

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNTY HALL, GLENFIELD ON WEDNESDAY, 8 JULY 2015**

PRESENT

Mr. E. D. Snartt CC (in the Chair)

Mr. I. E. G. Bentley CC, Mr. R. Blunt CC, Mr. G. A. Boulter CC, Mr. S. L. Bray CC, Mrs. R. Camamile CC, Mr. M. H. Charlesworth CC, Mr. J. G. Coxon CC, Mrs. J. A. Dickinson CC, Dr. T. Eynon CC, Dr. R. K. A. Feltham CC, Mrs. J. Fox CC, Mr. S. J. Galton CC, Mr. D. A. Gamble CC, Mr. S. J. Hampson CC, Mr. G. A. Hart CC, Dr. S. Hill CC, Mr. Dave Houseman MBE, CC, Mr. Max Hunt CC, Mr. D. Jennings CC, Mr. J. Kaufman CC, Mr. P. G. Lewis CC, Mr. W. Liquorish JP CC, Mrs. H. E. Loydall CC, Mr. K. W. P. Lynch CC, Mr. J. Miah CC, Mr. M. T. Mullaney CC, Ms. Betty Newton CC, Mr. L. J. P. O'Shea CC, Mr. P. C. Osborne CC, Mr. I. D. Ould CC, Mrs. R. Page CC, Mr. B. L. Pain CC, Mr. A. E. Pearson CC, Mr. T. J. Pendleton CC, Mrs. P. Posnett CC, Mrs. C. M. Radford CC, Mr. J. B. Rhodes CC, Mr. T. J. Richardson CC, Mrs. J. Richards CC, Mr. N. J. Rushton CC, Mr. R. Sharp CC, Mr. R. J. Shepherd CC, Mr. L. Spence CC, Mr. D. A. Sprason CC, Mr. G. Welsh CC, Mr. E. F. White CC, Miss. H. Worman CC, Mr. M. B. Wyatt CC and Mr. L. E. Yates CC

13. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Tunisian Attack

Members joined the Chairman in conveying condolences to the family of Roy and Angela Fisher of Western Park, Leicester, and all other families who had tragically lost loved ones in the attack in Sousse, Tunisia.

The County Council, along with the rest of the country, had observed a minute's silence on Friday, 3 July, in tribute to all those who had lost their lives.

The County Council's links with HM Armed Forces

The Chairman was pleased to report that he had been able to accept a number of invitations on behalf of the County Council to events which sought to maintain and develop the County Council's strong relationship with Her Majesty's Armed Forces. Within the County they had included:

- the Defence Animal Centre's Open Day in Melton Mowbray;
- The Royal Tigers Regimental Association annual Tigers Sunday service and parade; and
- the Welbeck Defence College's Annual Inspection which this year had been performed by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh.

These events demonstrated the importance that the Armed Forces place on civic and community engagement.

As co-host of the Armed Forces Day Service and Parade held in Leicester the previous Saturday, the Chairman had been pleased to be able to reciprocate these invitations. The service and parade this year was the largest to date with representatives of the Armed Forces, veterans and cadets numbering 600. The parade through the City had been a true spectacle. This had been a chance to show appreciation for the special service the Armed Forces gave to the country and, with thousands of people lining the parade route, the demonstration of public support had been tremendous.

Children in Care

The Chairman reported that Mr Ould had asked him to mention a wonderful opportunity which had been afforded to two young people who were members of the Children in Care Council which the County Council ran.

Luke and Nishat were two of ten young people across the UK who had been invited to London to discuss their own experiences of being in care with the Children's Commissioner and MPs and they would also be meeting the Secretary of State for Education.

The Chairman, Mr Ould and members agreed this was a deserved reward for the way in which young people in care organised themselves so they could influence national as well as local policy making.

Battle of Bosworth Anniversary re-enactment

The Chairman reminded members that each year the County Council staged a special weekend of re-enactment at Bosworth Battlefield. With the return to Bosworth of the mortal remains of King Richard III in March ahead of his reinterment in Leicester Cathedral still fresh in the memory, it was anticipated that there would be a high level of interest from the public.

This year the re-enactment weekend coincided exactly with the anniversary of the battle held on 22nd August, and so this year the event would incorporate the traditional Laying of the Roses ceremony, which the Chairman said he would be delighted to host.

Members were encouraged to purchase tickets for this exciting family friendly event arranged and hosted by the dedicated team at the Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre and Country Park.

Visitors

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting all visitors and guests of members and anyone who was viewing the meeting via the webcast.

14. MINUTES.

It was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Mr Liquorish and carried:-

“That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20 May 2015, copies of which have been circulated to members, be taken as read, confirmed and signed.”

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to make declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda for the meeting.

All members declared a personal interest in the report of the Constitution Committee concerning the Electoral Review.

Dr Eynon declared a personal interest in the question she had asked of the Leader under item 4, as she was a salaried GP.

16. QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 7(1)(2) AND (5).

(A) Mr Bray asked the following question of the Leader or his nominee:-

“Could the Leader please tell me if the County Council are exploring or advocating any changes to waste collection arrangements? If so could you outline what these changes are?”

Mr Pain replied as follows:-

“Waste collection is the responsibility of District Councils and each authority makes its own decisions in relation to the waste collection services it provides.

The Leicestershire Waste Partnership, which consists of the 7 District Councils as well as the County Council, is working with consultants to explore the options for providing a county-wide food waste collection service to achieve both improved performance and realise budgetary savings. A number of high level options have been modelled by the consultants but there is no commitment by any of the partner authorities to implement the modelled options at this time. It will remain a concern if the district councils are not able to realise savings opportunities which are clearly available from waste collection.”

Mr Bray asked the following supplementary question:-

“Thank you for the response to question one. In the second paragraph, is one of the options being considered a move to three weekly collection?”

Mr Pain replied as follows:-

“I couldn't possibly answer as we are not responsible for collection of waste at the County Council.”

(B) Mr Bray asked the following question of the Leader or his nominee:-

“The Hinckley Times (25th June) reported that the County Council is proposing to sell off £28 million of its land and property assets as part of the Corporate Asset Management Plan. Could the Leader confirm if any of these assets are in Hinckley and Bosworth, and if so could he provide me with a list

of what they are?"

Mr Pain replied as follows:-

"It would be a pity if Mr Bray relied on the local newspaper for his understanding of the County Council's intentions when he had the opportunity to read the wealth of information contained within the 50 plus pages of the Plan and accompanying documents which went through Scrutiny and Cabinet last month. Any disposals will be progressed through the Council's approval processes. Sites can be commercially sensitive but members will be advised if a proposal is likely to affect their division."

Mr Bray asked the following supplementary question:-

"Can the Lead Member point out to me which page actually lists the assets and if it isn't in the document, could he supply me with one?"

Mr Pain replied as follows:-

"As stated in the response, the Corporate Asset Management Plan consists of over 50 pages of information and the proposals are split under the relevant departments of the authority. I am sure there will be certain assets that pertain to the Hinckley and Bosworth area, and so under the sensitive issues procedure we will notify the relevant members accordingly as and when decisions are taken to dispose of relevant assets."

(C) Mr Bray asked the following question of the Leader or his nominee:-

"In the past I have raised concerns about the need for a pedestrian crossing in Mount Road near to Hurst Road, this will be needed more than ever with the imminent opening of a new leisure centre in the town centre. Would the Leader please ask officers to once again consider this request?"

Mr Osborne replied as follows:-

"Members will be aware that the Hinckley area was identified as a focus for investment with a view to stimulating economic growth, minimising congestion and reducing carbon emissions. A four phase programme of work in the Hinckley area (the Hinckley Area Project) aims to improve the transport network in and around Hinckley to support these objectives.

The first three phases of the project, which includes the construction of cycle, walking, bus and safety measures, are now well underway. Phase 4 of the project will focus on Hinckley Town Centre and involve a review of the major junctions and strategic signing network in the town and joining up with the cycle and walking network currently being constructed. Once proposals have been developed they will be subject to a future funding bid to the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership.

Mount Road and Hurst Road are within the area of focus for this fourth phase of the project and the request for a crossing in this location will be considered as part of this work."

(D) Dr Eynon asked the following question of the Leader or his nominee:-

"The patient is the only person who attends all appointments across health and social care systems, yet Leicestershire's health and social care IT systems still lack patient-centred inter-operability to promote self-care.

What opportunities exist for this Council to adopt a patient/client portal that is not organisation or supplier-specific and how could this be pursued?"

Mr Houseman replied as follows:-

"The Council is working closely with the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland health and social care community to ensure greater sharing of data between care professionals and with patients through the Better Care Together Programme.

The procurement of new IT systems in health and social care adhere to national interoperability standards that allow systems to be connected. Work is ongoing to allow the NHS number to be the primary identifier across all health and social care organisations to allow records and information to be more easily shared.

A number of other initiatives are also taking place, including –

- Patients in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland have access to a summary of their care records, and further work is taking place nationally and locally to allow patients access to their full GP health records. This will be available at most GP practices by April 2016.
- University Hospitals of Leicester is working on a patient portal to provide access to information on relevant services. They will work with other partners to ensure that feeds from other services can be included.
- A health and wellbeing hub is being developed to provide information and advice on local services, especially in relation to prevention and support. This will be available to professionals in the autumn and then the public early in 2016.
- Work is also underway to develop a 'whole system' view of health and social care data to support evidence based decision making.
- A successful application has been made to the NHS Test Beds Programme for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to be a test bed site for using data to improve patient care."

Dr Eynon asked the following supplementary question:-

"Could I thank the Lead Member for the very informative set of answers. I was wondering if the Lead Member is aware of a patient/client portal known as "Patients Know Best" which is one of seventeen NHS Innovation Accelerator schemes aimed at breaking down barriers to information sharing. Does the Lead Member agree with me that any solution for health and social care integration that leaves the patient, who should be at the heart of the system, unable to see or share their own information is unacceptable?"

Mr Houseman replied as follows:-

“Thank you Dr Eynon. I must say that I found the question and so-called supplementary convoluted and confusing. I am not sure whether it was a supplementary question, a statement or just something you wanted to talk about whilst we were all here at the County Council today. I do share your concerns, will seek further advice and will talk to you about these outside the meeting if you wish.”

(E) Mr Charlesworth asked the following question of the Leader or his nominee:-

- “1. Did Mr Orson disclose any of the contents of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s letter dated the 24th June to anyone prior to the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel on the 25th?
2. When did the Leader become aware of/or see the Police and Crime Commissioner’s letter of the 24th?
3. Did the Chief Executive of Leicestershire County Council see or become aware of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s letter of the 24th prior to the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel on the 25th?
4. Did the Leader contact the Police and Crime Commissioner on the 24th June and ask him to “take a different course of action?”

Mr Rushton replied as follows:-

“I am sorry that the Police and Crime Commissioner decided to challenge publicly Mr Orson’s integrity and I am also sorry that Mr Charlesworth is asking such questions now since they serve no purpose. We need to move on and I see the Commissioner has said on his website this morning that he hopes to be back at work next week. That, of course, is a totally different position from what he reported to the Panel that he was “compelled to take a period of extended absence due to incapacitating ill-health”. What the Panel did not know when they met was that the Commissioner had tweeted an hour before the meeting that he hoped to be back in a couple of weeks, but a circular letter last week from the Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner confirmed that the Commissioner was on extended sick leave. Clearly there appears to have been some confusion, but not of the Panel’s or the County Council’s making.

All I, Mr Orson and the County Council as Secretariat to the Police and Crime Panel have tried to do is to help Sir Clive Loader. It had been known for some time that he had a serious back problem. Whilst we wish him well and hope he is not returning to work too soon, that should not detract from the wholly unacceptable situation whereby an unelected official can simply take over the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner when he is incapacitated. Mr Orson and the Panel were absolutely right to take up the matter with the Government. I am pleased that the Home Secretary has said to Mr Orson in her response that the Panel should be commended for giving the matter serious consideration.”

Mr Charlesworth asked the following supplementary question:-

“Would the Leader confirm or deny that Mr Orson leaked the letter?”

Mr Rushton replied as follows:-

“Of course Mr Orson did not leak the letter. I don’t think there was anything to leak. As far as I know there was a lot more in the public domain than was at first perceived.”

17. POSITION STATEMENTS UNDER STANDING ORDER 8.

The Leader presented a position statement on the following matters:-

- Combined Authority;
- Leicester and Leicestershire Economic Partnership;
- Midland Mainline Electrification;
- Great Central Railway;
- Police and Crime Commissioner;
- Local Government Association Conference.

The Lead Member for Environment and Transport presented a position statement on the following matters:-

- North West Leicester Transport Project;
- A511 Growth Corridor.

A copy of the position statements is filed with these minutes.

18. REPORT OF THE CABINET.

(a) Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2015-16.

It was moved by Mr Orson, seconded by Mr Ould, and carried:-

“That the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2015/16, attached as Appendix 2 to this report, be approved.”

19. REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION.

(a) Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2014-15.

It was moved by Mr Galton, seconded by Mr Shepherd and carried:-

“That the information contained in the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2014/15, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, on its activities, be noted.”

20. JOINT REPORT OF THE EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE.

(a) Proposed Amendment to the Officer Employment Procedure Rules.

It was moved by Mr Rhodes, seconded by Mr Shepherd and carried:-

“That the revised Officer Employment Procedure Rules attached as Appendix 1 to this report, be approved.”

21. REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE.

(a) Review and Revision of the Constitution.

It was moved by Mr Rushton, seconded by Mr Rhodes and carried:-

“Motion 1

- (a) That the proposed changes to the Constitution, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, other than those which relate to Standing Orders (the Meeting Procedure Rules), be approved;

Motion 2 – Procedural Motion in accordance with Standing Order 37

- (b) That the changes to Standing Orders (The Meeting Procedure Rules), as set out in Appendix 1 to the report of the Constitution Committee, be approved.”

(NOTE Standing Order 37 requires that this procedural motion, having been moved and seconded, stands adjourned until the next ordinary meeting of the Council.)

(b) Electoral Review of Leicestershire County Council.

It was moved by Dr Feltham and seconded by Mr Hart:-

“That the proposed County Council submission on new electoral divisions be approved.”

The motion was put and carried, 36 members voting for the motion and 2 members voting against.

22. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICE/S OF MOTION:

(a) Midland Mainline - Mr. Max Hunt CC

It was moved by Mr Hunt, and seconded by Dr Feltham, and carried unanimously:-

“1. That this Council:-

- (a) Notes with deep concern the Secretary of State for Transport’s statement to the House of Commons on 25 June when he announced that the electrification of the Midland Mainline between Bedford and Sheffield project be ‘paused’;
- (b) Expresses disappointment that any delay will undoubtedly affect the local economy across Leicestershire;
- (c) Is pleased that the Secretary of State confirmed that Network Rail’s project to straighten the line and improve disabled access at Market Harborough station is not affected and will go ahead and therefore asks the Department for Transport for confirmation that the project is fully funded and will therefore progress without any delay;
- (d) Asks the Secretary of State to begin an urgent review of Network Rail’s planning of the Midland Mainline electrification project so it can be quickly resumed to meet the original 2020 completion date.

2. This Council therefore resolves to work with other East Midlands transport authorities, members of parliament and council leaders representing communities across Leicester and Leicestershire to campaign for the reinstatement of the Midland Mainline electrification project.”

(b) Grass Cutting - Mr. S. L. Bray CC

It was moved by Mr Bray, and seconded by Mr Lynch:-

“This Council notes the increasing amount of public concern over the poor state of grass verges across the County and therefore calls on the Cabinet to review the decision to reduce the frequency of the grass cutting service.”

On the motion being put and before the vote was taken, five members rose asking that a named vote be recorded.

The vote was recorded as follows:-

For the motion

Mr Boulter, Mr Bray, Mr Charlesworth, Dr Eynon, Mrs Fox, Mr Galton, Mr Gamble, Dr Hill, Mr Hunt, Mr Kaufman, Mrs Loydall, Mr Lynch, Mr Miah, Mr Mullaney, Ms Newton, Mr Sharp, Mr Spence, Mr Sprason, Mr Welsh, Mr Wyatt, Mr Yates.

Against the motion

Mr Bentley, Mr Blunt, Mrs Camamile, Mr Coxon, Mrs Dickinson, Dr Feltham, Mr Hampson, Mr Hart, Mr Houseman, Mr Jennings, Mr Lewis, Mr Liquorish, Mr Osborne, Mr O’Shea, Mr Ould, Mrs Page, Mr Pain, Mr Pearson, Mr Pendleton, Mrs Posnett, Mrs Radford, Mr Rhodes, Mrs Richards, Mr

Richardson, Mr Rushton, Mr Shepherd, Mr Snartt, Mr White.

The motion was put and not carried, 21 members voting for the motion and 28 against.

2.30 pm – 5.30 pm
08 July 2015

CHAIRMAN