

**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL
THURSDAY 30 JUNE 2016**

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

PRESENT:

Councillor G Davidson – Mayor
Councillor L B Cooper – 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, J E Cottey, A M Dickinson, M J Edwards, A J Edyvean, J E Greenwood, S J Hull, Mrs C E M Jeffreys, R M Jones, K A Khan, N C Lawrence, E J Lungley, A MacInnes, G R Mallender, S E Mallender, D J Mason, S C Matthews, G S Moore, A L R A Pell, E A Plant, F A Purdue-Horan, S J Robinson, Mrs J A Smith, J A Stockwood, J E Thurman, R G Upton, D G Wheeler, J G A Wheeler

OFFICERS PRESENT:

D Banks	Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods
N Carter	Deputy Monitoring Officer
A Graham	Chief Executive
P Horsfield	Monitoring Officer
P Linfield	Executive Manager – Finance and Corporate Services
D Mitchell	Executive Manager – Communities
V Nightingale	Constitutional Services Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillors J Donoghue, R Hetherington, R A Inglis, Mrs M M Males, A Phillips

OPENING PRAYER

The Meeting was led in prayer by the Mayor's Chaplain and a minute's silence was held out of respect for Councillor Martin Suthers who passed away recently.

10. Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

11. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 May 2016 were received as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

12. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor informed Councillors that a memorial service would be held for Councillor Suthers at All Saints Church in Bingham on Friday 8 July.

He informed Councillors that he had attended nineteen events since the beginning of the municipal year and there were two in particular that he would like to tell Councillors about. Firstly, the Soar Boating Club annual rally last weekend was a lot of fun, the Mayor reported that he was asked to take the tiller of a narrow boat by the Commodore and received lots of strange looks piloting it down the river. The second event enjoyed by the Mayor recently was the 1-day cricket international at Trent Bridge which saw a thrilling match between England and Sri Lanka at which victory came down to the last ball.

The Mayor also reported that he had recently appointed two Mayoral Cadets to support him through his year in office. He presented a certificate of appointment to Rebekah Oldknow from the Air Cadets. Jamie Bramley from the Army Cadets was abroad playing the bugle at the service to commemorate the Battle of the Somme. He was expecting them to attend a number of his events such as the Civic Service at Bingham Methodist Church at the end of July and to assist in fund raising activities for his chosen charity Maggie's.

13. Leader's Announcements

There were no announcements by the Leader at this meeting.

14. Chief Executive's Announcements

There were no announcements by the Chief Executive at this meeting.

15. Positive Futures

Councillor Cottee presented a proposal for the future delivery of Positive Futures within Rushcliffe from January 2017 onwards. He explained to Councillors that Positive Futures had been launched in 2009 in Cotgrave but had expanded in more recent years to Radcliffe on Trent, Bingham and Keyworth. Councillor Cottee reported that the project had been very successful in improving the life chances for young people, their attainment at school and future employability. In June, Cabinet decided to support the project for a further four years at a cost of £110,000 per annum and this has been forwarded to Council in view of the required increase in budget provision.

Councillor Chewings reported that Positive Futures had made a huge impact within her local community and that she was very pleased that the scheme had been expanded to other local areas so they could benefit too. She further urged all communities to support and use this valuable resource. She then drew Councillor's attention to Appendix A and asked how the targets had been set. Councillor Cottee explained that once the ongoing targets were agreed they would be circulated to members. He acknowledged the dedication and skills of the Positive Futures staff.

Councillor Thurman was very pleased to see that East Leake was under discussion for something other than housing and he was happy to fully endorse the recommendation.

Councillor Purdue-Horan reported that he had been lucky enough to attend a meeting of the Positive Futures team and their partners (including schools). He felt that the team were a credit to both the organisations they represented.

Councillor Clarke thanked his fellow Councillors for their views and added that he felt that this scheme was part of what made Rushcliffe a great place to live. He was regularly approached by members of his community with positive feedback about the scheme who recognised the value of us all working together for the benefit of young people – long may it continue.

RESOLVED that the Council

- a) Supports the extension of the Positive Futures programme from January 2017 to December 2020 (4 years delivery) at a cost of £110,000 per annum.
- b) Supports the targeting of Positive Futures work to young people aged 9yrs and above within the catchment areas of East Leake Academy, South Nottinghamshire Academy, South Wolds Academy and Toothill School.
- c) Delegate authority to the Executive Manager - Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Community Services to establish agreed targets for performance monitoring and approval of any future amendments to the focus of the project.

16. Revision of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Convictions and Fitness Policy

Councillor Mason presented the revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Convictions and Fitness Policy which contained changes that were important to protect the public including young children and vulnerable adults. She informed Councillors that the Policy had been revised along with other local authorities in Nottinghamshire to ensure that all standards are the same across the county. Training has taken place and was well received. Section 1.3 of Appendix A contains the backbone of the policy and presents what the Council is responsible for. Continuing, Councillor Mason drew attention to section 3.6 referring to checks made with the Disclosure and Barring Service and to section 3.7 referring to other records the Council may use to make a decision. Councillor Mason concluded by thanking officers and members of the Licensing Committee for drawing up such a thorough policy.

Councillor MacInnes welcomed the revised policy and considered it to be a much more robust document with public protection at its heart. He reminded Councillors that there is still significant negative publicity of abuse by Taxi Drivers, especially when taking children to school, and that the revised Policy was necessary to protect our residents and also gave Taxi Drivers clear guidelines of what was considered acceptable behaviour.

Councillor Jones endorsed the revised policy and as he had dealt with cases of child abuse in the past he fully supported the robust stance taken in the document. He advised Officers to be wary of individuals presenting at different authorities as different people.

Councillor Clarke thanked Councillors for their support and reminded them that the LGA monitored the effectiveness of the licensing policy framework nationally.

Councillor Mason also thanked fellow Councillors for their support for the revised Policy.

RESOLVED that the Council approves the revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Convictions and Fitness Policy as presented.

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

a) Question from Councillor H Chewings to Councillor S Robinson

'In the budget and financial strategy that members voted on at full Council on 3rd March 2016 in the project appraisal form (page 62 project name: Cotgrave regeneration) it states that the completion date for the regeneration of Cotgrave including a vibrant town centre would be completed by March 2018. This is less than 2 years away which is not long when you consider that no plans have been submitted to the planning department at Rushcliffe Borough Council.

Councillor Robinson what reassurances can you give myself, Members and the people of Cotgrave that this project will be 100% completed to a high standard with minimal disruption to shop keepers and shoppers by March 2018?'

Councillor Robinson responded that the Council had a very robust tendering process and that he had every confidence in Officers to draft a contract which met the overall aims of the project.

b) Question from Councillor R Jones to Councillor J Cottee

'What criteria was used to determine the number of school children likely to be in trouble and on the verge of exclusion in recently extending Positive Futures and its mentor support from Cotgrave, Radcliffe, Bingham and Keyworth to young people in secondary school catchment areas which now include East Leake?'

Councillor Cottee reminded Councillors that Positive Futures started in Cotgrave which had been identified as an area of deprivation with increasing levels of antisocial behaviour. The project then moved to Keyworth where a similar trend has been observed. The project has not been taken into West Bridgford as it is felt that the town has more to offer young people than other areas and as there is limited funding the Council has to prioritise resources within the community.

c) Question from Councillor R Jones to Councillor R Butler

'Given the Cabinet's positive declaration in December to participate in the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme and positive first step; how will

further accommodation be provided at what level so this Council plays its full and proportionate part within the Governments commitments?’

Councillor Butler was pleased to report that Rushcliffe is ahead of other councils in Nottinghamshire. Given recent events, he commented that the Council was awaiting further guidance from the Home Office on future targets. Private landlords were now aware of the issues facing refugees following the recent Landlords Forum. He concluded by adding that this was a difficult situation which may be fluid but that the Council would do its best to find places if requested.

d) Question from Councillor N Lawrence to Councillor N Clarke

‘Following the result of the EU Referendum which resulted in a vote for the UK to leave the European Union, could the Leader outline what he feels will be the potential impact on the Borough Council as an organisation?’

Councillor Clarke told Councillors that he felt it was important to keep a close eye on the changing political landscape following the Referendum. There may be a further squeeze on finances but that it would be important to keep lobbying the LEP to keep services at a local level and focus on creating jobs and generating Economic Growth locally. Councillor Clarke felt that projects previously funded by the EU could potentially be at risk and that he would be looking to central government to redistribute the funding locally that is no longer going to the EU.

Councillor Clarke recognised that there was a real danger of retaliation following the ‘Brexit’ vote, especially an increase in hate crimes. He took the opportunity to condemn all hate crimes and wanted to reassure all residents in Rushcliffe that they are all valued members of their communities.

Supplementary Question

Councillor Lawrence asked what affects Brexit and a new Prime Minister would have on the local devolution deal?

Councillor Clarke replied that in his view it was incumbent on Councillors to keep an eye on the leadership candidates and their views and that he would welcome the opportunity to enter into discussions with the future Prime Minister to strengthen the future position of local government.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

MAYOR