

CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL
HELD IN
VICTORIA ROOM, LOUGHBOROUGH TOWN HALL
ON 22ND APRIL 2024

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Smidowicz)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Bradshaw)

Councillor Ashcroft	Councillor Jadeja
Councillor Baines	Councillor Knight
Councillor Blackshaw	Councillor Lawrence
Councillor Bokor	Councillor Lennie
Councillor Bottomley	Councillor Lowe
Councillor Bradshaw	Councillor Matthews
Councillor Braker	Councillor Maynard
Councillor Brookes	Councillor Miah
Councillor Campsall	Councillor Monk
Councillor Charles	Councillor Needham
Councillor Cory-Lowsley	Councillor Northage
Councillor Dent	Councillor O'Neill
Councillor Forde	Councillor Palmer
Councillor C. Forrest	Councillor Popley
Councillor S. Forrest	Councillor Rattray
Councillor Fox	Councillor Roberts
Councillor Fryer	Councillor Seaton
Councillor Goode	Councillor Snartt
Councillor A. Gray	Councillor D. Taylor
Councillor B. Gray	Councillor N. Taylor
Councillor Hadji-Nikolaou	Councillor Tillotson
Councillor Hamilton	Councillor Westley
Councillor Haynes	Councillor Woodward
Councillor Infield	Councillor Worrall
Councillor Jackson	

143. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Harper-Davies.

Apologies for absence were also received from Honorary Aldermen Bush, Day, Shields, Stott and Tormey.

144. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER REGISTRABLE AND NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS

The following disclosures of pecuniary and personal interests were made:

- i. By Councillor Fryer – A registrable Interest in item 9.2 (Motion on Notice – Lightbulb Service) as a Member of Leicestershire County Council.
- ii. By Councillor Miah – an registrable in item 9.2 (Motion on Notice – Lightbulb Service) as a Member of Leicestershire County Council.
- iii. By Councillor D Taylor – a registrable Interest in item 9.2 Motion on Notice – Lightbulb Service) as a Member of Leicestershire County Council.
- iv. By Councillor Rattray – a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item 9.1 (Motion on Notice – Support for Care Experienced People) as a self-employed/independent foster carer for Leicestershire County Council. The Monitoring Officer had given a dispensation for this meeting only as it was considered in the public interest to allow Councillor Rattray to speak and vote on the Motion on Notice.
- v. By Councillor Seaton - A registrable Interest in item 9.1 (Motion on Notice – Lightbulb Service) as a Member of Leicestershire County Council.

145. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 26th February 2024 were confirmed and signed.

146. ANNOUNCEMENTS

147. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following announcements.

“Firstly, I would like to refer to the resignation of Councillor Louise Jones. Councillor Jones represented Loughborough East, after being first elected in May 2023. I want to thank Louise Jones for all her hard work and I am sure my fellow Councillors and colleagues wish her well for the future. There will be a by-election in the Loughborough East ward, which will coincide with the Police and Crime Commissioner elections, on 2nd May.”

“I would also like to inform members that a bench has been installed on Farnham Road park in Shelthorpe, to commemorate the life of Gill Bolton. Gill served as a Councillor for the Shelthorpe ward for over two years, after being elected in May 2019. Gill sadly passed away in October 2021.”

148. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Leader's announcements.

“Madam Mayor, I wish to put on record my thanks to Councillor Louise Jones who represented the Loughborough East ward and was the Cabinet Member for Climate Action, Net Zero and Property and Assets.”

“The bench for Councillor Gill Bolton is very welcome. Gill Bolton may have only been a Councillor for two years but she had an impact on us all and her passing was untimely”.

149. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chief Executive made no announcements.

150. PETITIONS

No petitions were submitted.

151. BUSINESS RESERVED TO COUNCIL

151.1 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

A report of the Cabinet, to consider a recommendation of Cabinet in respect of the annual review of the Council's Constitution, was submitted (item 6.1 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Councillor Snartt stated that the Conservative Group welcomed the changes made to the Plans Committee procedures.

It was proposed by Councillor Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor Blackshaw and

RESOLVED that the changes to the Constitution set out in appendix 1 to the Cabinet report (attached as an Annex) be made, to be effective from the new Civic Year 2024/25, with two changes:

Item 2 – page 27 – Housing Management Advisory Board

Following further feedback from the Board (inc. tenant representatives) the name to remain as Housing Management Advisory Board.

Item 4 – page 31 - Plans Committee Procedures

That an additional sentence be added to the third paragraph to provide further clarity as follows:

“For clarity this provision also applies to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor or councillors who are ill and have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest who are in single member wards”.

Reason

To ensure the Constitution is kept up to date and fulfils its intended purposes.

151.2 ASSETS REVIEW (OFFICE ACCOMMODATION).

A report of the Cabinet to consider a recommendation of Cabinet in respect of the Assets Review (office accommodation), was submitted (item 6.2 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

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

RESOLVED that a £500,000 budget be added to the Capital Plan to facilitate the development and planning of the programme of works to refurbish the Southfield offices.

Reason

So that Council may approve the new capital expenditure and allow the works to proceed.

151.3 REVIEW OF THE SPECIAL POLICY ON CUMULATIVE IMPACT (INCLUDED WITHIN THE LICENSING ACT 2003 POLICY)

A report of the Licensing Committee to consider a revised Statement of Licensing Policy, in respect of the 'Special Policy on Cumulative Impact' zone, made under the Licensing Act 2003, following consideration by the Licensing Committee and public consultation, was submitted (item 6.3 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

It was proposed by Councillor B Gray, seconded by Councillor Lowe and

RESOLVED that the 'Special Policy on Cumulative Impact' be retained within the Statement of Licensing Policy made under the Licensing Act 2003, set out in Annex A to this report, be approved and adopted.

Reason

To ensure that the Council has an up-to-date Statement of Licensing Policy to adhere to which sets out the Council's policy in respect of liquor licensing, including the Special Policy Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ) (required to be reviewed on a three yearly basis), that meets the licensing objectives and complies with the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003.

151.4 APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED INDEPENDENT PERSON-AUDIT COMMITTEE

A report of the Monitoring Officer to enable the Council to make an appointment of a co-opted Independent member of the Audit Committee, was submitted (item 6.4 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

It was proposed by Councillor Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor Lennie and

RESOLVED that Lynne Alderson be appointed as a non-voting co-opted Independent Member of the Audit Committee until 21 April 2028 or until she ceases to be a co-opted Independent member, whichever is the sooner.

Reason

To appoint a second co-opted Independent member to the Council's audit committee.

152. CALL-IN REFERENCES

There were no call-in references from Scrutiny.

153. POSITION STATEMENTS

No position statements had been requested.

154. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

154.1 SUPPORT FOR CARE EXPERIENCED PEOPLE

A Motion on Notice regarding Support for Care Experienced People was submitted by the Conservative Group and the Labour Group (item 9.1 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The motion was proposed by Councillor D Taylor and seconded by Councillor Hamilton.

The motion was passed.

154.2 LIGHTBULB SERVICE

A Motion on Notice regarding the Lightbulb Service was submitted by the Conservative Group (item 9.2 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The motion was proposed by Councillor Snartt and seconded by Councillor Bokor.

The motion was defeated.

155. 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).

156. GARAGE AND PARKING SITE STRATEGY

Councillor Snartt asked if the Leader was comfortable that the matter was being taken forward over a five year period, given the amount?

Councillor Hamilton responded by stating that it was a rolling programme and that there was a need for prioritisation during the feasibility phase to maximise the asset value.

157. COUNCIL MEETINGS

Councillor D Taylor asked about plans to improve sound quality at Council meetings and whether there were plans to introduce web casting? Councillor D Taylor also commented that as part of the Assets Review (Office Accommodation) that consideration be given to installing a Council Chamber at the Southfields Offices.

Councillor Miah responded by stating that there were plans to introduce a new sound system and web casting equipment.

158. VOID PROPERTIES

Councillor D Taylor asked that the Leader kept all members regularly updated on the reduction in voids numbers.

Councillor Hamilton responded by stating that information was regularly reported to the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee.

159. REGENERATION FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Councillor Woodward did not wish to ask a supplementary question.

160. MINUTE REFERENCES

There were no minute references.

161. URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS EXEMPTED FROM CALL-IN

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

162. CHANGES TO THE DELEGATION OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

A report of the Chief Executive to inform Council of changes to the delegation of Executive functions, was submitted (item 13 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

163. 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 13th May 2024.