

MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING of the
SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
held at the Council Chamber, Swadlincote
on Thursday, 4th November 2021
at 6.00pm

PRESENT:

Labour Group

Councillor Gee (Chair) and Councillor Dunn (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Bambrick, Mulgrew, Pearson, Rhind, Richards, Shepherd, Singh, Southerd, Stuart, Taylor and Tilley.

Conservative Group

Councillors Ackroyd, Atkin, Bridgen, Brown, Ford, Haines, Hewlett, Lemmon, Muller, Patten, Redfern, Smith and Watson.

Independent Group

Councillors Angliss, Dawson, Fitzpatrick, MacPherson and Roberts.

Non-Grouped

Councillor Wheelton

CL/62 **APOLOGIES**

Council was informed that an apology for absence had been received from Councillors Bridgen and Churchill (Conservative Group)

CL/63 **TO CONFIRM THE OPEN MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The Open Minutes of the Council Meetings held on the 16th September 2021 (CL/43-CL/61)) were approved as a true record.

CL/64 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Council was informed that no declarations of interest had been received.

CL/65 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair of the Council informed Members of his attendance at the Ride for Remembrance event and the funds raised for the Chair's Charities. The Chair also had attended the Coppice site Ground Breaking Ceremony and the spade had been gifted to South Derbyshire District Council. It was noted that the Vice-Chair of the Council had launched the Poppy Appeal at Morrison's in Swadlincote.

CL/66 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER**

The Leader of the Council announced that it was great to be back in Chamber for Committee and Council meetings and noted how the Council had shown

resilience of business during the last year with the delivery of over 4 million food parcels. The Leader hoped that the extension of the Christmas period in Swadlincote would encourage families into the area. Members were reminded to share information with residents regarding the Green Homes Grant funding, that was available until the end of January 2022, and could help them to reduce fuel bills

CL/67 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE**

The Head of Paid Service informed Council that following the murder of David Amess MP, the government had carried out a safety review and that if Members so wished they should contact Democratic Services to have their home address removed from the public domain. Council was updated on the Swadlincote Town Centre refurbishment and the Tourist Information Centre's new home. The Head of Paid Service announced that Remembrance Services would take place on The Delph on Thursday and at the gates to Eureka Park.

.CL/68 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10**

Council was informed that no questions had been received.

CL/69 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11**

Council was informed that no questions had been received

CL/70 **TO CONSIDER ANY NOTICES OF MOTION**

In Accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 12 Councillor Richards moved the following motion:

This Council is eternally indebted to the loyal and committed workforce for all their endeavours throughout the last 18 months. Our staff continued to deliver the services that was taken for granted prior to the pandemic, as well as the other increased duties that the pandemic forced upon the Council in order to ensure that our residents, and staff were safe throughout. Not only have we, as an authority, maintained our statutory services but we have also distributed over £24million in Covid Business Support Grants, employed Covid Marshalls to ensure our residents safety, engaged into new IT technology as a means of maintaining our service delivery, embraced remote working and continued to deliver a service to our customers and residents under considerable pressures and limited resources.

“Given the commitments, dedication and resilience shown by our workforce this Council agreed that as a means of showing our appreciation and gratitude that only 1 day (or pro rata) of annual leave will be required to be deducted as part of the annual weekly closed down at Christmas 2021 with a similar concession given to those other parts of the workforce who continue to provide vital services throughout the Christmas to New Year period.”

Councillor Brown supported the proposal in recognition for the extra work undertaken by staff and thanked IT staff, the Planning Team, Enforcement officers and all refuse collection staff for their hard work and dedication.

The Chief Executive thanked Members on behalf of all staff.

RESOLVED:

The Council agree that only 1 day (or pro rata) of annual leave would be required to be deducted as part of the annual weekly closed down at Christmas 2021 with a similar concession given to those other parts of the workforce that continue to provide vital services throughout the Christmas to New Year period.

CL/71 **HILTON, MARSTON ON DOVE AND HOON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) presented the report to Council and sought approval for the Neighbourhood Plan following the successful referendum in September 2021.

Members acknowledged the time and hard work undertaken by Hilton Parish Council.

RESOLVED:

That Council approved that the Hilton, Marston on Dove and Hoon Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) be 'made' under section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 in compliance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

CL/72 **AREA FORUM MINUTES**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) presented the report to Council noting that virtual meetings had been well attended in late spring and that the proposed trial was due to the rising number of Covid cases and the small venues where meetings were held and that it was expected to have a positive environmental impact as there would be no need to travel.

The Chief Executive address Council and confirmed the rising Covid Figures and the increase in the R number meant that meetings held in small venues would not be promoting meetings held in safe way and the proposed trial would be a way to get through the winter period.

Councillor Fitzpatrick addressed Council on behalf of the Melbourne residents who did not support the proposal and suggested that the trial period should be enhanced to include the option for meetings to allow in person and virtual attendance and requested that an update on attendance figures be brought to Council following the first trial meeting.

The Chief Executive agreed that attendance figures would be shared with Council, but the recommendation was for virtual meetings only and that face-to-face meetings would be considered sometime in the future when it was safe to do so.

The Leader of the Council confirmed that the preference for face-to-face meetings should only take place when it was safe to do so and Members requested that the amendment proposed by Councillor Fitzpatrick be withdrawn and agreed that feedback from the trial would be reviewed by Council.

Councillor Fitzpatrick declined to withdraw the amended recommendation as it was brought before Council on behalf of Melbourne residents.

Councillor MacPherson informed Council that he fully supported Councillor Fitzpatrick proposal.

RESOLVED:

Council approved that Area Forums be held as virtual non-constituted Community Meetings, on a trial basis, until the financial year end in April 2022.

CL/73

TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLORS TO PARISH COUNCILS

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services presented the report to Council regarding arrangements for two Parish Councils.

Councillor Smith and Councillor Brown commended the work undertaken by Councillor Lemmon in a very difficult situation

RESOLVED:

1.1 Council approved that the Chief Executive be authorised to appoint District Councillors to Foston and Scropton Parish Council in accordance with the procedure set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

1.2 Council agree that the Chief Executive report any such appointments to the next meeting of Council.

CL/74

MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEMEU

The Monitoring Officer presented the report to Council which followed a resolution approved at Annual Council in May 2021 regarding the insertion at 4.e of the Members Allowance Scheme.

Councillor Fitzpatrick raised concerns regarding the recommendation and requested fairness for all Councillors.

Councillor Wheelton addressed Council and declared that as the only Independent Councillor she would not be voting on this item.

RESOLVED:

Council approved the amended Members Allowances Scheme, as per Annexe A of the report, to form part of the Council's Constitution.

CL/75 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN – ANNUAL REVIEW LETTER 2021 AND LGSCO UPDATE**

The Chief Executive presented the report to Council noting that the four issues that had been raised were dealt with and recommend the report for approval

RESOLVED:

Council accepted the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's Annual Review Letter 2021.

CL/76 **TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE OPEN MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Minutes No's</u>
Planning	02.03.21	PL/136 – PL/144
Planning	30.03.21	PL/147 – PL/157
Planning	27.04.21	PL/158 – PL/170
Planning	11.05.21	PL/171 – PL/177
Environmental & Development Services	27.05.21	EDS/112 - EDS/123
Housing & Community Services	03.06.21	HCS/01 – HCS/11
Finance & Management	10.06.21	FM/01 – FM/12
Finance & Management	22.07.21	FM/17 – FM/29
Finance & Management	03.08.21	FM/34 – FM/40
Housing & Community Services	19.08.21	HCS/15 – HCS/25
Finance & Management	26.08.21	FM/43 – FM/54

RESOLVED:

That the above Committee Meetings Open Minutes were received and approved as a true record.

CL/77 **TO REVIEW THE COMPOSITIONS OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES, AND WORKING PANELS**

Members reviewed the composition of Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Panels for 2021-22.

RESOLVED:

Environmental and Development Services Committee

Councillor Heath to be replaced by Councillor Dunn as Vice-Chair

CL/78 **TO REVIEW THE COMPOSITIONS OF THE SUBSTITUTE PANELS**

Members reviewed the composition of Substitute Panels for 2021-22

RESOLVED:

Council was informed no amendments were to be made.

CL/79 **TO REVIEW REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members reviewed the Outside Bodies representation list.

RESOLVED:

Council was informed no amendments were to be made.

CL/80 **TO REVIEW MEMBER CHAMPIONS**

Members reviewed the Representation of Member Champions.

RESOLVED:

Council was informed that the list of Member Champions would be reviewed and reported at the next Council Meeting

CL/81 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined under the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as indicated in the reports of Committees.

CL/82 **EXEMPT QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NUMBER 11**

Council was informed that no questions had been received.

CL/83 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Committee	Date	Minutes No's
Planning	02.03.21	PL/145 – PL/146
Housing & Community Services	03.06.21	HCS/12 – HCS/14
Finance & Management	10.06.21	FM/13 – FM/16
Finance & Management	22.07.21	FM/30 – FM/33
Finance & Management	03.08.21	FM/41 – FM/42
Housing & Community Services	19.08.21	HCS/26 – HCS/29
Finance & Management	26.08.21	FM/55 – FM/61

RESOLVED:

That the above Committee Meetings exempt minutes were received and approved as a true record.

The meeting terminated at hours 19:30hrs

COUNCILLOR M GEE

CHAIR OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL