

**LOUGHBOROUGH AREA COMMITTEE**  
**15TH JUNE 2022**

PRESENT: The Chair (Councillor Hamilton)  
The Vice Chair (Councillor Ward)  
Councillors Boldrin, Campsall, Draycott, Goddard,  
A. Gray, B. Gray, C. Harris, K. Harris, Miah,  
Morgan, Parsons, Parton, Smidowicz and Tillotson

Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces  
Head of Planning and Regeneration  
Head of Financial Services  
Head of Strategic Support  
Democratic Services Officer (SW)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Bailey, J. Bradshaw, Forrest and  
Mercer

The Head of Strategic Support stated that the meeting would be recorded and the sound recording subsequently made available via the Council's website. He also advised that, under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting, and the use of any such images or sound recordings was not under the Council's control.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Hamilton be appointed as Chair of the Committee for the 2022/23 Council year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Ward be appointed as Vice-chair of the Committee for the 2022/23 Council year.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bailey, J Bradshaw, Forrest and Mercer.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 16th December 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

5. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER REGISTRABLE AND NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS

The following disclosure was made:

- i. Councillor Miah disclosed a registrable interest in item 8 on the agenda (Loughborough Annual Update Report 2022) as a representative of Fearon Hall but comes to the meeting with an open mind.

6. DECLARATIONS OF THE PARTY WHIP

No declarations were made.

7. QUESTIONS UNDER COMMITTEE PROCEDURE 12.8

No questions were submitted.

8. LOUGHBOROUGH ANNUAL UPDATE REPORT 2022

A report of the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces to provide information and updates on significant matters relating to the town of Loughborough was submitted (item 8 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

A briefing note was also supplied by the Head of Financial Services at the meeting, outlining the outturn of the Loughborough Special Expenses Budget.

The Head of Planning and Regeneration provided a verbal update on the progression of the Bedford Square Gateway Project.

The Head of Financial Services, Cleansing and Open Spaces and Planning Regeneration attended the meeting to provide assistance in consideration of this item. The following summarises the discussion:

- i. Members highlighted that the report included information from one service within the Council and felt that more information from other services could have been included.
- ii. Members had recently been given a tour of Nanpantan Cemetery and expressed their thanks to officers. They felt that the visit was beneficial and that the site had been developed very well. It was anticipated that the site would open in late summer.
- iii. It was anticipated that residents would want to purchase memorial benches and over time this would mean that there was a sufficient supply of benches. The Council had looked at various different types of benches, but felt that the wooden benches that had been previously installed at other locations were the most appropriate style and were most suited to the environment.
- iv. Members highlighted some issues regarding the traffic in and around the Cemetery, particularly the unofficial zebra crossing within the site and the blind spot area when leaving the site. It was stated that it would be possible to install signage in the area to encourage pedestrian and road user safety.

- v. It was intended that Nanpantan Cemetery and the existing Loughborough Cemetery would operate simultaneously, until Loughborough Cemetery had reached full capacity.
- vi. There was a financial structure in place that meant that residents of the Borough outside Loughborough would be required to pay a higher fee for a plot at Nanpantan and Loughborough Cemeteries. Residents within Loughborough were required to pay a Loughborough Special Rate which supported the upkeep of services in Loughborough. Residents outside of Loughborough did not contribute towards this rate.
- vii. Measures had been put in place to prevent anti-social behaviour incidents at Nanpantan Cemetery. It was not possible for cars to access the site at night, although it was difficult to prevent pedestrians from accessing the site. The site would be monitored closely and further measures could be employed in order to deter anti-social behaviour if required.
- viii. There would be an increase in maintenance costs whilst the Council operated two cemeteries in the Loughborough area, although the majority of these costs would be offset by an increase in payments for burial plots.
- ix. The maintenance of grass verges was not the responsibility of Charnwood Borough Council. Members were encouraged to report any issues with the maintenance of grass verges to Leicestershire County Council.
- x. The toilet facilities at Charnwood Water had been closed due to repeat anti-social behaviour incidents. The Council had attempted to overcome the anti-social behaviour, but it had continued and therefore, it was not anticipated that the toilets would reopen at this time.
- xi. It was highlighted that there was a £126k underspend anticipated in the Loughborough Special Expenses Budget, which would be carried forward and reflected in future year's levy calculations. It was stated that the budget was ring-fenced for the increased costs in running services.
- xii. The Bedford Square Gateway Project had involved Highway Design Engineers to develop the scheme including parking and paved areas. The Design Engineers had complied with the Highway Design Guidance set by Leicestershire County Council. Independent Road safety audits had been undertaken during the design stage and further assessments were required once the scheme was complete and therefore the area was being adopted by Leicestershire County Council.
- xiii. Drainage issues in the Bedford Square area were being addressed to ensure parking areas would not be subject to ponding of water.

## RESOLVED

1. That the report be noted.

2. That the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces considers installing signage around the unofficial zebra crossing at Nanpantan Cemetery and the blind spot area when leaving the site.

#### Reasons

1. To ensure that members of the Committee are kept up to date on significant matters relating to the town of Loughborough.
2. To encourage pedestrian and road user safety in the area.

*Councillor Campsall left the meeting at 6:50pm.*

#### NOTES:

1. No reference may be made to these minutes at the Council meeting on 4th July 2022 unless notice to that effect is given to the Democratic Services Manager by five members of the Council by noon on the fifth working day following publication of these minutes.
2. These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record at the next meeting of the Loughborough Area Committee.

