

# Minutes

<b>Meeting name</b>	<b>Annual Meeting of the Council</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Thursday, 14 May 2020</b>
<b>Start time</b>	<b>6.30 pm</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Held by remote video conference</b>

## Present:

**Chair** Councillor M. Graham MBE (Mayor)

**Councillors**

P. Faulkner (Vice-Chair)	T. Bains
R. Bindloss	R. Browne
S. Carter	P. Chandler
R. Child	P. Cumbers
R. de Burle	J. Douglas
C. Evans	C. Fisher
A. Freer-Jones	M. Glancy
A. Hewson	L. Higgins
E. Holmes	J. Illingworth
S. Lumley	J. Orson
A. Pearson	P. Posnett MBE
D. Pritchett	R. Smedley
M. Steadman	J. Wilkinson
P. Wood	

**Officers**

Chief Executive  
 Director for Corporate Services  
 Director for Governance and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer  
 Director for Growth and Regeneration  
 Director for Housing and Communities  
 Assistant Director for Planning and Delivery  
 Democratic Services Manager  
 Democratic Services Officer (SE)

The Reverend Kevin Ashby offered prayers.

Minute No.	Minute
	<p><b>MAYOR'S INTRODUCTION</b></p> <p>The Mayor announced that as the meeting was to be held as a remote conference on Zoom, any Member participating by remote link who declared an interest in any item of business in terms which required them to leave the room must ensure that they cannot be seen or heard during the agenda item.</p> <p>He explained the process for connection failure and that should the link not be re-established before the end of the meeting then the presumption would be that the meeting should continue to deal with the item providing the meeting remains quorate. Should the meeting no longer be quorate the meeting shall be adjourned and any remaining items of business would be deferred. Any Member who had been absent from the debate on a particular item due to connection failure must abstain from the vote on that item.</p> <p>The Mayor explained that Members would use the functionality of the software to speak and each Member would be asked in turn for their vote at the appropriate time.</p> <p>Should the meeting not have ended by 8 pm all those present may take part in the Clap for our Carers campaign to applaud and recognise NHS staff on the frontline against coronavirus.</p> <p>He advised that the meeting would be recorded and live-streamed on You Tube.</p>
CO1	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>There were no apologies for absence.</p>
CO2	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>The Mayor reminded Members that they were not required to declare an interest in item 12, Review of Members' Allowance Scheme as there was an exemption in place that enabled them to take part in this item.</p> <p>Councillors Orson, Pearson and Posnett each declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Leicestershire County Council due to their roles as County Councillors.</p> <p>Councillor Holmes reported that she would abstain from voting on the Chairs and Vice Chairs roles as she was related to one of the Councillors nominated.</p>
CO3	<p><b>ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR</b></p> <p>The Mayor handed over the Chair to the Chief Executive who explained :</p> <p><i>'In light of the current national pandemic and restrictions in relation to social distancing, consultation has taken place with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on arrangements for the coming municipal year. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are in</i></p>

	<p><i>agreement that due to the majority of Civic Events having been cancelled at present and uncertainty about when the Civic Calendar will be able to resume, along with the restrictions on meetings in person and therefore the inability to proceed with the ceremonial aspect of the Mayor making, it would be prudent to retain the current arrangements for the time being if Council were agreeable with this proposal.'</i></p> <p>Councillor Orson proposed that Council approves the current arrangements for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor should remain in place until such time as current national restrictions in relation to the Coronavirus Pandemic are lifted or until the expiry of a period of 6 months, whichever occurs sooner.</p> <p>Councillor Higgins seconded the motion.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> That Council approves the current arrangements for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor should remain in place until such time as current national restrictions in relation to the Coronavirus Pandemic are lifted or until the expiry of a period of 6 months, whichever occurs sooner.</p> <p>(Unanimous)</p> <p>(The Mayor in the Chair.)</p>
CO4	<p><b>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b></p> <p>The Mayor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• thanked Members for their support in allowing him to continue as Mayor for the time being</li> <li>• welcomed Members and Officers to the first virtual Council Meeting</li> <li>• acknowledged the NHS and all those involved in supporting the community during the current coronavirus pandemic and advised that the meeting would recognise this by pausing at 8 pm to applaud their good work</li> <li>• paid tribute to the groups and organisations within the Borough, officers and the waste collection service who had all continued to support individuals and the community during the pandemic</li> <li>• expressed his sadness for not being able to represent the Borough for the VE celebrations that were due to have been held on 8 May 2020</li> <li>• thanked Keith Aubrey for his service to the Council and for requesting donations to Rainbows instead of a leaving gift and was grateful to those who had donated</li> <li>• advised it had been a great honour to be Mayor for the past year and he had met so many people during that time and he hoped to resume normal service as soon as possible</li> <li>• thanked Councillor Faulkner for his support as Deputy Mayor throughout the year</li> </ul>
CO5	<p><b>ELECTION OF LEADER</b></p> <p>The Monitoring explained that the Council's Constitution included provision that a</p>

Leader of the Council should be elected for a 4 year term. At the Annual Meeting in May 2019, the Leader had been elected for one year only and she now requested that the Council regularise the arrangement and elect a Leader with a term of office until 2023.

Councillor Browne proposed that Councillor Joe Orson be elected Leader until 2023 and paid tribute to his previous term as Leader and added that he believed that he was the right person to lead the Council over the next 3 years. Councillor Faulkner seconded the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Joe Orson be elected Leader of the Council until the Annual Meeting in 2023.

(22 in favour, 6 against)

CO6

**NOTIFICATION BY THE LEADER OF THE APPOINTMENT TO THE EXECUTIVE**

The Leader thanked Members for his appointment and congratulated Councillor Evans on taking up the leadership of the Opposition Group and added that he looked forward to working with him for the mutual benefit of the Council. He expressed his thoughts and condolences to those who had lost loved ones and friends to the coronavirus pandemic. He thanked all involved at the Council in supporting residents and responding to the many queries and calls and felt proud of the NHS, volunteers, key workers, factory workers, neighbours and friends who were supporting people throughout the pandemic and adhering to the government guidelines to keep people safe.

The Leader stated

*‘This time last year we had just emerged from the local election and were commencing for the first time with a new form of Cabinet governance. We approved a new brand new constitution and adopted an entirely new set of procedure rules. I would hope members would agree with me that for the most part these have served us well and have allowed us to conduct our business efficiently and effectively.*

*It is, though, always prudent to keep things under review and mindful of the clarification the Monitoring Officer has just made in relation to the term of appointment for the Leader, I would like to confirm that I have asked for a report to be presented to the next Council meeting which will seek to establish a Constitutional Review working group and associated terms of reference. This will allow us to reflect on our experience over the last year and make any further necessary amendments.*

*Operating with a Cabinet system for the first time we have seen good progress in a number of areas. We have focussed on improving customer services, undertaking a number of service design reviews and procured new customer engagement technology through IEG4. Despite the current challenges, implementation of this*

*new system is progressing well and we expect the first phase to launch to the public in June as planned.*

*We have fully gripped the long-standing housing challenge and last November agreed a comprehensive Housing Improvement Plan; representing an ambitious commitment to reinvest in our housing stock and landlord services. Whilst we cannot be complacent, the huge amount of work done on compliance since then has paid dividends both in terms of improving health and safety for our tenants whilst also receiving positive validation from the Regulator. There is much more to be done before we are satisfied and we look forward to the Portfolio Holder and new Director continuing to lead improvements in this important priority area.*

*We introduced the first public spaces protection order and are taking more action now to tackle environmental crime and became the first Council in the East Midlands to secure Disability Confident Status. We have reviewed our Community Grants scheme and ensured the funding we provide better meets our local priorities and can demonstrate good value for money. We have adopted a new Debt Management Policy to ensure we get the right balance between protecting vulnerable people and securing the income we need and have introduced cashless payment facilities at all our car parks.*

*The Council's new Scrutiny Committee has played a key role throughout, providing the right balance between support and constructive challenge. Good decisions are made through effective and transparent debate and I have welcomed Scrutiny's proactive involvement in a number of the policy areas mentioned earlier. Most notably, Scrutiny's role in leading the Void improvement work was an excellent first review area and one which has informed and linked perfectly into the Housing Improvement work already underway. My Cabinet colleagues and I look forward to our work with Scrutiny over the coming year.*

*Following the snap General Election in December 2019 we have built a strong relationship with our new MP and prior to the current pandemic we had made positive progress regarding our efforts to secure a second surgery for Melton. Clearly the current health emergency must take precedence but we will return to these efforts at the right time. Throughout this year the Council has also shown its strength when it unites as a whole, whether through our formal declaration of a climate emergency or through the excellent summer social hosted by the Mayor last Summer. Most particularly though, it is the response to the current pandemic which has shown what value Melton Borough Council can bring to its local community. Within a matter of days the Council had created a completely new infrastructure, establishing support hubs both for our community and local businesses. We have helped hundreds of residents and businesses during this time delivering nearly 1,000 food parcels, over 150 prescriptions and made nearly 1,200 awards of Council Tax support totalling £175,000. We have paid 750 businesses nearly £9.1m in support grants and facilitated the governments extended business rates relief scheme. Officers and members have worked tirelessly to support our communities during the immediate response and we will continue to do so as we tentatively edge towards recovery. I am proud of what we have achieved and want*

to reassure everyone that we are here for Melton and will continue to be so into the future.

Whilst it feels like an awful lot has happened since, in February, we should not forget that following a significant amount of work and feedback from over 1,700 residents we approved our new Corporate Strategy for 2020 to 2024, alongside setting a balanced budget for the first time in 3 years. As you will appreciate we had to postpone the formal launch of our strategy in April and given all that has occurred since it is necessary for us to take stock and consider what if any changes we now need to make as a consequence. There is much I suspect we will want to retain, but we must also respond to the 'new normal' we will face over the coming months and years. Officers are currently working on a timeline for this review and I will update members shortly on this.

Clearly, facilitating growth and promoting and strengthening the Melton economy will remain cornerstones of our strategy, and I was delighted we secured £2.7m of grant funding to support further development of proposals for the Food Enterprise Centre and Health and Leisure Park. There is still much to be done before these come to fruition, something made even more challenging in the current climate, but the steps we are taking now are creating a platform for delivery in the future. There has been progress on delivering the distributor road and whilst discussions with the County Council have been challenging, we have the principles in place for a pioneering infrastructure agreement and will deliver a masterplan for the southern neighbourhood by June to meet the Homes England timescale for the HIF bid. It will then be over to the County Council to decide whether they wish to accept it, but Melton Borough Council can be fully satisfied that there is nothing further they can do to see it delivered.

### **Announcement of Cabinet and Executive Delegation scheme**

I am delighted to announce the formation and membership of Melton Borough Council's Cabinet for the coming year. This Cabinet will continue to provide leadership and public accountability as we work to respond to the challenges faced by our communities due to the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as refine and deliver our newly approved Corporate Strategy. We will continue to be a collaborative Cabinet who work with members across the Council to ensure that we respond to the challenges faced by both the Council and the people and communities of Melton.

Following the changes mid-way through the last year I can confirm that we will maintain a 5 member Cabinet for the coming year, including myself as Leader.

Councillor Higgins will continue in his role as Deputy Leader, with an expanded growth and prosperity portfolio; now taking on responsibility for planning delivery and building control. As well as delivering our long term strategic aims, now more than ever we will need to support our businesses to ensure Melton's economy recovers as quickly as possible.

Councillor de Burle has maintained an excellent grip on our resources over the

*course of the last year, enabling us to deliver a balanced budget and will continue to do this as he retains the Corporate Finance and Resources portfolio. With the current situation impacting so much on council finances we will need to redouble our efforts to become more business-like, maximise the value of our assets and plug the funding gap.*

*Following the excellent job undertaken by Councillor Freer-Jones in the last year I have asked her to take on an expanded portfolio, building on the impressive work she has done overseeing our governance changes and engagement work. Her new portfolio of Climate, Access and Engagement will add responsibilities for the Council's climate change commitments, and wider environment and regulatory functions.*

*Having made considerable progress in the last year, Councillor Pearson will continue leading our improvements within the Housing and Communities portfolio, We have made improving the quality of our landlord function and housing stock our top priority and there is still much more to be done over the coming year, Councillor Pearson will also take on responsibility for our waste and grounds maintenance services.*

*As Melton Borough Council's Cabinet we look forward to working with all members in tackling the challenges facing our communities and supporting through the current situation. All members will have received an electronic copy of the Portfolios with further details of what each includes, alongside the Executive Scheme of Delegation which is also being implemented. We look forward to working with you.'*

(Councillor Evans lost connection at 7.05pm and resumed connection at 7.10pm during the Leader's speech.)

CO7

**POLITICAL BALANCE AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS**

The Monitoring Officer presented her report which requested that Members approve the political balance for the Council, elect Chairs and Vice Chairs and appoint Members to committees as well as retain the existing scrutiny arrangements. She explained that the recommendations had been split into 3 groups of recommendations as set out below for Members' consideration.

Recommendations 2.1 and 2.2

Councillor Orson proposed recommendations 2.1 and 2.2 and Councillor Higgins seconded.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) To APPOINT the Scrutiny Committee and Standing Committees as set out in paragraph 5 of the report for the Municipal Year 2020/21.
- (2) To AGREE the terms of reference and number of voting places on the Scrutiny Committee and Standing Committees as detailed at paragraph 5.1 of the report for the Municipal Year 2020/21.

(Unanimous)

Recommendations 2.3 and 2.4

Councillor Orson proposed revised recommendations to those in the report as there had been dissent from Members outside of the Conservative Group with regard to the proposal to include the non-aligned Member in the political balance calculation. As the report clearly set out, there must be unanimity in order to depart from the usual rules on political balance as set out in Section 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and include non-aligned Members in the calculation. The calculations set out in the report (at paragraph 5.2) represented the status quo and showed the position if all Members agreed that the non-aligned Member was included in the political balance calculation. As he was aware that not all Members were in agreement with this proposal, then the motion in its current version would fail due to lack of unanimous consensus.

As a result he presented a revision to the calculations on political balance (paragraph 5.2 of the report) which reflected the statutory calculation regarding political balance, and did not include the non-aligned Member in the calculations and which could be approved through simple majority. He therefore proposed the following revised recommendations :

2.3 Approves the political balance calculation set out at revised paragraph 5.2 (as presented to Members at the meeting);

2.4 Approves the allocation of committee seats to political groups as set out in revised paragraph 5.2 and notes the membership of each committee as set out in revised Appendix A;

As mentioned these recommendations complied with s.15 and s.16 of the 1989 Act and therefore required a simple majority to be carried.

Councillor Higgins seconded.

**RESOLVED**

(3) To APPROVE the political balance calculation set out at the revised paragraph 5.2 of the report as follows :

Group Name or Non-aligned	No of Cllrs	Percentage across the Council	Allocation of Seats over 4 Committees 38 seats	
			Decimal	Rounded no
Conservative	21	77.78%	29.56	30
Opposition	6	22.22%	8.44	8
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>38 seats</b>	<b>38 seats</b>



- (4) To APPROVE the allocation of committee seats to political groups as set out in revised paragraph 5.2 of the report (as shown in the below table) and notes the membership of each committee as set out in revised Appendix A;

<b>Group Name or Non-aligned</b>	<b>Audit &amp; Standards</b>	<b>Planning</b>	<b>Scrutiny</b>	<b>Employment</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Conservative	8 (7.78)	9 (8.56)	8 (7.78)	5 (5.44)	<b>30</b>
Opposition	2 (2.22)	2 (2.44)	2 (2.22)	2 (1.56)	<b>8</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>38</b>

(27 in favour, 1 abstention)

Recommendation 2.5

Councillor Orson proposed recommendation 2.5 and Councillor Higgins seconded.

Councillor Evans congratulated the Mayor on his extension in the role and thanked the Leader for his commitment to working together. He advised that he would be abstaining on this motion as he felt the Opposition Group should be represented in the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees.

**RESOLVED**

- (5) To APPROVE the appointments of Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees as set out at Appendix B.

(22 in favour, 6 against)

CO8

**MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL CONSTITUTION**

The Monitoring Officer presented her report on the Constitution and advised that she was able to and had made minor amendments throughout the year particular around officer structures. During the pandemic she referred to use of the emergency delegated powers which had resulted from the new Coronavirus Act. She advised that a Constitutional Working Group would meet over the coming months to work on updating the Constitution further.

Councillor Orson said that in addition to confirming the Constitution he would like to add a further proposal to the published recommendation in relation to the public speaking rules. In order to balance the importance of providing an opportunity for interested parties to make representations at the Planning Committee, with the requirement to ensure that meetings are able to progress efficiently and to maximise the decision-making capacity of the Committee, he proposed the following recommendations :

1. That Council confirms the Constitution (including the Council's Officer Scheme of Delegation at Chapter 2 – Part 4); and

	<p>2. That Council approves an amendment to the Public Speaking Rules (Chapter 2 – Part 9, Section 2.8 – 2.28 MBC Constitution) to reduce the time allowed for public speaking from four minutes to three minutes.</p> <p>Councillor Higgins seconded.</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED</u></b></p> <p>(1) To CONFIRM the Constitution (including the Council’s Officer Scheme of Delegation at Chapter 2 – Part4);</p> <p>(2) To APPROVE an amendment to the Public Speaking Rules (Chapter 2 – Part 9, Section 2.8 – 2.28 MBC Constitution) to reduce the time allowed for public speaking from four minutes to three minutes.</p> <p>(Unanimous)</p>
CO9	<p><b>PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2020/21</b></p> <p>The Monitoring Officer presented her report on a Programme of Meetings for 2020/21 and advised that any changes would be made in consultation with the Mayor, Leader or relevant Committee Chair.</p> <p>Councillor Orson proposed the programme of meetings and Councillor Higgins seconded.</p> <p>It was noted that additional Planning Committee meetings may be required to accommodate the current workload of applications.</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED</u></b></p> <p>To APPROVE the programme of meetings for the Municipal Year 2020-2021 (Appendix A).</p> <p>(Unanimous)</p>
CO10	<p><b>APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND WORKING GROUPS</b></p> <p>The Monitoring Officer presented her report on appointment of representatives to outside bodies and working groups for 2020/21.</p> <p>Councillor Orson proposed the recommendations with an amendment at 2.2 to include reference at Appendix A at column B and to approve the appointments to the Joint Staff Working Group as presented to Members. Councillor Higgins seconded.</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED</u></b></p> <p>(1) To APPROVE the appointments in Column A of Appendix A should be</p>

	<p>designated according to the role/portfolio holder/ward member as indicated.</p> <p>(2) To APPOINT representatives to serve on the outside bodies and working groups listed at Appendix A, Column B and approves the appointments to the Joint Staff Working Group.</p> <p>(Unanimous)</p>
CO11	<p><b>INDEPENDENT PERSONS APPOINTMENT</b></p> <p>The Monitoring Officer presented her report on the appointment of Independent Persons and explained that it was a requirement of the Localism Act 2011 that the Council appoints at least one Independent Person who must be consulted before decisions in respect of complaints were taken and who may be consulted by Councillors who are complained about. The report sought authority to appoint named individuals as Independent Persons who formed a pool of Independent Persons that had been through a recruitment exercise by Leicestershire District Authorities.</p> <p>Councillor Orson proposed the recommendations and Councillor Higgins seconded.</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED</u></b></p> <p>(1) To APPOINT the following people as Independent Persons to perform the roles set out in section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011 with effect from 15th May 2020 until the end of the 2020/21 Council Year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Mrs Christine Howell</li> <li>(b) Mr Michael Pearson</li> <li>(c) Mr Richard Gough</li> <li>(d) Mr Mark Shaw</li> </ul> <p>(2) To NOTE that the appointment for Gordon Grimes will remain in place.</p> <p>(Unanimous)</p>
CO12	<p><b>REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME</b></p> <p>The Monitoring Officer presented her report which advised that it was a legal requirement to appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel and seek its advice before making any changes or amendments to the Member Allowances Scheme. The Member Allowances Scheme was last reviewed in February 2019 in preparation for the change of governance to the Cabinet Model. In that review the Welland Independent Remuneration Panel (the Panel) recommended that a further review was undertaken in January 2020 in order to evaluate the impact of the changes on the new governance arrangements. This review was undertaken in February 2020 and the Panel's findings and recommendations were contained in the Panel's report at Appendix A.</p> <p>John Cade, the Chair of the Welland Independent Remuneration Panel, was in</p>

attendance at the meeting and presented the Panel's findings as set out at Appendix A. He advised that he had consulted and offered meetings with all Members and received evidence which had helped to shape the recommendations. He thanked the Democratic Services Manager for her support to the Panel.

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*At 8 pm, the Mayor invited Members to applaud the NHS and all those who were supporting us throughout the coronavirus pandemic*

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Councillor Orson supported the Panel's report and proposed the recommendations in the report. He advised that he would not accept any amendments to his proposal. He explained that the allowances scheme supported equality and helped to encourage people of walks of life to stand for election knowing that their commitment involved a structured level of recognition of their time as well as recovery of expenses. He said the Panel was independent and had been asked to review the scheme following last year's change in governance arrangements which had given more responsibility to the Cabinet and increased the time and commitment of their involvement. He thanked all those who had contributed to the review.

Councillor Higgins seconded and explained that the scheme encouraged younger people to stand for election and Melton had a good track record in attracting Members of all ages. He considered that ward work could take up to 18 hours per week and referred to the increased responsibility on Portfolio Holders in listening to the community and being proactive in understanding issues.

Councillor Evans proposed to withdraw the report as he felt uncomfortable considering an increase in allowances at a time when thousands of people were losing their jobs due to the current pandemic. He recognised that Members held an important role but it was not vital for them to receive an increase at this time.

Councillor Holmes seconded the proposal to withdraw and reserved her right to speak.

Councillor Orson responded that sometimes Members had to take uncomfortable decisions and a professional review had been undertaken which included comparisons with other Councils who received more than those at Melton and he therefore could not support a withdrawal.

Councillor Holmes felt that although Councillors deserved a pay rise, especially those who were not Chairs or Vice Chairs, she did not consider it the right time.

Several Members were in agreement that due to the pandemic and the affect on people's jobs and income, this was not the right time to consider an increase in allowances and the report should be withdrawn and brought back when the

economy improved.

Others felt that it was not a pay rise but a reflection of increased responsibility as a result of the changes to the governance structure.

There was a request for a recorded vote by Councillors Carter, Evans and Holmes.

On the motion to withdraw the report being put to the vote, there were 8 in favour, 18 against and 2 abstentions therefore the motion was lost. The vote breakdown was as follows:

Councillor		For	Against	Abstain
Cllr	Bains	✓		
Cllr	Bindloss		✓	
Cllr	Browne		✓	
Cllr	Carter	✓		
Cllr	Chandler	✓		
Cllr	Child		✓	
Cllr	Cumbers		✓	
Cllr	de Burle		✓	
Cllr	Douglas		✓	
Cllr	Evans	✓		
Cllr	Faulkner		✓	
Cllr	Fisher		✓	
Cllr	Freer-Jones		✓	
Cllr	Glancy		✓	
Cllr	Graham		✓	
Cllr	Hewson	✓		
Cllr	Higgins		✓	
Cllr	Holmes	✓		
Cllr	Illingworth		✓	
Cllr	Lumley		✓	
Cllr	Orson		✓	
Cllr	Pearson		✓	
Cllr	Posnett			✓
Cllr	Pritchett	✓		
Cllr	Smedley		✓	
Cllr	Steadman			✓
Cllr	Wilkinson		✓	
Cllr	Wood	✓		
<b>Totals</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>

Councillors Evans and Holmes felt it was regrettable that the motion had been lost and that in these unprecedented times felt there was no justification for an increase in allowances.

Several Councillors spoke in support of the motion to approve the

recommendations and felt that Members were working harder than ever to support their communities and do the best for their ward and therefore the increase was justified.

It was highlighted that Members could reject receipt of the back payment if they were minded to do so.

It was noted that a supplementary estimate was needed for the increase and for the backdated payments.

On the motion to accept the recommendations in the report being put to the vote, there were 17 in favour, 7 against and 4 abstentions therefore the motion was carried. The vote breakdown was as follows:

Councillor		For	Against	Abstain
Cllr	Bains			✓
Cllr	Bindloss	✓		
Cllr	Browne	✓		
Cllr	Carter		✓	
Cllr	Chandler		✓	
Cllr	Child	✓		
Cllr	Cumbers	✓		
Cllr	de Burle	✓		
Cllr	Douglas	✓		
Cllr	Evans		✓	
Cllr	Faulkner	✓		
Cllr	Fisher	✓		
Cllr	Freer-Jones	✓		
Cllr	Glancy	✓		
Cllr	Graham			✓
Cllr	Hewson		✓	
Cllr	Higgins	✓		
Cllr	Holmes		✓	
Cllr	Illingworth	✓		
Cllr	Lumley	✓		
Cllr	Orson	✓		
Cllr	Pearson	✓		
Cllr	Posnett			✓
Cllr	Pritchett		✓	
Cllr	Smedley	✓		
Cllr	Steadman			✓
Cllr	Wilkinson	✓		
Cllr	Wood		✓	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>

**RESOLVED**

- (1) To APPROVE the recommended changes to the Scheme of Members of Allowances shown in paragraph 10 of the Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (Appendix A) and detailed below:
- (a) the basic allowance (index linked to Officers' annual National Joint Council salary award) remains unaltered;
  - (b) the Leader of the Council's SRA be set at 3 x Basic Allowance;
  - (c) the Deputy Leader's SRA be set at 2 x Basic Allowance;
  - (d) the Cabinet Members' SRA be set at 1.25 x Basic Allowance;
  - (e) the Scrutiny Chair's SRA be set at 1.25 x Basic Allowance;
  - (f) the Scrutiny Vice-Chair's SRA be £2,000 pa;
  - (g) the Regulatory Chairs' and Vice-Chairs' SRA remain unaltered;
  - (h) the Leader of the Opposition's SRA be £2,000 pa;
  - (i) the site visit allowance be £35.00 per visit;
  - (j) car mileage be set at the HMRC rate of 45p per mile;
  - (k) the hourly rate for carers allowance be set at £10.50 per hour with an annual maximum claim of £1500;
  - (l) the allowances for Independent Person (£491 pa) and Parish Representative (£318 pa) be removed;
  - (m) the proposed revised special responsibility allowances be backdated to the start of the 2019/20 municipal year.
- (2) To APPROVE a supplementary estimate of £11,410 from the Corporate Priorities Reserve to cover the cost of backdating the proposed revised special responsibility allowances to the start of the 2019/20 Municipal Year.
- (3) To APPROVE a supplementary estimate of £13,060 from the Corporate Priorities Reserve to cover the additional costs of the proposals in 2020/21.
- (4) To NOTE that the Member Allowances Scheme will be amended to reflect the changes approved at this meeting and be incorporated as part of the Council's Constitution.

**CLOSING REMARKS**

Councillor Orson

- thanked the Mayor for chairing the Annual Meeting and the Chief Executive and Democratic Services for providing support at the meeting;
- announced that it had been tweeted the previous evening that Galliford Try had been appointed to the £16.3m contract for the Melton Mowbray Distributor Road which meant that the north east section would be constructed and completed. He referred to the Council's ongoing commitment and plans for the southern by pass.

At this point, the Mayor declared a personal interest due to his role with the Sir John Sedley Educational Foundation which owned land included in the distributor road proposals.

The meeting closed at: 8.56 pm

Mayor