

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNTY HALL, GLENFIELD ON WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY 2014**

PRESENT

Mrs. R. Page 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. K. Coles 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, Ms. K. J. Knaggs 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. J. T. Orson JP CC, Mr. P. C. Osborne CC, Mr. I. D. Ould 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, Mrs. J. Richards CC, Mr. N. J. Rushton CC, Mr. R. Sharp CC, Mr. S. D. Sheahan CC, Mr. R. J. Shepherd CC, Mr. E. D. Snartt CC, Mr. L. Spence CC, Mr. D. A. Sprason 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 Galton, seconded by Mr Rushton and carried:

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

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

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

The Chairman thanked Mrs Page for her services to the County during her period of office as Chairman. Mr Rushton, Mr Galton and Mr Hunt each joined the Chairman in associating their Groups with the thanks to Mrs Page. Mrs Page 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 Mr David Snartt be appointed Vice-Chairman for the period until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.”

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

Mr Snartt thanked his proposer and seconder for their generous remarks and

members of the Council for appointing him as Vice-Chairman.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Sir Timothy Brooks KCVO JP

The Chairman reported the sad death on 2nd May, 2014, of former Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Sir Tim Brooks.

Sir Tim had served as Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire from 1989 to 2003. He had been hugely respected for his service to this County. The Chairman informed members there would be a Thanksgiving Service for the life of Sir Tim at Leicester Cathedral on Tuesday, 15th July at 3.00pm.

Mr Brian Leslie Roberts

The Chairman reported the sad death on 29th March, 2014, of former County Councillor Mr Brian Leslie Roberts.

Mr Roberts had been elected to the County Council in 1985 and served until 1989 representing the St Augustine's Division in Leicester City. He served as the Labour Spokesperson of the Manpower Committee and also served on the Education and Social Services Committees.

Those present joined the Chairman in standing in silent tribute to the memory of Sir Timothy Brooks and Mr Brian Leslie Roberts.

Armed Forces Day

The Chairman reminded members that they had been invited to a special service to be held on Saturday, 21st 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.

Chairman's Reception – Beaumanor Hall

The Chairman was pleased to inform members that he would be holding a Reception at Beaumanor Hall on Thursday, 24th July at 6.30 p.m. 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 Wigston Methodist Church on Sunday, 28th September. The Bishop of Leicester would be preaching and the service would be followed by a Reception. Invitations would be issued to all members in due course and he hoped that members would support the annual service.

Centenary of the start of the First World War

The Chairman asked members to note that a service of commemoration and reflection to mark to the centenary of the start of the First World War would be held on Sunday, 3rd August, at 3 p.m. at Leicester Cathedral. The service would be held jointly with the Lord Mayor of Leicester and the Lord-Lieutenant and all members were encouraged to attend.

Visitors

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting all visitors and guests of members and 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 19 March 2014, 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.

Dr Eynon declared a personal interest in the County Council Strategic Plan, which included reference to the Better Care Fund, as she was a sessional GP (minute 8 refers).

Mr Sheahan declared a personal interest in the County Council Strategic Plan, which included reference to HS2 and Ashby Canal, as a member of the Ashby Canal Trust (minute 8 refers).

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

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

“Can the Leader advise how the delay in funding the Better Care Fund from Central Government will impact on Leicestershire?”

Mr White replied as follows:

“Both the Department of Health and Local Government Minister Brandon Lewis have confirmed there will be no delay.”

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

“The Fairer Charging Policy for non-residential adult social care services was updated by the Department of Health in June 2013. Can the Leader advise whether this has required any changes to Leicestershire County Council’s

policy?”

Mr Houseman replied as follows:

“It has not.”

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

“The Government has proposed a cap of £72,000 on the costs of residential care. It is reported that this will help just 8% of men and 15% of women and with hotel costs, older people with residential care needs will have already spent £140,000 before the cap is reached which will be a shock to many older people. Can the Leader advise:-

1. “What percentage of men and women in Leicestershire are likely to benefit from the cap?”
2. What is Leicestershire County Council doing to raise awareness on this issue?
3. Will the Leader request the Government to introduce tax breaks to encourage people to save for the future costs thus supporting the creation of a Pension Care Fund, a long term care savings pot?”

Mr Houseman replied as follows:

“Draft regulations and guidance in relation to the cap on care costs are not due for publication by the Government until this autumn. Once we have clear and reliable information, and have had the opportunity to analyse its implications, we will be in a position to communicate with the citizens of Leicestershire so that they can make appropriate choices given their individual circumstances.”

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

“Will the Leader please provide this Council with the business plan that justifies the viability of the Mining Museum which includes projected visitor numbers and projected income?”

Mr Blunt replied as follows:

“I would refer Mr Sprason to the County Council’s consultation document on Snibston if he needs to understand the nature of the consultation.”

Mr Sprason asked the following supplementary question:-

“When will this information be available and has the Lead Member seen it yet?”

Mr Blunt replied as follows:-

“Mr Sprason had this portfolio in better times than me and maybe if he had done a little bit more work and been a bit more commercial maybe we wouldn't be sitting here with losses of £900,000.

I think it's worth reminding us that the answer is no and no.”

7. POSITION STATEMENTS UNDER STANDING ORDER 8.

The Leader presented a position statement on the following matters:

LLEP
Meeting with MPs
Cathedral Gardens
Sporting Achievements
European Hockey Tournament

The Lead Member for Children and Family Services presented a position statement on the following matters:-

National policy affecting services for children and their families
Innovative developments in the service
Work with Leicestershire Police in responding to children and young people who go missing from home
Supporting Leicestershire Families
Review of School Funding arrangements and the introduction of the national funding formula

Copies of the position statements are filed with these minutes.

8. REPORTS OF THE CABINET:-

(a) County Council Strategic Plan 2014-18.

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

“That the County Council's Strategic Plan for 2014-18, as set out in Appendix B to the report of the Cabinet, be approved.”

(b) Dates of Council Meetings 2014/15.

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

"That Council meetings in 2014/15 be held on the following dates:-

Wednesday, 2 July 2014
Wednesday, 24 September 2014
Wednesday, 3 December 2014
Wednesday, 18 February 2015 (Budget Meeting)
Wednesday, 25 March 2015
Wednesday, 20 May 2015 (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 Mr Rhodes, seconded by Mr Lewis 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 Rhodes 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 and seconded by Mr Rhodes:-

"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
Mrs R Page."

The motion was put and carried.

(d) To appoint members of the Scrutiny Commission, Boards and Committees.

It was moved by Mr Lewis, 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.

D(i) SPOKESMEN

Mr Lewis named the members shown in the second column of list 'S', as Conservative spokesmen of the bodies as shown.

Mr Spence 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.

D(ii) SUBSTITUTES

It was moved by Mr Lewis, 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 – 4.35 pm
21 May 2014

CHAIRMAN

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