

These minutes are subject to
ratification at the next Council Meeting



**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL
THURSDAY 26 JUNE 2014**

Held at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Pavilion Road, West Bridgford

PRESENT:

Councillor R Hetherington - Mayor
Councillor F A Purdue-Horan – Deputy Mayor

Councillors L J Abbey, R A Adair, J R Bannister, D G Bell, Mrs D M Boote, S J Boote, N K Boughton-Smith, N A Brown, B Buschman, R L Butler, H A Chewings, L B Cooper, J E Cottee, J A Cranswick, J E Fearon, J E Greenwood, R M Jones, K A Khan, I I Korn, N C Lawrence, E J Lungley, A MacInnes, Mrs M M Males, G R Mallender, S E Mallender, D J Mason, F J Mason, G S Moore, B A Nicholls, E A Plant, S J Robinson, J A Stockwood, Mrs M Stockwood, B Tansley, J E Thurman, H Tipton, D G Wheeler, J G A Wheeler

OFFICERS PRESENT:

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| A Graham | Chief Executive |
| V Nightingale | Senior Member Support Officer |
| P Steed | Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial |
| D Swaine | Executive Manager - Operations and Corporate Governance |

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillors Mrs S P Bailey, J N Clarke, T Combellack, A M Dickinson, Mrs J M Marshall, D V Smith, Mrs J A Smith, P Smith, T Vennett-Smith

OPENING PRAYER

The Meeting was led in prayer by the Mayor's Chaplain

11. Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

12. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15 May 2014 were received as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

13. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor informed Council that he had attended 17 functions since the last Council meeting. He reminded Members of the two events being held at the

weekend, the Proms in the Park on Saturday and his Civic Service on Sunday.

14. Leader's Announcements

The Deputy Leader stated that the Leader had announced his changes to the Cabinet portfolio holders. Since then Councillor Fearon had said that he wished to retire from the Cabinet. The Leader had said that to facilitate this he was appointing Councillor Cottee to the Community and Leisure Portfolio from 1 July 2014. Councillor Cranswick thanked Councillor Fearon for all his hard work whilst he had been the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Leisure, where he had worked on the development of the Leisure Strategy.

Councillor Cranswick informed Members that the Council had been shortlisted for its YouNG project in the Municipal Journal Award 'Better Outcomes' category. Unfortunately, the Council had not won but the initiative had been one of only eight national projects shortlisted.

15. Chief Executive's Announcements

The Chief Executive stated that Members had been provided with a briefing note regarding the Core Strategy Examination that would take place between 1 and 11 July 2014. He stated that staff had worked hard to prepare for the examination and it was hoped that the Inspector would find that it was a sound policy.

He also informed Members that the Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial had led a team of officers who had participated in the O2 Rugby competition at Twickenham. He was pleased to announce that they had been raised £1,225 for the Mayor's charity. The Mayor thanked staff for this contribution.

16. Community Governance Review of Shelford and Newton: Recommendation of Cabinet

Councillor Cranswick presented the report of the Executive Manager - Operations and Corporate Governance in respect of the Community Governance Review for Shelford and Newton. He reminded Members that a petition had been received from 47.8% of residents requesting that separate parish councils should be established for Shelford and Newton in June 2013. As a result of that petition a community governance review was undertaken in accordance with the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 – Schedule 1.

He explained that, following Cabinet's decision on 11 February 2014, a second consultation had been undertaken. The consultation asked residents if they agreed with the proposed recommendations on the names of the new parishes, the number of councillors per parish and that the two parishes should not be warded. A map was included within the leaflet which identified the proposed boundaries for residents to comment upon. He stated that these boundaries had been amended from the original proposition to ensure that

they were co-terminous with the Newton boundary and the new East Bridgford Ward boundary from May 2015.

Commenting further Councillor Cranswick confirmed that the Community Governance Review Member Group had met on 7 May 2014 to consider responses to the second round of consultation. He stated that 98% of the respondees agreed with the recommendation. Having considered the responses from the Stage 2 consultation the Group had therefore agreed that the recommendations should be upheld and had referred this matter to Cabinet on 10 June 2014. Cabinet had unanimously supported the recommendations.

Councillor S Boote, in support of the recommendation, thanked all officers and Members for the work that had been carried out to fulfil the residents' request. He stated that there had been a discussion at the Parish Conference about the role of parishes and local democracy. With regards to the finances and the costs of running a parish council he pointed out that this was not part of the Borough Council's remit and that any precept was the responsibility of the parishes.

Councillor Bannister stated that he believed that several positives lessons had been learnt from the community governance review for Edwalton and these had been applied to this review.

Councillor S Mallender agreed with the previous comments and acknowledged the hard work of the Community Governance Review Member Group.

In conclusion, Councillor Cranswick informed Members that following Council's approval there were many technical issues, including finances, that would have to be dealt with and that the Council would be guided by the Monitoring Officer. He also stated that the Reorganisation Order would need to be finalised in order that the arrangements were in place for the elections in 2015.

RESOLVED that:

- a) separate parish councils for Shelford and Newton be established;
- b) these parishes should be named Shelford and Newton respectively;
- c) there should be five parish councillors for Shelford and nine parish councillors for Newton
- d) the parishes should not be warded.
- e) the boundaries of the new parishes should be as shown on the map contained within **Appendix 3** of the report.
- f) Council authorises the Chief Executive to finalise the Reorganisation Order, in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transformation, in order that its commencement is consistent with the statutory electoral timetable and the process for setting any parish budget requirements.

17. **To Answer Questions under Standing Order 11(2)**

Question from Councillor S J Boote to Councillor J A Cranswick

What procedures are there for informing councillors of complaints by members of the public about Council services?

Councillor Cranswick replied that a report was presented to the Performance Management Board each year which outlined the number of complaints, comments and compliments from residents.

Supplementary Question

Councillor S Boote asked if Members could be informed of the complaints received on a more frequent basis. He felt that these should be included in Members' Matters along with the compliments.

Councillor Cranswick stated that the Council's process was very vigorous and that reporting complaints in this way would not be correct. He felt that the report to the Performance Management Board contained sufficient detail for Members to consider if there were any trends.

Question from Councillor R M Jones to Councillor J A Cranswick

What are the outcomes for the 517 Rushcliffe households, you told us last year were affected by the 'under-occupancy'/bedroom tax arrangements, in terms of debt and of move of accommodation?

Councillor Cranswick replied that debt only concerned the tenant and the landlord and was not a matter for Council. He informed Members that since the changes to the benefit system had been introduced the number of people affected had reduced. He stated that 41 people had moved and that 125 people had ceased claiming housing benefit, primarily due to people starting work or having moved out of the Borough.

Supplementary Question

Councillor Jones acknowledged that debt was not directly a Council responsibility. However, he felt that the Council should consider undertaking a survey of those residents affected to ascertain if there were any future consequences to the Borough's housing stock.

Councillor Cranswick did not feel that a Borough wide survey would be beneficial as this was a national initiative. He was confident that if it was necessary the Government would sponsor a nationwide survey.

Question from Councillor L Abbey to Councillor R L Butler

As a result of the number of new housing developments that have already gained recent planning permission in East Leake, providing far in excess of the 400 homes proposed for the settlement in the emerging Core Strategy, how much of a reduction is there likely to be in the number identified so far in other areas of the Borough, in particular on the urban fringe?

Councillor Butler replied that the proposed Core Strategy's housing targets for East Leake, Keyworth, Radcliffe on Trent and Ruddington are minimum targets for new homes expected to be built by the end of the Plan period (2028) over and above those sites that had already been identified within the April 2013 Strategic Housing Land Available Assessment update. As these targets are minimums, and the Plan's overall housing target of 13,150 new homes is a minimum target, exceeding the minimum target in any one of these settlements would not lead to a corresponding reduction in the number of new homes expected on proposed allocations elsewhere in the Borough.

Question from Councillor D M Boote to Councillor R L Butler

Given that the Annual Affordable Housing report of August 2013 said that the net annual need for affordable homes was for 463 new dwellings and the SHMA in 2008 said the annual requirement was for 334 dwellings, how many affordable homes have been completed in each of the recent years?

Councillor Butler replied that in 2013/14 30 affordable homes had been built. He also explained that in 2012/13 there had been 41; in 2011/12 there had been 53; 2010/11 there had been 27; 2009/10 there had been 67 and in 2008/09 there had been 73 affordable homes built.

Supplementary Question

Councillor Mrs D Boote asked about future plans to build affordable homes.

Councillor Butler responded that the Council was working with developers to ensure that the Council's policy which required a minimum of 30% of the dwellings to be affordable on large site was included in the mix of proposed properties. He also reminded Members that affordable housing was one of the elements of the Core Strategy that was being considered by the Planning Inspector at the Inquiry starting on 1 July 2014. He also reminded Members that the New Homes Bonus had been utilised to assist housing providers, such as Metropolitan Housing, to develop affordable housing.

He acknowledged that the recent recession had caused many challenges but he was sure that the situation would improve over the next few years, especially as officers would continue to work closely with partner organisations and developers.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm.

MAYOR