

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNTY HALL, GLENFIELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18 MAY 2016**

PRESENT

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

Mr. I. E. G. Bentley CC, Mr. D. C. Bill MBE 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. 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. A. M. Kershaw CC, Ms. K. J. Knaggs CC, Mr. P. G. Lewis CC, Mr. W. Liquorish JP 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. J. T. Orson JP 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. S. D. Sheahan 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 and Mr. L. E. Yates CC

1. TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN.

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

“That Mr Bill Liquorish be elected Chairman for the period until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.”

Mr Liquorish read out and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed and signed by the Chief Executive.

Mr Liquorish took the Chair and thanked his proposer and seconder and members of the Council for electing him.

The Chairman thanked Mr Snartt for his services to the County during his period of office as Chairman. Mr Rushton, Mr Galton and Mr Sharp each joined the Chairman in associating their Groups with the thanks to Mr Snartt. Mr Snartt thanked members for their generous remarks.

2. TO APPOINT A VICE-CHAIRMAN.

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

“That Mrs Janice Richards be appointed Vice-Chairman for the period until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.”

Mrs Richards read out and signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed and signed by the Chief Executive.

Mrs Richards thanked her proposer and seconder for their generous remarks

and members of the Council for appointing her as Vice-Chairman.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Queen's 90th Birthday

The Chairman reminded members that they had been invited to a service to be held on Sunday, 12th June at Leicester Cathedral to celebrate Her Majesty's 90th Birthday. The service would be held jointly with the Lord-Lieutenant and Lord Mayor and would be preceded by a party in Jubilee Square. All members were encouraged to attend.

Armed Forces Day

The Chairman reminded members that they had been invited to a special service to be held on Saturday, 25th June at Leicester Cathedral to mark Armed Forces Day. The service would be held jointly with the Lord Mayor of Leicester and the Lord-Lieutenant and would be followed by a parade of Standards, service personnel, veterans and cadets through the streets of Leicester, behind the pipes and drums of the Seaforth Highlanders. All members were encouraged to attend.

The Centenary of the Battle of the Somme

The Chairman asked members to note that they would receive an invitation a special service at Leicester Cathedral on Friday, 1st July which would mark the start of the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, in which over 2,000 men from Leicester and Leicestershire lost their lives. The Service would be held jointly with the Lord-Lieutenant and the Lord Mayor. The Service would conclude with a two-minute silence, which would also be observed at County Hall. He hoped all members would attend.

Chairman's Reception – Beaumanor Hall

The Chairman was pleased to inform members that he would be holding a Reception at Beaumanor Hall on Thursday, 28th July at 6.30pm. All members of the County Council would be receiving invitations in due course.

County Service

The Chairman asked members to note that the County Service this year would be held at Broughton Astley Parish Church on Sunday, 2nd October. The Bishop of Leicester would be preaching and the Service would be followed by refreshments. Invitations would be issued to all members in due course and he hoped that members would support the annual service.

Visitors

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting all visitors and guests of members, including Mr David Wright and his Wife, Maureen, who had been elected as Mayor of Melton Borough Council.

The Chairman also welcomed anyone who was viewing the meeting via the

webcast.

4. MINUTES.

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

“That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16th March 2016, copies of which have been circulated to members, be taken as read, confirmed and signed.”

5. 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.

No such declarations were made.

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

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

“Leicestershire County Council is rightly proud of our historic links with the Armed Forces.

With significantly higher recruitment targets for our reserved armed forces the Government continues to promote the target of 1% of all civil service staff enlisting.

Accepting that Leicestershire County Council is not part of the civil service but a nevertheless vital public sector employer can the Leader please advise:-

1. What percentage of County Council staff are currently reservists in our armed forces?
2. What steps, if any, are presently taken by the County Council to encourage employees to join up?”

Mr Rhodes replied as follows:-

- “1. The County Council does not currently have a simple way of monitoring how many of our current staff are reservists – individual line managers would have to provide information.
2. The County Council has a published policy on employees wishing to volunteer to serve in Britain’s Reserve Force. That policy indicates a commitment from the Council to provide up to 2 weeks paid leave for employees to attend the annual training camp. I thank Mr Spence for raising this important issue and I am happy to ask Officers to explore ways in which we can encourage current staff to become reservists, linking to broader messages about community engagement and

involvement.”

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

- “1. Is the Leader aware that the CQC, after a recent inspection of EMAS, rated the service “inadequate” under the “Safe” category, raising concerns over “insufficient staff and a lack of appropriate skill mix to meet the needs of patients in a timely manner”?
2. What does the Leader think can be done to address this problem and what role could this Council play?”

Mr White replied as follows:-

- “1. Yes
2. The Council has a key role to play in reducing the demand on the Ambulance Service and the wider health and care system by helping to improve the health of the population and supporting people to be independent. This is delivered through involvement in the Better Care Together programme as well as the ongoing preventative work of the Public Health, Adults and Communities and Children and Families Departments.

I understand that the County Council’s Health Scrutiny Committee has invited EMAS to a meeting in June to discuss the findings and discuss the action EMAS intends to take to address the concerns raised by the CQC. It would seem sensible for this to happen before determining what further role the County Council could play.”

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

- “1. A Strategic Review of Beaumanor Hall was announced more than two years ago and apparently delayed due to other priorities. In February 2015 the Council was told the Review was underway and would include a detailed analysis of the financial performance of the facility. Could the Leader advise:-
 - i) Has the review been completed and, if so, where can it be accessed?
 - ii) If the review has not been completed, when is it now due to be completed?
2. The subsidy for Beaumanor Hall in 2013/14 was expected to be £200,000. The budgeted subsidy in 2014/15 was £80,000 but was expected to break even. The subsidy in 2015/16, without a major intervention was expected to be about £30,000. Could the Leader update Council on the subsidy provided for in the last three years, including major maintenance and repairs, and that provided for in the 2016/17 budget?”

Mr Rhodes replied as follows:-

- “1. Beaumanor Hall is now part of our new commercial trading arm, “Leicestershire Traded Services”. We continue to believe that we have a very valuable asset in Beaumanor Hall and Park and we will continue to look for further opportunities to increase revenue by providing new educational opportunities for children, by developing the heritage offering and providing more catering, events and activities.

It was our thinking two years ago that we would undertake a strategic review of Beaumanor Hall and Park. We commenced the review in February 2015 but it soon became apparent that there were three distinct areas of activity that take place at Beaumanor and that rather than an overall high level strategic review, each area required more detailed ongoing analysis and focus. The separate areas can be summarised as: outdoor activities, educational activities, and catering and events.

We have now commenced some ongoing operational reviews of these areas, each one underpinned by some forensic financial analysis. Separate business cases will soon be available.

There has been a renewed focus in opening Beaumanor Hall to the public and we are now open every Sunday rather than on the occasional one. Individual events go from strength to strength and the most recent of the very successful pie nights attracted over 250 people.

We are also investing in upgrading the Children’s accommodation for Cabins 1-4 and the Bennet Centre on site to improve standards and capacity as residential bookings for 2016- 2017 are nearly fully taken. This investment is anticipated to generate approximately £70,000 per annum in the long term (which is additional to the MTFS budget position below).

The impact of recent improvements and initiatives has meant that in 2015/16 we achieved a surplus of £120,000. We are confident that the return in the coming year will be even more significant.

2. As the attached table demonstrates, the outturn in the financial years 2014/15 and 2015/16 has been significantly better than was originally predicted. In 2015/16 the budget had forecast a subsidy of £30,000 but there was an encouraging turnaround and Beaumanor Hall made a positive outturn of £120,000. All building maintenance has been routine and has been within budget.”

Beaumanor Income and Expenditure Summary

£000's	2014/15	2014/15	2015/16	2015/16	2016/17	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Description	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
Staffing	863	785	737	738	754	745	799	806
Running Costs	624	575	601	550	578	558	563	586

Building Maintenance	117	23	117	22	47	47	50	50	50
Operational Project Overheads	13	13	13	13	14	14	14	14	14
Total Expenditure	1,617	1,396	1,468	1,323	1,393	1,364	1,426	1,456	1,488
Income	-1,401	-1,372	-1,438	-1,443	-1,468	-1,505	-1,580	-1,659	-1,742
Net Cost/(Income)	216	24	30	-120	-75	-140	-155	-200	-255

Mr Hunt asked the following supplementary question:

“This is an absolutely cracking answer to an important question and I am very pleased to see that a report has been concluded and that some excellent figures have been provided and I hope that the Scrutiny Committee responsible will be able to have a look at them as well.

I have one question of clarification, where the Cabinet Lead Member refers to the investment anticipated to generate approximately £70,000 per annum in the long term, I wondered if Mr Rhodes could tell us what that investment is and what the long term is.”

Mr Rhodes replied as follows:

“Yes, we are at the moment developing the business plans for the three types of service which we envisage in future being provided from Beaumanor Hall and the £70,000 is an approximate figure for the moment. Once those business plans have been developed we will refine that figure and you will find that you will see more detail and you will be able to examine that.”

(D) Mr Hunt asked the following question of the Leader or his nominee:-

“Would the Leader agree that Leicestershire offers fabulous opportunities for leisure walking and cycling and compliment the Safe and Sustainable Travel Team for all they do to develop and promote this, in particular through the ‘choosehowyoumove’ online tools?”

Mr Osborne replied as follows:-

“Yes, I would agree that Leicestershire offers fabulous opportunities for leisure walking and cycling and I recognise the multiple benefits that this brings to the County.

The County Council has a strong track record in supporting walking and cycling, most notably in securing over £5million since 2011 through the Local Sustainable Transport Fund to promote sustainable travel in the County. This has seen the development of the Choose How You Move brand which provides a “one stop shop” for all sustainable travel needs and has proved so

successful that it is now being used by partners such as the City Council. The County Council are playing an active role, based on experience, in responding to the Government's new Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy which is due for publication later this year.

This work led by the Safe and Sustainable Travel Team supported by many others is a great example of what we can achieve."

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

"Does the Leader share my concern that traffic islands that have in some cases been installed to give protection to pedestrians offer particular challenges to mobility scooters and will he give consideration to how we address this in the future?"

Mr Osborne replied as follows:-

"The installation of dropped kerbs and pedestrian refuges (traffic islands) is a cost effective way to provide improved crossing facilities where formal crossing facilities could not be justified or could be potentially dangerous due to low levels of usage.

Such facilities are primarily designed around the requirements of pedestrians, who are the vast majority of the users of them. National standards suggest a minimum width of 1.2m for pedestrian islands. I agree that this width is not ideal for all road users and that is why our current practice is to install wider refuges wherever possible as they provide a better refuge for road users than the national minimum. However, often existing road widths restrict the width of refuge which can be provided whilst still retaining a viable value for money scheme.

It would not be a viable alternative to change all pedestrian refuges to formal crossings as refuges are normally installed where national guidance suggests a formal crossing is not justified. The guidance is clear that "caution should be exercised where pedestrian flows are generally light or light for long periods of the day". Drivers who become accustomed to not being stopped at the crossing may begin to ignore its existence, with dangerous consequences. The problems are accentuated as vehicle speeds increase.

As such I consider that the approach of installing refuges wider than minimum standard of 1.2m, where possible, is appropriate."

7. POSITION STATEMENTS UNDER STANDING ORDER 8.

The Leader presented a position statement on the following matters:

- Sporting Achievements
 - Leicester City Football Club
 - Mark Selby
 - Leicester Riders
 - Leicester City Women

- Leicester Tigers
- Leicestershire County Cricket
- Police and Crime Commissioner
- Pam Posnett
- Adult Social Care Peer Review
- Low-funded County Councils – Funding Update
- Academies Agenda
- Combined Authority and Devolution Update

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

8. REPORT OF THE CABINET:-

(a) Dates of Council Meetings 2016/17.

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

"That Council meetings in 2016/17 be held on the following dates:-

Wednesday 29 June 2016
 Wednesday 21 September 2016
 Wednesday 7 December 2016
 Wednesday 22 February 2017 (Budget Meeting)
 Wednesday 22 March 2017
 Wednesday 17 May 2017 (Annual Meeting)."

9. TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITEMS 11 AND 12 OF STANDING ORDER 4.

(a) To appoint the Leader;

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

"That Mr N J Rushton be appointed Leader of the Council for the period until the next Annual Meeting of the Council."

(b) To note any changes to the membership of the Cabinet made by the Leader;

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

"That it be noted that the Leader proposes to appoint the members named on list 'A' attached to the Order Paper as members of the Cabinet."

A copy of list 'A' is filed with these minutes.

(c) To appoint Cabinet Support Members as the Council considers appropriate;

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

"That the following members be appointed as Cabinet Support Members until the next Annual Meeting of the County Council, as provided for in Article 7 of the Council's Constitution:-

Mr G A Hart
Mr P G Lewis
Mrs R Page."

The motion was put and carried.

(d) To appoint members of the Scrutiny Commission, Boards and Committees (including the naming of Spokesmen/Spokespersons).

It was moved by Mr Osborne, seconded by Mr Charlesworth and carried:-

"That the membership of the Scrutiny Commission, Boards and Committees as set out in List 'B' attached to the Order Paper be approved."

A copy of list 'B' is filed with these minutes.

Spokesmen

Mr Osborne named the members shown in the second column of List 'S' as Conservative Spokesmen of the bodies as shown.

Mr Hunt named the members shown in the third column of List 'S' as Labour Spokesmen of the bodies as shown.

Mr Charlesworth named the members shown in the fourth column of List 'S' as Liberal Democrat Spokesmen of the bodies as shown.

A copy of List 'S' is filed with these minutes.

Substitutes

It was moved by Mr Osborne, seconded by Mr Charlesworth and carried:-

"That the Chief Executive be authorised to make and terminate appointments to the Commission, Committees, Boards and other County Council bodies (not including the Cabinet) in accordance with the wishes of the political groups to whom the seat in question has been allocated, subject in the case of those bodies set out in list 'B' to the Group giving one day's notice to the Chief Executive of its wishes."

2.30 pm – 4.00 pm
18 May 2016

CHAIRMAN