> <p>Councillor Lumley did not opt to ask a supplementary question.</p>

Question 2

Councillor Lumley asked the Leader the following question:

The newly elected Labour Government has announced that it will lift the ban on onshore wind farms. These can be heavily supported by fossil fuels, the materials used for solar panels and wind turbines can be very un-environmentally friendly and components may not be recyclable after their lifespan, meaning they will have to go into landfill.

Wind turbines can be detrimental to the visual amenity of their surroundings, cause noise pollution to local residents, and can accidentally kill birds and other wildlife. They can also reduce key farming land, leading to less food crops, which could impact on the country's food security. An 'environmentalism' or nature, such as planting trees, versus Net Zero approach, is best.

Therefore, do you agree that the Local Plan Working Group and Climate Change Working Groups should urgently review the implications arising from these recent announcements on our own planning and climate change policies and the approach to these forms of development?

In responding, the Leader stated that he did not agree with the preamble, however on the substantive point, he has a planned meeting with an expert in Leicestershire and would raise the points then. The Leader added that it is always good to review policies when there is a change of Government but that he would be guided by colleagues and Officers on how quickly this should take place.

Councillor Lumley did not opt to ask a supplementary question.

Question 3

Councillor Chubb asked the Leader the following question:

In light of the cabinet's decision to reallocate (subject to Government sign off) the LUF monies from Brooksby Melton College Theatre to the Melton Mowbray Cattle Market can you confirm that the necessary robust due diligence tests, that should include viability, demand, customer footfall and risks assessments have been undertaken?

In responding, the Leader stated that there had already been due diligence, as the previous administration had allocated the site. The action regarding the college is out of the Council's hands, so therefore the Leader needed to ensure that the money was secured for Melton. The technical details are being assessed before finances are reviewed.

Councillor Chubb opted to ask a supplementary question and asked the Leader whether Members can be assured that the outcomes would match the original outputs.

In response, the Leader stated that it must match the outputs because that was the agreement.

Question 4

Councillor S Orson asked the Leader the following question:

I e-mailed the Leader on 28th February 2024 requesting he kept to his offer to fund a survey of the culvert that runs below the Sands in Long Clawson. The Leader further offered to fund expert opinion on how to stop the flooding in the Centre of Long Clawson. Unfortunately, the Leader has not responded to my e-mail, so I welcome an answer at Full Council.

In responding, the Leader stated that he met with County Councillor Lovegrove to see what might or might not be done by the lead flood authority, Leicestershire County Council. The Leader confirmed that he and County Councillor Lovegrove would meet again. The Leader confirmed that flooding was a very serious problem and that the issue would be discussed at the Rural Area Liaison Forums.

As Members were approaching the time allowed for Members' questions, the Mayor proposed that Procedure Rule 13.7 of the Meetings General Procedure Rules should be suspended for the rest of the meeting so that the time limit of 20 minutes for Members' questions can be exceeded. Councillor Child seconded the motion.

RESOLVED

Council

Suspended Procedure Rule 13.7 of the Meetings General Procedure Rules for the remainder of the meeting.

(Unanimous)

Councillor S Orson opted to ask a supplementary question and asked the Leader that despite expressing a desire to work with all Councillors, why won't he answer his emails.

In response, the Leader explained it was a mistake and that he has a large volume of emails, therefore it was easy to miss correspondence.

Question 5

Councillor J Orson was not present and therefore Leader agreed to provide a written response to the question.

Question 6

	<p>Councillor Browne asked the Leader the following question:</p> <p><i>Can the leader confirm what strategic direction and support is being given to look at the future of a Theatre for Melton Mowbray beyond the short-term commitment Brooksby Melton College is able to provide?</i></p> <p>In responding, the Leader stated that when it became apparent that the college was going to remove themselves from the whole of campus, he found out what it entailed. The Leader explained that the college wouldn't use the facility and local schools couldn't jointly use it. The cost of running the theatre would mean that it would be prohibitive for the Council to purchase the facility.</p> <p>Councillor Browne opted to ask a supplementary question and asked the Leader would the Leader join a cross party initiative to work to save the performing arts in the town?</p> <p>In response, the Leader explained that he wasn't sure in what respect as various options had been looked into. The Leader explained that if Members would like to outline what the offer means to Chief Executive, then he would consider it.</p> <p>Question 7</p> <p>Councillor Child asked the Leader the following question:</p> <p><i>Can the leader give precise numbers of back logged planning applications that still need to be processed to decision making stage?</i></p> <p>In responding, the Leader stated that he would provide statistics but he would need to double check. He informed Members that all the indicators are, that the back log is being reduced.</p> <p>Councillor Child opted to ask a supplementary question and asked the Leader, where the statistics, that he said were available, are.</p> <p>In response, the Leader confirmed that the information is out there and that overall, it is going well.</p>
CO19	<p>MOTIONS ON NOTICE</p> <p>The following motion was received from Councillor R Browne (Seconded by Councillor S Orson).</p> <p>Leicestershire County Council's Children and Family Services Ofsted Rating</p> <p>The following motion was proposed:</p> <p><i>Melton Borough Council congratulates Leicestershire County Council's Children and Family Services on their recent Ofsted Report, having the rating of</i></p>

Outstanding. It is a testament to the staff for their hard work, dedication and commitment to the benefit of children across the county, especially care leavers.

Cllr Browne congratulated all the staff particularly in the current climate.

Councillor Allnatt proposed that following be added to the motion (Seconded by Councillor Thwaites)

This has been achieved at a time when the real value of local government funding has been cut severely, sure start abolished; with child poverty, rents and abuse at record highs and youth services decimated and food banks common place.

The staff are under constant pressure, but they are not complacent. Well done to all of them with our sincere thanks.

Councillor Browne confirm that he was content to accept the amendment into the substantive motion and therefore the motion became:

Melton Borough Council congratulates Leicestershire County Council's Children and Family Services on their recent Ofsted Report, having the rating of Outstanding. It is a testament to the staff for their hard work, dedication and commitment to the benefit of children across the county, especially care leavers.

This has been achieved at a time when the real value of local government funding has been cut severely, sure start abolished; with child poverty, rents and abuse at record highs and youth services decimated and food banks common place.

The staff are under constant pressure, but they are not complacent. Well done to all of them with our sincere thanks.

During the debate the following comments were made:

- It was recognised what the service has achieved.
- A Member commented that the service was going in the right direction for several years.

RESOLVED

Melton Borough Council congratulates Leicestershire County Council's Children and Family Services on their recent Ofsted Report, having the rating of Outstanding. It is a testament to the staff for their hard work, dedication and commitment to the benefit of children across the county, especially care leavers.

This has been achieved at a time when the real value of local government funding has been cut severely, sure start abolished; with child poverty, rents and abuse at record highs and youth services decimated and food banks common place.

	<p>The staff are under constant pressure, but they are not complacent. Well done to all of them with our sincere thanks.</p> <p>(Unanimous)</p>
CO20	<p>CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL - TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance, Property and Resources, Councillor Cox, introduced the report and moved the recommendation. Councillor Allnatt seconded the motion.</p> <p>No comments were made during the debate.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>Council</p> <p>Approved the Treasury Management Annual Report 2023/24 as outlined at Appendix A.</p> <p>(Unanimous)</p> <p>At 8:34pm, during the consideration of this item, Councillor Higgins entered the meeting.</p>
CO21	<p>RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES - SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24</p> <p>The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Brown, introduced the Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24 and proposed that Council notes the report. The Vice Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Thwaites, seconded the motion.</p> <p>In introducing the report, the Chair of Scrutiny Committee thanked all Officers who have supported the Committee during the Municipal Year, including the Council's Scrutiny Officer, Adam Green.</p> <p>During the debate, the following comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Leader thanked the whole of the Scrutiny Committee. He added that the outcomes from housing support review had been substantially improved by the input from Scrutiny and he hoped there would be similar activity, with Scrutiny reviewing specific topics in smaller groups, during this Municipal Year. <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>Council</p>

	<p>NOTED the Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24.</p> <p>At 8:37pm, during the consideration of this item, Councillor Child left the meeting and did not return.</p>
CO22	<p>RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES - AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24</p> <p>The Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee, Councillor Higgins, introduced the Audit and Standards Committee Annual Report 2023/24 and proposed that Council notes the report. The Vice Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee, Councillor Mason, seconded the motion.</p> <p>In introducing the report, the Chair of Audit and Standards Committee thanked Officers including: the Section 151 Officer, Dawn Garton; the Chief Internal Auditor, Rachel Ashley-Caunt; the previous Monitoring Officer, Alison McKane; the current Monitoring Officer, Clive Tobin; and the Senior Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer, Adam Green and his team. He also thanked the Members and in particular Vice Chair, Councillor Mason.</p> <p>No comments were made during the debate.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>Council</p> <p>NOTED the Audit and Standards Committee Annual Report 2023/24.</p>
CO23	<p>POLITICAL BALANCE AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS</p> <p>The Monitoring Officer introduced the report. The Leader moved the recommendations and the Deputy Leader seconded the motion.</p> <p>No comments were made during the debate.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>Council</p> <p>(1) Approved the political balance calculation at paragraphs 5.2.1 – 5.2.3 of the report;</p> <p>(2) Approved the allocation of seats on the Committees as set out in paragraph 5.3.1 of the report and Working Groups as set out in paragraph 5.4.1 of the report;</p> <p>(3) Received nominations and made appointments to Committees and Working Groups as notified by the Group Leaders and set out in Appendices A and B, and;</p>

	<p>(4) Appointed non-aligned Members to their allocation of seats on Committees and Working Groups as set out in Appendices A and B.</p> <p>(Unanimous)</p>
CO24	<p>SAFER MELTON PARTNERSHIP - FOCUS ON TOWN CENTRE RETAIL CRIME</p> <p>The Chair of Safer Melton Partnership, Councillor Cox, introduced the Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24 and proposed that Council notes the report. Councillor Butcher seconded the motion.</p> <p>During the debate, the following comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Member commented that this is a good news story as there had been progress since December. It is a testament to the Safer Melton Partnership, which has been established for 20 years, and the Police and Crime Commissioner, Rupert Matthews. Members may disagree on how we get there, but all Members want a safe environment. • The police were thanked for their work and that Members must not take actions for granted. Members were assured that the Melton Safer Partnership would continue to monitor trends. • The Leader thanked Councillors Butcher and Cox for their hard work on this. • A Member commented that the Council must stand by any shop keeper who is bullied or harassed. <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>Council</p> <p>NOTED the review and update from the Chair of the Safer Melton Partnership on actions to address retail crime within the town centre.</p>

The meeting closed at: 9.05 pm

Mayor