



**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL
THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER 2015**

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

PRESENT:

Councillor F A Purdue-Horan - 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, J Donoghue, M J Edwards, A J Edyvean, J E Greenwood, R Hetherington, S J Hull, R A Inglis, Mrs C E M Jeffreys, R M Jones, N C Lawrence, 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 Phillips, 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
V Nightingale	Constitutional Services Officer
P Osborne	Monitoring Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillors G Davidson, A M Dickinson, A L R A Pell, E A Plant

OPENING PRAYER

The Meeting was led in prayer by the Mayor's Chaplain and followed by carols by children from Edwalton Primary School.

32. Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

33. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 24 September 2015 were received as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

34. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor thanked the children for their performance. He also paid tribute to Diana Davidson, the deputy Mayoress, who had recently passed away.

He informed Members that he had attended over thirty engagements since the last Council meeting and said that it had been a privilege to represent the Borough. He highlighted a number of events including the Scouts award ceremonies, national girls 6 aside football, the Candlelight Concert at St

James' Normanton on Soar, a performance of Ali Baba and the Bandits by Robert Miles School and especially the visit to Goose Fair with the Lord Mayor of Nottingham. He stated that he was looking forward to the many carol services that he had been invited to and to helping provide Christmas Lunch at the Friary on Christmas Day.

Finally, he highlighted three events that had been organised by staff and had been well received by members of the public, the Community Awards, the Sports Awards and the Christmas Lights Switch On. He praised all the staff involved and spoke of their dedication.

35. Leader's Announcements

The Leader informed Members that the YouNG project, in collaboration with the NG1 company, had secured funding for 32 months to expand their market project into Europe. The young people would face new challenges such as local cultures and currency. The funding would provide £73,000 to the Council to run the project.

36. Chief Executive's Announcements

The Chief Executive was delighted to present the Mayor with a trophy which had been awarded by the National Outdoor Events Association for the annual Sunday Funday which, with the CCG promoted healthy living. The Mayor asked the Chief Executive to pass on Members' congratulations to the team involved.

37. Statement of Licensing Principles – Gambling

Councillor Mason presented a report which outlined the Council's Statement of Licensing Principles in relation to the Gambling Act. She explained that this had originally been adopted in December 2006 and that it was reviewed every three years. She informed Members that this Statement had been developed in collaboration with the Nottinghamshire Authorities Licensing Group, to ensure that each local authority across Nottinghamshire had a very similar Statement to make it consistent, efficient and easier to understand. She said that the main principles of the statement assisted the Council to protect the public and encourage economic growth by having an effective control of licensable businesses.

Members were informed that there had only been minor changes made to the latest version to ensure that it took into account changes to codes of practice and guidance. She also stated that the Council had widened the list of consultees to ensure that a wide range of views could be taken into account.

She thanked the Members of the Alcohol and Entertainments Licensing Committee for all their hard work in considering the review the Statement.

In support of the recommendation, Councillor Chewings stated that the Statement would come into force on 3 January 2016. She stated that it was a very comprehensive document and was fit for purpose. She thanked officers for their hard work and for listening to Members' suggestions to include the West Bridgford Local Area Forum and the Police and Crime Commissioner to

the list of consultees. With reference to the report she queried the timeframe for the consultation.

Councillor Jones supported the recommendation, however he queried the controls in place to protect vulnerable people, especially people with mental impairment. He felt that paragraph 4.17 should be expanded to incorporate their protection.

Councillor R Mallender supported Councillor Jones' comments. He acknowledged that only minor changes had been made to this revised document and hoped that this would be the case in the next version.

Councillor Clarke supported Councillor Jones' point and stated that this would be considered by the Committee or Panel when considering an application, he was sure that if there was any concerns the Panel could add extra conditions to the licence. Following a point of clarification Councillor Clarke he stated that he agreed with the spirit of Councillor Jones' point.

Councillor Mason stated that the principles of the Statement covered vulnerable people but agreed to raise this point with officers to ensure that people with mental health issues are adequately covered. With reference to Councillor Chewing's query she agreed to check the consultation dates with officers, however she was sure that it had been a 12 week consultation.

RESOLVED that the revised Statement of Licensing Principles under the Gambling Act 2005 be approved and come into effect from 3 January 2016.

38. The Future Council Management Structure

Councillor Clarke presented a report which outlined the review undertaken by Ms Osborne, as agreed at the Council meeting on 24 September 2015. He said that due to the unfortunate death of Mr Steed, Mr Linfield had been appointed as the Interim Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial at the meeting on 25 June 2015 and that following Mr Swaine's promotion Ms Osborne had been employed as the Council's Monitoring Officer. Councillor Clarke congratulated Mr Linfield, and his team, for carrying out an excellent role.

Ms Osborne's review had identified an opportunity to enter into a shared arrangement with Broxtowe Borough Council with regard to a Monitoring Officer. This post would be undertaken by the present incumbent, Mr Horsfield, on a flexible arrangement. It was also proposed to reaffirm the appointment of Mr Carter as the Deputy Monitoring Officer, to cover in Mr Horsfield's absence from both Rushcliffe and Broxtowe. This arrangement would help with the Government's aspiration of shared arrangements between local authorities and would also create a saving of £57,000 per annum.

With regard to the Section 151 Officer, it was proposed that Mr Linfield should continue in an interim position until a permanent replacement was provided. As part of this review it had been identified that the post of Executive Manager - Corporate Governance could be deleted and the post of Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial be redesignated as Executive Manager – Finance and Corporate Services. It was proposed to advertise this post internally

initially and if no suitable applications were received to proceed externally. He referred Members to the alternative recommendation that had been circulated.

Councillor MacInnes welcomed the findings of the report and was pleased to see the endorsement given by Ms Osborne to the present Executive Management Team. He stated that the Labour Group had discussed the report with the Chief Executive and had been assured that there would be appropriate arrangements made for training for the new Deputy Monitoring Officer. He stated that he had studied Mr Horsfield's CV and felt that he was a well-qualified officer with a diverse range of skills. Having researched on the internet on similar schemes that were operating successfully in many other local authorities he was happy to support the recommendation.

In support of the recommendation Councillor Jones agreed that there was a plethora of similar shared arrangements in local authorities. Due to the various partnership agreements with other local authorities he queried what arrangements would be put in place so that Members and officers would know who to contact. He agreed that internal applications were preferable but queried the word 'insufficient'.

Councillor S Mallender felt that the report was thorough and well written. Personally she did not like shared posts but she recognised that this was the Government's preferred option. She pointed out that the Council's Executive Management Team had been awarded Management Team of the Year and felt that it was important that the Council took appropriate steps to keep key personnel. She was glad to hear that there would be full training for the officers involved and she hoped that the post would be filled internally as this would save an additional £13,000.

Councillor Clarke stated that the Management Team of the Year had been well deserved and that the Council wanted to retain its key personnel. He stated that the Council had a collaboration agreement with Gedling Borough Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council and also an IT partnership with Broxtowe Borough Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council. He said that these arrangements did not preclude the Council from entering into other partnerships and that due to financial pressures the Council would continue to investigate other opportunities to become more efficient. He had every confidence that there would not be any confusion for officers or Members.

In respect of internal applications the word 'insufficient' would mean none, however if there was only one application the applicant would still have to meet the technical competencies and be assessed by a consultant. Councillor Clarke stated that these arrangements were consistent with the policy to widen the ability of senior staff and that he had confidence in the proposed arrangements.

RESOLVED that:

- a) Council support the sharing of the monitoring officer role with Broxtowe Borough Council and that;

- b) Mr Phillip Horsfield is appointed as the Council's Monitoring Officer until such time as such appointment is reviewed by the Chief Executive and a further report brought to Council;
- c) The role of Executive Manager – Corporate Governance is deleted;
- d) Mr Nigel Carter is authorised to continue in the role of Deputy Monitoring Officer when the Monitoring Officer is absent and unable to perform his duties for either Authority;
- e) The role of Executive Manager - Finance & Commercial is re-designated Executive Manager - Finance and Corporate Services;
- f) Council approves that the recruitment to the post of Executive Manager - Finance and Corporate Services should be restricted to internal applicants in the first instance, but should either insufficient applications be received or the Interviewing Committee determine that they are unable to make an appointment that the post should then be advertised externally;
- g) The appointment of an appropriate external recruitment specialist should be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of the Interviewing Committee;
- h) The Interviewing Committee should be convened to make the appropriate appointment to the post of Executive Manager - Finance and Corporate Services.

39. **Notice of Motion**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor M J Edwards and seconded by Councillor A MacInnes.

'The Council recognises as part of its civic leadership the role of the Arts in the lifestyle of its residents and requests that imaginative proposals are brought forward for investing all the proceeds of the public auction and private sales of its artworks in new programmes and projects for the Arts for consideration by Cabinet and to include such investment in its future Budgets.'

Councillor Edwards stated that this motion was an opportunity for all Members to consider the future of the arts in the Borough. He felt that the sale of the Council's art collection gave Members the chance to consider its leadership role in relation to arts. He reminded the Council of the many community and voluntary groups that were actively engaged in a wide range of events, including the Lady Bay Arts Festival. He referred to the Council's strapline and stated that Great Lifestyle which for many organisations meant taking part in, or watching, art based activities. He also highlighted the book festival at Lowdham that had started as a local initiative and was now nationally recognised.

He reminded Members that Councillor Cottee had written to all Councillors before the sale stating that no decision on how the proceeds would be

invested could be made until the actual outcome of the auction was known. He put forward a suggestion that the Council could follow other local authorities by using the Arts as a stimulus for promoting economic activity and he highlighted the City Council's Creative Quarter. He felt that the Council's Growth Boards could be linked to the way forward. With reference to Members' Matters he said that two residents had written in support of the Christmas Tree at Tudor Square which was seen as a focal point. He recognised that the Tree was an artwork and felt that a permanent installation could be created that would give West Bridgford a similar focal point to the Buttercross at Bingham.

Councillor Edwards hoped that the Council could agree on a positive approach to this investment and could put in place developments that would enhance the lifestyle of the Borough.

In proposing the motion he requested a recorded vote.

Councillor Cottee supported the motion and felt that Councillor Edwards was proposing a constructive way forward. He had said that the money raised would be used for the development of the arts. In fact he was passionate about the arts and as a consequence he had supported the Upper Broughton Festival, had been a representative on the boards of the Arts Council and the Playhouse. There had been a variety of views on the Art Collection but the decision had been made to sell it as it was not seen and that the proceeds would be used for the arts. The money would be a capital sum and could be used for projects or as an investment, however no decision had yet been made. He assured Members that, in the New Year, he would inform them of the final outcome of the sale. This could be an issue to discuss as part of the Budget Workshops.

Councillor Jones supported the motion and welcomed the comments made.

Councillor S Mallender spoke of the activities in the Lady Bay area, the Festival that had begun in 1995 and continued to grow, and the Lady Bay Children's Book Festival that had been launched three years ago. She informed Members that the Group that had suggested the sale of the Art Collection had also agreed that the money should be used to promote art in the Borough and she looked forward to seeing how the money would be used. With reference to the sale she informed Members that two community groups in the City had purchased two of the paintings.

Councillor Moore congratulated Councillor Edwards on his letter to all Councillors and to the points raised. He pointed out that there would be space at the new Arena development and that this could be considered. He also highlighted the many groups in the Borough that supported the arts.

Councillor Clarke stated that, as Councillor Cottee had indicated, the funds were to be used for the arts. He stated that it appeared that the motion was acceptable to everyone and that a recorded vote might not be needed. He too referred to the Upper Broughton Festival and the fact that Councillor Combella had been awarded first prize by an independent judge.

Due to the positive nature of the discussion Councillor Edwards retracted his request for a recorded vote. He was heartened by the general feeling of consensus.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

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

There had been no questions submitted.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

MAYOR