

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNTY HALL, GLENFIELD ON WEDNESDAY, 27 JUNE 2018**

PRESENT

Mr. L. J. P. O'Shea CC (in the Chair)

Mr. P. Bedford CC, 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, Mr. L. Breckon JP CC, Dr. P. Bremner CC, Mr. M. H. Charlesworth CC, Mr. J. G. Coxon CC, Mr. B. Crooks CC, Dr. T. Eynon CC, Dr. R. K. A. Feltham CC, Mrs. H. J. Fryer CC, Mr. S. J. Galton CC, Mr. D. A. Gamble CC, Mr. T. Gillard CC, Mrs. A. J. Hack CC, Mr. D. Harrison CC, Dr. S. Hill CC, Mr. Max Hunt CC, Mr. D. Jennings CC, Mr. J. Kaufman CC, Mr. W. Liquorish JP CC, Mr. J. Miah CC, Mr. J. Morgan CC, Mr. M. T. Mullaney CC, Ms. Betty Newton 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 T. Parton CC, Mr. A. E. Pearson CC, Mr. T. J. Pendleton CC, Mr J. Poland CC, Mrs. P. Posnett CC, Mrs. C. M. Radford CC, Mr. J. B. Rhodes CC, Mr. T. J. Richardson CC, Mrs H. L. Richardson CC, Mrs. J. Richards CC, Mr. N. J. Rushton CC, Mrs B. Seaton CC, Mr. S. D. Sheahan CC, Mr. R. J. Shepherd CC, Mrs D. Taylor CC, Mr. G. Welsh CC, Mrs. A. Wright CC and Mr. M. B. Wyatt CC

11. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

HM Lord-Lieutenant, Mike Kapur OBE

The Chairman, on behalf of Members and Officers of the County Council, placed on record his heartfelt good wishes to Mike Kapur on his appointment as Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire. Mike was a leading Leicestershire businessman who took a keen and active role in developing and promoting the City and County he made his home 28 years ago.

Visitors

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

12. 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 May 2018, copies of which have been circulated to members, be taken as read, confirmed and signed.”

13. 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.

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

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

- “1. Can the Leader explain why the contract for grass cutting was taken from Blaby District Council when the work was satisfactory?
2. Why is the quality of cutting this year so poor?
3. What is the Leader going to do to rectify the situation?”

Mr Pain replied as follows:-

- “1. The agreement for Blaby District Council to carry out the work expired on 28th February 2018. There was no requirement for the agreement to continue when the County Council can carry out the service, the County Council’s service having seen evidence of significant improvements in 2017.
2. Unfortunately, no mapping or route information was provided by Blaby District Council to the County Council and it was therefore necessary in advance of this year’s grass cutting season for the County Council to undertake digital mapping. I am afraid this absence of information has inevitably meant some grassed areas being excluded. It has also become apparent that Blaby District Council had been cutting grassed areas which are not part of the public highway and should not be being cut out of County Council funds. This is likely to have been a reason for some complaints.
3. Pending a proper digital database being created using knowledge accumulated this year, an instruction has been given to cut areas which are ‘in dispute’ for the remainder of the 2018 grass cutting season.”

Mr Boulter asked the following supplementary question:-

“I thank Mr Pain for his answers. However, he didn’t answer the question I asked. The question I asked was question number two: “why is the quality of grass cutting this year so poor”? He chose not to answer that question. Now, unless he’s been to the district I represent he won’t have seen it. It’s absolutely disastrous, we’ve got haystacks in parts of the area where the grass has been piled up by the mowers, it could well catch fire if something doesn’t happen soon and so I’d like the answer to the question please.”

Mr Pain replied as follows:-

“I believe we have answered the question, especially in point two. We have explained that, in the Blaby area, we have bought this back in-house. That’s good for the Leicestershire taxpayer because of the economies of scale. As all members know, we now do our own grass cutting rather than subcontract it out. I have had some very positive comments about grass cutting this year in other areas. With reference to Blaby and the Blaby area and the Oadby and Wigston area, that has now been brought back in-house but, as you

know, we have a great service where people can find out what areas are being cut in their area online. We don't have that digital information for Blaby and the Oadby area. We have answered the question directly; because we don't have the digital database at the moment we are suffering some issues in that particular area but, generally speaking, we have a good quality service in Leicestershire and I do believe that we have answered the question in point two."

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

- “1. Is the County Council still paying any recycling credits to Districts?
2. If so, which Districts are still being paid and how much is paid and for how long will the payments continue to be made?
3. What advice did County Council take on its proposal to withdraw recycling credits and who from?
4. In the report on dry recycling credits that went to Cabinet on 16th September 2016, option 4 was approved. However, the Districts wanted option 2. This means that the Waste Disposal Authority (County Council) and the Waste Collection Authorities (District Councils) did not agree that payments should not be made. Will the County Council review that mistaken decision?”

Mr Pain replied as follows:-

- “1. Yes.
2. The objection and direction notices that were issued following the Cabinet decision of 16th September 2016 came/will come into effect between 1st April and 1st October 2018 depending on the end dates of the districts existing recycling contracts. Recycling credits will continue to be paid until the effective date of the notices. At the current time the only district still receiving recycling credits is Melton Borough Council.

All districts will continue to receive recycling (or reuse) credits for materials that are not within the scope of the issued objection / direction notices or any local agreements.

The recycling credit rate is £56.14 per tonne in 2018/19.

3. The County Council took advice from the Director of Law and Governance, a leading counsel (Q.C.) and a waste management consultant.
4. No.”

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

“In the recently published report on the A5 Strategy – “Supporting Growth and Movement in the Midlands 2018 – 2031”, a report which will be generally

supported by everyone, there is a reference towards the back of the report to the "Action Plan for Delivering Improvements along the A5 Corridor". On page 8 of this action plan there is a reference to a statement dealing with Nutts Lane, attributed to Leicestershire County Council, that there is "insufficient evidence to suggest that HGVs are using it as an alternative route to and from the A5.....".

As is this totally contrary to what is happening on the ground, as will be borne out by all the residents who have to live with these vehicles on a daily basis, can the evidence (I will be more than pleased to supply this evidence) that this road is indeed being used as a short cut to avoid congestion at the Dodwells Bridge Roundabout please be taken into account and this passage in the report revised?"

Mr Pain replied as follows:-

"The report to which you refer was produced by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and was considered by their Council on 12th June 2018. It refers to a draft Action Plan (Appendix C of that report) that is still being considered by the A5 Partnership, along with the draft A5 Strategy. The quote to which you refer on page 8 is not attributed to Leicestershire County Council (it shows the 'delivery responsibility').

The report also noted in paragraph 3.13 that *'The A5 Strategy Action Plan is a rolling document that will be updated frequently during the life of the Strategy'*. The draft Action Plan is being updated by relevant parties of the A5 Partnership and your additional evidence would be welcomed to feed into this update. If appropriate the County Council will suggest updates to this action plan for areas where it is currently listed as having 'delivery' responsibility."

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

"At the Scrutiny Commission meeting on 6th June, there was a report entitled Leicestershire Towns which advised on County Council activity supporting the development and economic prosperity of Leicestershire Towns. In the reference to Hinckley there is an assertion that "Traffic conditions have improved following implementation of zones 1 – 3". Whilst conditions might have improved for walkers and cyclists, traffic conditions as a whole across Hinckley and Burbage grow worse by the day. Can I please ask to see the evidence on which this assumption is based as it is contrary to everything we are witnessing here in the town?"

Mr Pain replied as follows:-

"In paragraph 46 of the report, it states that "Traffic conditions have improved following implementation of zones 1 – 3". £5.96 million of improvements for pedestrian and cyclists, along with improvements to parking have led to increased numbers of pedestrians and cyclists using roads in Hinckley.

The trend for all market towns has been an increase in congestion, primarily in peak periods. However, the study of congestion in Hinckley between 2016 and 2017 using the latest available Department for Transport data indicates

that traffic speeds have increased on a number of the roads where improvements were made as part of zones 1 – 3. For example, on Coventry Road and Rugby Road where improvements were made to off road infrastructure for walking and cycling, average traffic speeds have increased.

Roads identified in zone 4 show no improvement and support the case for the Council to continue to look to secure funding for the measure set out in the £15.89 million package of measures in zone 4. The Council has already secured £5.73 million of funding towards these measures, which, if the remaining funding can be secured, will be implemented by 2019/2020.”

Mr Bill asked the following supplementary question:-

“First of all, I do welcome the reply in as much as it says that traffic speeds have increased on roads, and particularly along Coventry Road and Rugby Road, as it's been my concern for the last 45 years to try to keep the speeds down on those roads. I look forward to the evidence on which that is based. I also would just draw attention to my original question, which was to ask to see the evidence on which the assumption is based that traffic conditions have improved across the town. In particular, I would like to ask that evidence is taken into account of the queues of traffic getting in and out of the town at peak times and other times of the day because this has increased. I think people will not agree with the statement which has been made by the County Council that traffic conditions in Hinckley have recently improved.”

Mr Pain replied as follows:-

“Just a general point, when this investment was made, Liberal Democrat members were clambering over themselves to take the credit for the initial investment into zones 1 – 3. We have already put on record that we would like to make further investment in terms of zone 4 and we're pursuing funding for that. We have some of it. I have to say the data has come from the Department for Transport themselves. Traffic flows have increased, therefore that is an improvement on what it used to be. I believe we've answered the question once again by stating this data has come from the Department for Transport.”

15. POSITION STATEMENTS UNDER STANDING ORDER 8.

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

- Leicestershire-China Strategy to boost trade;
- Strategic Growth Plan;
- Trading Standards – Scams Intervention Team;
- Health Scrutiny;
- Loughborough University – Lawn Tennis Association National Academy;
- Influential Women in Government Technology.

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

- Highway Performance;
- Recycling and Households Waste Sites Satisfaction Survey;
- Melton Mowbray Distributor Road;
- Awards.

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

16. REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION.

(a) Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18.

It was moved by Mr Galton, seconded by Mrs Page and carried unanimously:-

“That the information contained in the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, on its activities, be noted.”

17. REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE.

(a) County Council Meeting in March - Revision to the Constitution.

It was moved by Mr Rushton and seconded by Mr Shepherd:-

“Motion 1

- (a) That the recommendation of the Constitution Committee to dispense with the meeting of the County Council in March and to allow ordinary business to be transacted at the February meeting of the Council be approved;

Motion 2 - Procedural Motion in accordance with Standing Order 37

- (b) That the changes to Standing Order 1 (The Meeting Procedure Rules), to give effect to the recommendation 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.)

2.00 pm – 3.25 pm
27 June 2018

CHAIRMAN