

CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD IN VIRTUAL MEETING - ZOOM ON 22ND FEBRUARY 2021

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Snartt)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Baines)

Councillor Bailey	Councillor Hunt
Councillor Baines	Councillor Lowe
Councillor Barkley	Councillor Mercer
Councillor Bentley	Councillor Miah
Councillor Bokor	Councillor Morgan
Councillor Boldrin	Councillor Murphy
Councillor Bolton	Councillor Needham
Councillor J. Bradshaw	Councillor Pacey
Councillor S. Bradshaw	Councillor Paling
Councillor Brennan	Councillor Parsons
Councillor Brookes	Councillor Parton
Councillor Campsall	Councillor Poland
Councillor Capleton	Councillor Popley
Councillor Charles	Councillor Radford
Councillor Draycott	Councillor Ranson
Councillor Forrest	Councillor Rattray
Councillor Fryer	Councillor Rollings
Councillor Gerrard	Councillor Savage
Councillor Goddard	Councillor Seaton
Councillor Grimley	Councillor Shepherd
Councillor Hadji-Nikolaou	Councillor Smidowicz
Councillor Hamilton	Councillor Tassell
Councillor Harper-Davies	Councillor Taylor
Councillor C. Harris	Councillor Tillotson
Councillor K. Harris	Councillor Ward
Councillor Howe	

Honorary Aldermen Day and Shields

97. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Honorary Aldermen Bush, Stott and Tormey.

98. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY AND PERSONAL INTERESTS

The Chief Executive drew Councillors' attention to Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 required that a Councillor who owed arrears of Council

Tax which had been outstanding for more than two months must declare that at any Council meeting which considered the setting of a budget and the Council Tax, and that they should not vote on those matters.

In addition it was noted that it is a requirement of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members that the existence and nature of all personal interests must be disclosed. Therefore, in the case of item 6.1 on the agenda, General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24, it is suggested that members of precepting authorities declare such interests. (For example, this would relate to members of Leicestershire County Council, the Combined Fire Authority and Parish and Town Councils).

The following disclosures of pecuniary and personal interests were made:

- i. by Councillor Barkley - a personal interest in item 6.1 on the agenda (General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24) as a member of Leicestershire County Council and as Chairman of Syston Town Council.
- ii. by Councillor Bentley – a personal interest in item 6.1 on the agenda (General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24) as a member of Leicestershire County Council and the Combined Fire Authority.
- iii. by Councillor Brookes – a personal interest in item 6.1 on the agenda (General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24) as a member of Thurmaston Parish Council.
- iv. by Councillor Charles – a personal interest in item 6.1 on the agenda (General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24) as a member of Thurmaston and Cropston Parish Council.
- v. by Councillor Forrest – a personal interest in item 6.1 on the agenda (General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24) as the Chair of Barrow Upon Soar Parish Council.
- vi. by Councillor Fryer – a personal interest in item 6.1 on the agenda (General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24) as a member of Leicestershire County Council.
- vii. by Councillor Gerrard – a personal interest in item 6.1 on the agenda (General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24) as a member of East Goswote Parish Council and Syston Town Council.
- viii. by Councillor Howe – a personal interest in item 6.1 on the agenda (General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24) as a member of Birstall Parish Council.

- ix. by Councillor Lowe – a personal interest in item 6.1 on the agenda (General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24) as a member of Thurmaston Parish Council.
- x. by Councillor Miah – a personal interest in item 6.1 on the agenda (General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24) as a member of Leicestershire County Council.
- xi. by Councillor Morgan – a personal interest in item 6.1 on the agenda (General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24) as a member of Leicestershire County Council.
- xii. by Councillor Needham – a personal interest in item 6.1 on the agenda (General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24) as a member of East Goscote Parish Council.
- xiii. by Councillor Pacey – a personal interest in item 6.1 on the agenda (General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24) as a member of Syston Town Council.
- xiv. by Councillor Parton - a personal interest in item 6.1 on the agenda (General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24) as a member of Leicestershire County Council and the Combined Fire Authority.
- xv. by Councillor Poland – a personal interest in item 6.1 on the agenda (General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24) as a member of Leicestershire County Council and as his wife is a member of Thurmaston Parish Council.
- xvi. by Councillor Popley – a personal interest in item 6.1 on the agenda (General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24) as a member of Shepshed Town Council.
- xvii. by Councillor Radford – a personal interest in item 6.1 on the agenda (General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24) as a Member of Leicestershire County Council and Shepshed Town Council.
- xviii. by Councillor Ranson – a personal interest in item 6.1 on the agenda (General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24) as a member of Barrow Upon Soar Parish Council and as a Board member of the Wellbeing Café.
- xix. by Councillor Savage - a personal interest in item 6.1 on the agenda (General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24) as a member of Shepshed Town Council.

xx. by Councillor Seaton – a personal interest in item 6.1 on the agenda (General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24) as a member of Leicestershire County Council and Thurmaston Parish Council.

xxi. by Councillor Shepherd – a personal interest in item 6.1 on the agenda (General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24) as a member of Leicestershire County Council.

xxii. by Councillor Smidowicz - a personal interest in item 6.1 on the agenda (General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24) as a clerk to the Samuel Bernard Frost Charity (Almshouses).

xxiii. by Councillor Tassell – a personal interest in item 6.1 on the agenda (General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24) as a member of Shepshed Town Council.

xxiv. by Councillor Taylor – a personal interest in item 6.1 on the agenda (General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24) as a member of Leicestershire County Council.

99. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 18th January 2021 were confirmed and signed, subject to the inclusion that Honorary Alderman Bush was in attendance.

100. ANNOUNCEMENTS

101. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following announcements:

DEATH OF FORMER MAYORESS MARGARET DUNCAN

“Firstly, I would like to offer my condolences to the family and friends of Mrs Margaret Duncan, who served the Borough as Mayoress between May 1992 and May 1993, and who recently passed away. Margaret’s husband, Alistair Duncan also served as a Councillor for 23 years between May 1976 and May 1999, and was conferred as an Honorary Alderman in June 1999, before sadly passing away in August 1999. Margaret’s funeral service will be held at All Saints with Holy Trinity Parish Church, Steeple Row, Loughborough on Wednesday 3rd March at 2.30 p.m. Due to the current pandemic this will be for close family only. The service will be live streamed on the All Saints Church You Tube Channel.

The Council then observed a one minute silence as a mark of respect for former Mayoress Margaret Duncan.

POLITICS STUDENT PLACEMENT ESSIVI KOSSI

“Secondly, I would like to welcome Essivi Kossi, a 20-year-old Loughborough University student Studying Politics and international relations. She has a placement with the Democratic Services team and is watching proceedings in the Zoom environment tonight. Essiv is Chair of the Politics and international studies (POLIS) committee at Loughborough university and is helping to organise a Democracy Event which some of our Cllrs are taking part in March. When not at University in Loughborough Essivi lives in Doncaster, and is originally from Togo in Africa”

COVID-19 – ONE YEAR ON

“Finally, as we are now approaching the first Covid case in the Borough I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone involved in the delivery of the Covid-19 vaccination programme in our borough. From the GPs and nurses to the many volunteers who have come forward to help protect many of our residents. Our NHS colleagues have been working around the clock to keep us all safe during this pandemic and we owe them a great deal.

“I’ve heard from residents who have had a positive experience when visiting their local vaccination centre and I would like to encourage people who receive an invite for their jab, please take up the offer. The more people who have the vaccination, the more people we will protect and the brighter the light at the end of this very dark tunnel”

102. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Leader’s announcements.

103. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chief Executive made no announcements.

104. PETITIONS

The following Councillors virtually presented a petition submitted on behalf of residents:

Councillor Bradshaw and Councillor Draycott in respect of the closure of Biggins Street public toilets in Loughborough.

105. BUSINESS RESERVED TO COUNCIL

106. GENERAL FUND AND HRA REVENUE BUDGETS AND COUNCIL TAX 2021-22 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS) 2021-24

Councillor Brookes joined the meeting during the consideration of this item.

A supplementary report of the Cabinet, to enable the Council to adopt a General Fund Revenue Budget, a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget and a Council Tax levy for 2021/22 in line with legislative requirements. (item 6.1 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Following confirmation from major preceptors regarding their precepts, the full Council Tax Recommendations, which the Council had to consider in order to set a Council Tax Levy and General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets for 2021/22, were circulated (item 6.1 supplementary report filed with these minutes).

Councillors were reminded that it was a legal requirement that all votes taken on this item, including votes on amendments must be recorded votes.

It was proposed by Councillor Barkley and seconded by Councillor Morgan that recommendations 1 to 17 outlined in the supplementary report of the Cabinet be approved for reasons 1 to 17 in that report.

For the motion – Councillors Bailey, Baines, Barkley, Bentley, Bokor, S Bradshaw, Campsall, Capleton, Charles, Fryer, Gerrard, Grimley, Hadji-Nikolaou, Harper-Davies, Howe, Hunt, Lowe, Mercer, Morgan, Murphy, Pacey, Paling, Parton, Poland, Popley, Radford, Ranson, Rattray, Rollings, Savage, Seaton, Shepherd, Smidowicz, Snartt, Tassell and Taylor.

Against the motion – Councillors Boldrin, Bolton, J Bradshaw, Brennan, Draycott, Forrest, Goddard, Hamilton, C Harris, K Harris, Miah, Needham, Tillotson and Ward.

Abstentions – Councillors Brookes and Parsons.

RESOLVED that the Council adopts recommendations 1-17 as set out in the supplementary report of the Cabinet.

Reasons

For the reasons set out in the supplementary report of the Cabinet.

107. CAPITAL STRATEGY, INCLUDING TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY 2021/22

A report of the Cabinet to set out a Capital Strategy, the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, the Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy for 2021/22 for consideration and approval (item 6.2 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

It was proposed by Councillor Barkley, seconded by Councillor Rollings, and

RESOLVED

1. That the Capital Strategy, as set out at Appendix A of the report be approved.
2. That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, as shown at Appendix B of the report be approved.

3. That the Prudential and Treasury Indicators, also set out in Appendix B of the report be approved.

Reasons

1. To enable the Council to comply with the statutory code of practice issued by CIPFA: 'The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, 2017 Edition'.
2. To ensure that the Council's governance and management procedures for Treasury Management reflect best practice and comply with the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice, Guidance Notes and Treasury Management Policy Statement.
3. To ensure that funding of capital expenditure is taken within the totality of the Council's financial position and that borrowing and investment is only carried out with proper regard to the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

108. TREASURY MANAGEMENT - MID-YEAR REVIEW FOR THE 6 MONTHS ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2020

A report of the Cabinet to consider the mid-year review of the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy, plus the various Prudential Borrowing and Treasury Indicators for the first six months of 2020/21 (item 6.3 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

It was proposed by Councillor Barkley, seconded by Councillor Bokor, and

RESOLVED that the mid-year review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Prudential Borrowing and Treasury Indicators plus the Annual Investment Strategy, as set out in Part B of the report to the Cabinet, attached as an Annex, be noted.

Reason

To ensure that the Council's governance and management procedures for Treasury Management reflect best practice and comply with the Revised CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice, Guidance Notes and Treasury Management Policy Statement, that funding of capital expenditure is taken within the totality of the Council's financial position, and that borrowing and Investment is only carried out with proper regard to the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

109. REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL (IRP) IN RESPECT OF ALLOWANCES PAID TO MEMBERS OF CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR 2021/22.

A report of the Chief Executive to consider the findings and the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of allowances paid to members of

Charnwood Borough Council and the Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2021/22 (item 6.4 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Councillor Smidowicz thanked the members of the Independent Remuneration Panel for their review of Members' Allowances for 2021/22.

It was proposed by Councillor Smidowicz, seconded by Councillor Miah, and

RESOLVED that Council considers the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, submitted in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 as set out in Appendix A, and agrees to adopt the proposed Scheme of Members' Allowances for the 2021/22 financial year, as set out at Appendix B.

Reason

To ensure compliance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

110. CALL-IN REFERENCES

There were no call-in references from Scrutiny.

111. POSITION STATEMENTS

No position statements had been requested.

112. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

No motions on notice had been submitted.

113. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The questions on notice and the responses of the Leader or his nominee were submitted (item 10 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

114. SECTION 106 MONIES

Councillor Taylor did not have a supplementary question.

115. CHARNWOOD PARALYMPICS

Councillor Popley thanked the Lead Member for the response and asked for a meeting with officers to discuss how the Council could work with existing partners to relaunch a similar event in the future, and other disabled activities to raise awareness.

Councillor Harper-Davies agreed that a meeting could be arranged in order to discuss future events.

116. LEGISLATION OF VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Councillor Draycott asked whether all Councillors would be involved in the consultation led by the Local Government Association, on extending the virtual meetings legislation.

Councillor Morgan thanked Councillor Draycott for her questions and stated that the Secretary of State had committed to consulting with Group Leaders, indicating that comments were welcome from leading group and also the opposition groups.

117. MINUTE REFERENCES

There were no minute references.

118. URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS EXEMPTED FROM CALL-IN

A report of the Chief Executive, to note a decision which was exempted from call-in in accordance with Scrutiny Committee Procedure 11.9 (item 12 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

119. NOMINATION OF MAYOR ELECT 2021/22

It was proposed by Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Taylor, and

RESOLVED that Councillor Baines be nominated as Mayor Elect for the 2021/22 Council year.

Reason

To ensure that a nomination was made for the Mayor of the Borough for 2021/22.

120. NOMINATION OF DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT 2021/22

It was proposed by Councillor Morgan, seconded by Councillor Miah, and

RESOLVED that Councillor Tillotson be nominated as Deputy Mayor Elect for the 2021/22 Council year.

Reason

To ensure that a nomination was made for the Deputy Mayor of the Borough for 2021/22.

121. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

There were no proposals to consider.

Note:

These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record at the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Monday 26th April 2021