



**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL
THURSDAY 25 JUNE 2015**

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

PRESENT:

Councillor F A Purdue-Horan - Mayor
Councillor G Davidson – Deputy Mayor

Councillors R A Adair, K P Beardsall, N A Brown, M Buckle, B Buschman, R L Butler, H A Chewings, J N Clarke, T Combellack, L B Cooper, J E Cottee, A M Dickinson, J Donoghue, A J Edyvean, J E Greenwood, R Hetherington, S J Hull, Mrs C E M Jeffreys, R M Jones, K A Khan, E J Lungley, A MacInnes, Mrs M M Males, G R Mallender, S E Mallender, D J Mason, S C Matthews, G S Moore, A L R A Pell, A Phillips, E A Plant, S J Robinson, Mrs J A Smith, J A Stockwood, M W Suthers, J E Thurman, R G Upton, D G Wheeler, J G A Wheeler

OFFICERS PRESENT:

A Graham	Chief Executive
P Linfield	Interim Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial
D Mitchell	Executive Manager - Communities
K Marriott	Executive Manager - Transformation
V Nightingale	Senior Member Support Officer
D Swaine	Executive Manager - Operations and Corporate Governance

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillors M J Edwards, R A Inglis, N C Lawrence

OPENING PRAYER

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

1. Peter Steed

The Chief Executive paid tribute to Mr Peter Steed, the Council's Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial, who had sadly passed away on Sunday 21 June 2015. Mr Graham stated that Peter had been an integral part of the Council's Management Team, who had been a highly regarded, dedicated and loyal colleague. He said that he would miss his humour, friendliness and problem solving ability. It was difficult to comprehend that on the 18th the Management Team and the Leader had attended the Municipal Journal awards where Peter and the rest of the team had been awarded the accolade of being Management Team of the Year. He stated that a book of condolence would be placed in the Members' Room and that this would be sent to Peter's wife and two children.

Councillors, officers and members of the public observed a minute's silence in respect of Mr Peter Steed. Following this the Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

2. Urgent Item – Local Government Act 1972

The Mayor announced that there would be an extra item, Appointment of Section 151 Officer, added to the agenda and that this would be considered after Item 8. This was considered as an urgent item in line with section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972 by reason of the special circumstances in that the issue only came to light after the agenda was despatched.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21 May 2015 were received as a correct record, following the correction of a minor typographical error, and signed by the Mayor.

5. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor informed Members that, since the last meeting, he had attended a number of events, including a garden party at Buckingham Palace. He had attended fairs at Bingham and Cotgrave and was impressed with the strong community spirit at both. He thanked Councillor Chewings for escorting him at the Cotgrave Fair. He was pleased to say that he had attended a lively event earlier in the day to celebrate the 10th birthday of the West Bridgford U3A, which had approximately 700 members.

He encouraged Members to attend the annual Proms in the Park on Saturday 27 June which was part of the Armed Forces week celebrations. He also announced that his Civic Service would be held on Sunday 6 September at 3.00 pm at St Mary's Church Bingham.

6. Leader's Announcements

The Leader expressed his condolences to Peter Steed's wife and children. He felt that it had been fortunate that Peter had been able to celebrate the well-deserved success of the Management Team winning such a prestigious accolade. He acknowledged that Peter had been a vital member of the team and had provided great leadership to the finance section. He highlighted the many projects that Peter had been involved in and how he could explain finances in an easy to understand way. Councillor Clarke stated that he had been proud to accompany the Management Team to the awards ceremony and proud to say that the Council had the top Senior Management Team of the Year.

Councillor Clarke also informed Members that the challenge to the Core Strategy by Barton in Fabis Parish Council had been withdrawn and therefore the Strategy could proceed.

7. Chief Executive's Announcements

The Chief Executive stated that he had introduced two interim posts to ensure business continuity within the finance section. He informed Members that Mr Peter Linfield had been appointed as interim Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial and that Ms Rosie Caddy had been appointed as interim Service Manager – Finance and Commercial.

8. New Officer Employment Rules

Councillor Clarke presented the report regarding the new officer employment rules. He stated that the Council needed to approve the adoption of new legislative standing orders relating to the dismissal of certain statutory officers in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.

Councillor MacInnes supported the proposal. He queried why there were currently no proposals to set up the Panel, especially as there was a need for independent people to be appointed and training arranged. He highlighted the lengthy process undertaken to recruit and retain people for the Standards Committee. He asked if any remuneration had been considered.

Councillor Clarke confirmed that these aspects had been considered, however it was felt that there was a need for flexibility. He hoped that this Panel would not be required to meet but if it did that it should be correctly formulated at the time.

RESOLVED that the Council

- a) incorporates into its Standing Orders the provisions required by the 2015 Regulations and amends the Officer Employment Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution as shown in **Appendix 1**.
- b) in the event of there being a need to apply the new procedures relating to the dismissal of any of the statutory officers referred to in the report, shall –
 - (i) set up an appropriately constituted Panel having regard to all of the circumstances pertaining and the need for there to be a process which is fair to both the Council and the officer concerned;
 - (ii) comply with the Regulations and the revised Standing Orders; and
 - (iii) give effect to any relevant provision in the officer's contract.

9. **2015/16 to 2019/20 Capital Programme**

Councillor Clarke presented a report outlining the proposed amendment to the Capital Programme for 2015/16 requested by Cabinet on 9 June 2015. The proposal would result in an increase of £1.28 million to the five year Capital Programme. This request had been necessary due to the fact that that when the Arena project tenders had been received the costs were higher than the estimated budget. He stated that the project was still valid and would provide fit for purpose office accommodation and also meet one of the objectives of the Leisure Strategy. He felt that it was important that the Council was open and transparent regarding the costs for the project.

Councillor Plant stated that the Labour Group supported the recommendation. She said that they welcomed the refurbishment of Bridgford Hall as this would greatly enhance the building and the surrounding area. With regard to the Arena project she agreed that it was a large financial outlay, however it was important that the finished building was of a high quality and would attract users. She paid tribute to Mr Steed who had been an integral part of the project and had assisted members of the Leisure and Civic Relocation Member Group with some very technical information.

Councillor Jones concurred with Councillor Plant. He also welcomed the upgrading of the homeless family accommodation.

Councillor Mrs Jeffreys highlighted the work being undertaken in Cotgrave as part of the Capital Programme and how this was having a positive effect on the area.

Councillor G R Mallender stated that the Green Party also supported the recommendation and welcomed the continuation of the Arena project.

In conclusion Councillor Clarke thanked all Members for their support. He stated that the Arena would be an excellent facility for the Borough.

RESOLVED that Council agrees the revised Capital Programme for 2015/16 to 2019/20 to £37.13m as detailed at Appendix B of the report.

10. **Urgent Item – Appointment of Section 151 Officer**

Councillor Clarke presented the report outlining the requirement under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 for an authority to have an officer who is responsible for the proper administration of its financial affairs. He stated that, due to the recent circumstances, it was necessary for the Council to make an interim appointment.

RESOLVED that the Council affirms the interim appointment of Peter Linfield, Service Manager - Finance and Commercial as the officer appointed to have responsibility for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

11. To answer questions under Standing Order 11 (2)

Question from Councillor H Chewings to Councillor S J Robinson

Since the press release from Rushcliffe Borough Council on 12 June 2015 stating that there is no longer interest in a supermarket becoming part of Cotgrave Town Centre, will Rushcliffe Borough Council and the Strategic Board formulate an action plan to attract new business into the area that will complement the existing businesses creating a thriving local economy that is attractive, vibrant and brings new jobs into the area resulting in an enhanced shopping experience for all users?

Councillor Robinson replied that there was some interest in the scheme, however the issue was the value and viability of the scheme. He stated that all the partners of the Cotgrave Strategic Board were committed to deliver a first class scheme and would work very hard to bring retailers into Cotgrave. He said that there would be a public consultation event on 23 and 24 September where residents would be able to view a number of options.

Question from Councillor S E Mallender to Councillor R L Butler

What is being done to bring the Council's unanimous decision about a tree and woodland policy into a firm proposal for the Council and LDF and when will it be brought into effect?

Councillor Butler replied that the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy 2010 – 15 aimed to protect and enhance the Borough's wildlife and habitats and included a section on Trees and Woodland. Within the Strategy was a target of planting 10 hectares of Woodland between 2011 and 2015, which had been exceeded. Together with partners 22.6 hectares had been planted which equated to 45,200 trees.

Councillor Butler informed Members that a review of the Strategy had commenced and that a draft document would be issued in July. The draft document would include clear references to tree and woodland policy issues throughout its content. It was proposed that the Community Development Group would consider the draft Strategy at its meeting on 14 July 2015, with the final document being presented for approval by Cabinet in November 2015.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

MAYOR