



**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL
THURSDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2024**

Held at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Road, West
Bridgford
and live streamed on Rushcliffe Borough Council's YouTube channel

PRESENT:

Councillors A Brown (Chair), J Cottee (Vice-Chair), J Billin, T Birch, R Bird, A Brennan, R Butler, S Calvert, J Chaplain, K Chewings, N Clarke, T Combellack, S Dellar, A Edyvean, S Ellis, G Fletcher, M Gaunt, E Georgiou, P Gowland, C Grocock, R Inglis, R Mallender, S Mallender, D Mason, P Matthews, H Om, H Parekh, A Phillips, L Plant, D Polenta, D Simms, D Soloman, C Thomas, R Upton, D Viridi, J Walker, R Walker, L Way, T Wells, G Wheeler, J Wheeler and G Williams

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

L Ashmore	Director of Development and Economic Growth
D Banks	Director of Neighbourhoods
P Linfield	Director of Finance and Corporate Services
K Marriott	Chief Executive
S Pregon	Monitoring Officer
E Richardson	Democratic Services Officer
H Tambini	Democratic Services Manager

APOLOGIES:

Councillors M Barney and N Regan

33 Declarations of Interest

Councillor R Walker declared a potential pecuniary interest in Item 15d Notices of Motion and advised that he would leave the room and take no part in the debate.

Councillor Birch declared an interest in Item 15d Notices of Motion.

34 Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 September 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 26 September 2024 were approved as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

Councillor Birch questioned the accuracy of the minutes and asked that his vote against them be recorded.

35 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor stated that he remained very busy, attending numerous events, including the 40th anniversary celebrations for Rushcliffe's CVS, spending an informative day with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, and at the Samarpan Retreat Centre, planting the first of one million trees to be planted around the world. The Mayor referred to Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day and thanked all Councillors who had laid a wreath and said that he had enjoyed presenting awards to the winners at the Celebrating Rushcliffe Awards, and thanked officers for organising this fantastic event. The Mayor stated that despite the inclement weather, the West Bridgford Christmas Lights Switch On had successfully taken place and officers were again thanked for their hard work. The Mayor concluded by thanking Councillors for their continued support with his various charity fundraising events.

36 Leader's Announcements

The Leader advised that the Council had been re-awarded the Armed Forces Covenant Employers Scheme Gold Award, which recognised employers who actively supported the armed forces community. The Leader thanked the Team Manager Community Development and her team for their hard work on behalf of the armed forces. The Leader echoed the Mayor's comments regarding the excellent Celebrating Rushcliffe Awards evening, congratulated the winners and thanked all those who had arranged the event.

37 Chief Executive's Announcements

There were no Chief Executive's Announcements.

38 Citizens' Questions

No citizens' questions were received for this meeting.

39 Petitions

No petitions were presented at this meeting.

40 Appointment of the Chief Executive

The Leader and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Borough-wide Leadership, Councillor Clarke MBE presented the report of the Monitoring Officer and Head of Chief Executive's Department regarding the recruitment and appointment of a new Chief Executive.

Before moving the recommendation, the Leader thanked Kath Marriott for her hard work as Chief Executive, a role which she had performed extremely well over the past five years. The Leader referred to her compassion and empathy for all and thanked her for her support to both himself and the previous Leader of the Council. The Leader wished Kath well in her new role as Chief Executive at North Kesteven District Council.

The Director – Finance and Corporate Services and the Director – Neighbourhoods left the meeting during consideration of this item.

In moving the recommendation, the Leader referred to the comprehensive interview process, thanked members of the Interviewing Committee for their hard work and the excellent candidates that had applied. After a rigorous two-day process, the Leader confirmed that Mr Adam Hill, the current Chief Executive at Mansfield District Council was offered the post. The Leader referred to paragraph 4.10 in the report and stated that it was proposed that if necessary, the Director – Neighbourhoods be appointed as the interim Head of Paid Service and the Director – Finance and Corporate Service be appointed as the interim Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer.

Councillor Brennan seconded the recommendation, reserved the right to speak and thanked Kath for her help and support since becoming a Councillor, and wished her well.

Councillor J Walker welcomed and congratulated Mr Hill on his appointment and thanked Kath on behalf of the Labour Group for all she had done for the Borough and referred to the recent unprecedented times that the country and Borough had faced and how well Kath had led the Council through that. She thanked Kath for her time and support and felt that through her leadership, minority Councillors had been able to make an impact, and she wished Kath well in her new role.

Councillor S Mallender thanked Kath for her support during the pandemic when she was Mayor and wished her luck in her new role.

Councillor Thomas thanked Kath for her help and support over the years to the Leake Independent Group.

Councillor Birch welcomed Mr Hill and stated that he had been impressed since becoming a Councillor on how well the Council was run and thanked Kath for her help and assistance and wished her luck.

Councillor Upton personally thanked Kath for her help and support over the years and wished her good luck.

Councillor Combellack stated that Kath was valued by all Councillors and had a great knowledge and understanding of the Borough and would be greatly missed and wished her luck in her new role.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) the appointment of Adam Hill to the position of Chief Executive, including designation as Head of Paid Service, Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer be approved; and
- b) the interim arrangements as set out in paragraph 4.10 of the report be approved.

41 Tollerton Neighbourhood Plan

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing, Councillor Upton presented the report of the Director – Development and Economic Growth outlining the Tollerton Neighbourhood Plan.

In moving the recommendation, Councillor Upton referred to the Council's statutory obligations and the requirement to assess if a plan met the 'Basic Conditions' and legal requirements and referred to the number of plans already adopted by the Council. Council noted that on 10 September 2024, Cabinet had agreed to accept all but three of the Examiner's recommended modifications, as they were not considered to be necessary to meet the 'Basic Conditions'. The decision had been subject to a public consultation, with five responses received, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report. If agreed this evening, Councillor Upton advised that a referendum would be held, and if over 50% voted in favour, then the Borough Council would be required to adopt the Tollerton Neighbourhood Plan as part of its Development Plan for Rushcliffe.

Councillor Wells seconded the recommendation and reserved the right to speak.

Councillor Gaunt stated that the Labour Group was fully supportive of this going forward to a referendum, and acknowledged the work undertaken by many in Ruddington to produce its own plan, which had proved very useful.

Councillor Polenta fully supported having a referendum as it enhanced local democracy and the democratic decision making process, by dispersing powers to local residents, allowing them to shape the decisions that affected their lives.

In seconding the recommendation, Councillor Wells referred to the importance of neighbourhood plans in allowing local residents to shape their own future and community.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) the decision not to accept the Examiner's recommended modifications 5, 6 and 20 to the Tollerton Neighbourhood Plan be confirmed;
- b) the Tollerton Neighbourhood Plan Revised Decision Statement and its publication be approved;
- c) the holding of a referendum for the Tollerton Neighbourhood Plan, with the area for the referendum being the Parish of Tollerton be approved;
- d) the Director – Development and Economic Growth be granted delegated authority to make any necessary final minor textual, graphical and presentational changes required to the referendum version of the Tollerton Parish Neighbourhood Plan;
- e) subject to a majority vote from the referendum, the Council 'makes' (adopts) the Tollerton Neighbourhood Plan; and

- f) the Director – Development and Economic Growth be granted delegated authority to issue a statement setting out this decision as soon as possible following the referendum.

42 **Barton in Fabis Community Governance Review**

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance, Transformation and Governance, Councillor Virdi presented the report of the Chief Executive outlining the Barton in Fabis Community Governance Review (CGR).

In moving the recommendation, Councillor Virdi advised that Barton in Fabis would be very different to Fairham, and without the separation the current Council would oversee two very different communities. Councillor Virdi outlined the key objectives of the CGR, the stages of the review process to be followed, with a draft timetable, including the establishment of a Task and Finish Group, as detailed in the report. Councillor Virdi advised that any costs incurred would be met from existing budgets.

Councillor R Walker seconded the recommendation and reserved the right to speak.

Councillor Calvert advised that the Labour Group accepted the validity of the petition and acknowledged the reasons put forward for the creation of a new parish at Fairham, as detailed in the report. However, he questioned the timing of the CGR and stated that it would be sensible to undertake it once the majority of houses at Fairham had been occupied, to allow those residents to have a say, with the timings considered by the Task and Finish Group.

In supporting the referendum, Councillor R Mallender agreed that it would be important to consider how this was taken forward, and the Leader advised that this would be a lengthy process and a compromise had to be struck to allow sufficient opinions to be sought.

Councillor Thomas suggested that the Terms of Reference should take into account the ability to change the timetable, and to allow the Task and Finish Group to consider the timelines. The Monitoring Officer clarified that as a valid petition had been received, the Council had a statutory timetable to comply with, and it would be within the remit of the Task and Finish Group to amend the current proposed timetable, as appropriate.

In seconding the recommendation, Councillor R Walker passed on Barton in Fabis Parish Council's support for this report and confirmed its willingness to help in anyway going forward.

Councillor Virdi confirmed that the remit of the Task and Finish Group would be to look at the consultation process and potential options going forward.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) the process involved for the delivery of a Community Governance Review and the proposed timetable be noted;

- b) the Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review (Appendix Two of the report) be approved;
- c) a cross party Task and Finish Group be established to consider the Council's position in response to the consultation to be undertaken as part of the Review; and
- d) the Task and Finish Group Terms of Reference (Appendix Three of the Report) be approved.

43 **Gambling Act 2005 - Draft Statement of Licensing Principles 2025-2028**

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Safety, Councillor Inglis presented the report of the Director – Neighbourhoods outlining the Gambling Act 2005 – Draft Statement of Licensing Principles.

In moving the recommendation, Councillor Inglis advised that it was a legal requirement to have a Statement of Principles in place, and that there were no real changes from the previous Statement, which had been approved in 2021. This document had to be reviewed every three years, and if approved would come into effect on 31 January 2025. Councillor Inglis confirmed that it had been subject to public consultation and considered by the Licensing Committee on 14 October 2025.

Councillor Phillips seconded the recommendation and reserved the right to speak.

In supporting the recommendation, Councillor Chaplain stated that it was more important than ever to have an effective and enforceable policy, given the increased access to gambling via various platforms and the Government's review of the gambling regime was required to make it fit for the digital age and to prevent harm to vulnerable groups. Councillor Chaplain thanked officers, particularly the Senior Licensing and Enforcement Officer for their hard work.

In supporting the recommendation, Councillor Chewings confirmed that the Licensing Committee had looked at this document in depth and was pleased to see that a Government review was taking place and thanked officers.

It was **RESOLVED** that the draft Statement of Licensing principles be approved.

44 **Street Trading Policy 2025-2030**

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Safety, Councillor Inglis presented the report of the Director – Neighbourhoods outlining the Street Trading Policy 2025-2030.

In moving the recommendation, Councillor Inglis advised that the Council had adopted a Street Trading Policy in 2019, which was due to expire in January 2025. Prior to the adoption of the Policy, trading was unregulated, apart from an area confined around Nottingham Forest Football Club, and the Policy had

brought other traders under regulatory control. Councillor Inglis confirmed that it had been subject to public consultation and considered by the Licensing Committee on 14 October 2025. The Committee had asked for the draft Policy to be amended, details of which were highlighted in Paragraph 1.2 and Appendix H of the report.

Councillor Mason seconded the recommendation.

Councillor Grocock thanked officers, confirmed that the Labour Group was happy to support this important Policy and referred to the important oversight undertaken by the Licensing Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that the revised Street Trading Policy attached at Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

45 **Polling Districts and Polling Places Review**

The Leader and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Borough-wide Leadership, Councillor Clarke MBE presented the report of the Chief Executive outlining the review of polling districts and polling places.

In moving the recommendation, the Leader stated that this was a regular review to reflect changing communities, with Paragraph 4.3 in the report detailing the main changes.

In seconding the recommendation, Councillor Brennan reminded Council that members had been consulted and hoped it would ensure that everyone had reasonable access to accessible polling stations.

Councillor Plant confirmed that the Labour Group supported the recommendation and felt that a regular review was reasonable, given housing growth, and she wondered if it would be better to run a consultation following an election. She referred to the importance of ensuring that all polling stations were accessible and questioned how information on accessibility was passed on.

Councillor R Mallender agreed with the importance of ensuring polling stations were accessible and was happy with the minor change to Lady Bay.

The Leader agreed with the comments made and advised that he believed that all polling stations in Rushcliffe were accessible.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

a) Council approved:

- (i) proposals setting out changes to polling districts and polling places; and
- (ii) the revised schedule of polling districts and polling places as set out in Appendix 2 to the report;

- b) the Chief Executive be requested to formally publish the notice of the conclusion of the review and its findings; and
- c) the (Acting) Returning Officer be given authority to select an appropriate alternative polling place (if required). Formal retrospective approval to be sought by Council following an election, if appropriate.

46 Notices of Motion

- a) The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Inglis and seconded by Councillor Parekh.

“This Council resolves to:

Write to the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to request that the Government instigates new legislation surrounding car cruising meetings/gatherings to implement a legal requirement for organisers to pre-notify the relevant authorities as to when and where such a meeting is planned, and that a failure to do so will result in any attendee being liable to prosecution/dispersion.”

In moving the motion, Councillor Inglis stated that many residents in the Borough were suffering because of car cruising, and this problem was not unique to Rushcliffe. Councillor Inglis referred to his own personal experiences as a former Traffic Policeman of dealing with fatalities and serious injuries due to dangerous driving and it was noted that car cruising had been taking place for many years, with a new approach needed to tackle it. Councillor Inglis stated that work was being undertaken with partners, including the Police to look at other options, which would not face legal challenge. Council noted the significant risk to young, male drivers aged 17 to 24, who were four times more likely to be killed or seriously injured than those over 25. Councillor Inglis stated that this proposal would fill in the gap of existing policing and legislative powers and help to improve residents' quality of life and reduce demand on the Police. He would welcome the establishment of a Member Working Group and advised that James Naish MP had confirmed that there were no requests sitting with the Government to address this issue.

In seconding the recommendation Councillor Parekh reiterated the seriousness of this issue, which was a blight and consistent concern to so many residents. Whilst acknowledging that the Police did take action, she was concerned that an accident could happen before the Police arrived. Councillor Parekh believed that the risks were so great, it was now time to take action and this proposal would provide a practical solution, whilst acting as a deterrent, with legislation to ensure that public spaces remained safe and reflecting the Council's commitment to safeguarding residents.

Councillor Gowland agreed that car cruising was a nuisance and believed that Police already had powers to tackle it, although it was acknowledged that resources were limited and she felt that the motion should have been

asking the Police and Crime Commissioner to make this a priority and to engage with people to choose safe locations, and she advised that the Labour Group would not be supporting the motion.

Councillor Birch supported the motion, which was designed to improve public safety and empower the Police and it was noted that this issue caused other problems, not just safety concerns, with current legislation needing to be strengthened, and the deterrent effect of this would make it worthwhile.

Councillor Om reiterated comments made regarding the problems for local residents and the strong reasons why the motion should be supported to improve their quality of life.

Councillor J Wheeler stated that this was a Police priority and they would welcome additional powers and asked local residents to report incidents as soon as possible so they could respond.

Councillor Polenta felt that it was better to engage with those involved to find common goals and safe practices and to have balanced positive policies.

Councillor Matthews reiterated that this motion was about safety, asking the Government to look at this issue and put the onus on event organisers to arrange things responsibly.

The Leader agreed that this was about community safety and asking for new legislation, which would lead to debate as this issue was currently not being raised, and although the car meets were advertised, it was difficult for the Police to catch them. This motion was about protecting all lives and encouraging participants to be more responsible.

Councillor R Mallender agreed that there was a problem but felt that there was already a raft of legislation that could deal with it and was concerned that the wording would fail to address some of the problems.

Councillor Williams felt that current legislation had failed to work and stated that appropriate sites, such as Donington Park could be used.

Councillor J Walker reiterated the importance of safety but felt that the motion talked about punishment rather than engagement and just writing to someone was failing to take a strong position.

Councillor Inglis clarified that this was about gaining landowners permission and this motion was not trying to discourage people from meeting, it was about meeting lawfully, and he confirmed that the Police did engage with people.

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

- b) The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Chewings and seconded by Councillor Birch.

Prior to presenting the motion, Councillor Chewings informed the Mayor that he wished to make an alteration to the motion using Standing Order Paragraph 4.58 to amend the name of the Secretary of State for Transport. After outlining this alteration, consent was given by the Council and Councillor Chewings proceeded to move the motion.

“This Council resolves to:

1. Write to our two MPs to express our concerns regarding the inadequate funding for road repairs and its significant impact on residents. Request that they urgently lobby the Government to provide sufficient funding to address this issue.
2. Write to the Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP, Secretary of State for Transport, urging the immediate allocation of funds to improve the condition of countryside roads.
3. Write to Nottinghamshire County Council to raise the Council's concerns about the deteriorating condition of roads within Rushcliffe. Request a comprehensive response detailing the underlying causes of this issue, a clear plan to address the disrepair, and an explanation of any barriers hindering progress.”

In moving the motion, Councillor Chewings advised that this issue affected everyone, with road maintenance underfunded by successive governments. In Rushcliffe, roads had deteriorated so badly that residents were consistently complaining, as poor road surfaces not only damaged vehicles but put lives at risk. Councillor Chewings stated that councils faced a £16.3billion repair backlog; however, the Government had only pledged £500million. Underfunding had significant impact on many aspects of life and Councillor Chewings stated that those on low income were disproportionately affected. This motion called for decisive action and today Councillors had the opportunity to show leadership, and it was time for the Government to take notice.

Councillor Birch seconded the motion and reserved the right to speak.

The Leader confirmed that he had a dual role and was Cabinet Portfolio Holder at Nottinghamshire County Council for Transport and Environment. The Leader agreed that road maintenance had been underfunded and that £500million was not enough and it was vital that local MPs were involved and he proposed an amendment as follows:

“Rushcliffe Borough Council resolves to:

1. Write to our two MPs to express our concerns regarding the inadequate funding for road repairs and its significant impact on residents. Request that they urgently lobby the Government to provide sufficient funding to address this issue.
2. Write to the Secretary of State for Transport, urging the immediate allocation of funds to improve the condition of highways.

3. Write to Nottinghamshire County Council to ask for an update on their progress on delivering improvements in line with their Highways Improvement Plan 4. Write to the East Midlands Mayor, Claire Ward and ask her to detail when she will be making further funding available to the upper tier authorities for highway repairs.”

In proposing the amendment, the Leader stated that it was not true that roads in Rushcliffe continued to deteriorate, in fact they were improving and the amendment was asking for an update from the County Council on that work, as well as writing to the East Midlands Mayor.

Councillor Williams seconded the amendment to the motion and agreed that the County Council had been investing in road maintenance.

Councillor Chewings stated that although he felt that the original motion was accurate, he confirmed that he would accept the amendment and so this became the substantive motion.

Councillor Calvert advised that Government resources were limited for road maintenance and questioned why a letter was being sent to the County Council. The Leader clarified that this action would allow the Highways Improvement Plan to be sent to the Borough Council

Councillor Thomas proposed that the motion be put to the vote, and this was seconded by Councillor R Mallender. On being put to the vote the procedural motion was carried.

Councillor Chewings stated that he was pleased to see that some road improvements had taken place but questioned the time it had taken and referred to the continuing poor state of many roads and that was why this motion had been submitted.

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

- c) The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Birch and seconded by Councillor Chewings.

“This Council resolves to:

1. Formally declare our gratitude to Rushcliffe's farming community.
2. Ensure, where possible, that food and drink at council-organised events is sourced from local farms.
3. Commission a feasibility study of agroforestry partnerships with local farmers, which will help local farms whilst simultaneously helping council offset carbon emissions.”

In moving the motion, Councillor Birch stated that he was advocating for all farmers and thanked them for their hard work and stewardship of the countryside. Councillor Birch highlighted the positive influence that farmers had and stated that farming was a way of life, with traditions passed down. Farming was a difficult job, and despite the many challenges, farmers continued to work hard and the motion affirmed the

Council's support. Councillor Birch referred to the inclusion of agroforestry partnerships, as this forward thinking initiative both supported farmers and addressed broader concerns regarding sustainability and carbon emissions. He asked that a Policy Framework, which prioritised the use of local food and drink suppliers be adopted, and that local farmers and suppliers be included on a database. Councillor Birch stated that supporting farmers was an investment in everyone's wellbeing and supporting the motion would confirm that.

Councillor Chewings seconded the motion and reserved the right to speak.

Councillor Brennan reiterated the importance of farmers, acknowledged their hard work and the many challenges they faced. Councillor Brennan advised that the Council always tried to use local caterers, and encouraged them to source local produce, which could be looked at further. In respect of agroforestry, Councillor Brennan confirmed that farmers were already encouraged to consider this approach through the Council's Carbon Offsetting Framework. Given the Council's continued work with partners to explore potential new areas of woodland, and promote tree planting schemes, it was felt that a feasibility study would not add to work already being undertaken and that this would not add to the Council's corporate carbon offsetting target, as the Council had to own the land, or have a long lease. Councillor Brennan proposed an amendment to the motion as follows:

"This Council resolves to:

1. Formally declare our gratitude to Rushcliffe's farming community for their contribution to food production and stewardship of our countryside.
2. Ensure, where possible, that food and drink at council-organised events is sourced from local farms.
3. Encourage local farmers to consider agroforestry options to improve the long-term resilience of farm businesses as well as improving biodiversity and carbon capture across the Borough."

Councillor Edyvean seconded the amendment to the motion and reserved the right to speak.

Councillor Birch stated that although he was disappointed that point 3 had been amended, he confirmed that he would accept the amendment and so this became the substantive motion.

Councillor Polenta referred to the many challenges that farmers faced and the ongoing difficulties associated with climate change, together with economic and social conditions, and stated that they deserved to be supported.

In supporting the motion, Councillor Grocock stated that the Council could do more around local procurement. Whilst welcoming the initiatives referred to, Councillor Grocock questioned how they would address some

of the poor scores in the Environment Agency's Adaptive Investment for Growth document and he felt that point 3 was particularly welcomed as this was an important goal.

Councillor Gaunt questioned how the encouragement to farmers would take place and Councillor Williams stated that this could possibly be taken through the Communities Scrutiny Group, as part of the Carbon Management Plan.

Councillor S Mallender acknowledged that Rushcliffe did try to use local producers and that not all products could be sourced locally. She also hoped that agroforestry could be extended further to encompass other environmental measures.

It was proposed by Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Brennan and **RESOLVED** by Councillors that the meeting be extended and would finish no later than 10.30pm.

In seconding the recommendation, Councillor Chewings expressed disappointed that the motion had been amended. He stated that Rushcliffe was a great farming community and he hoped to see local produce at Council run events.

Councillor Birch was pleased that the thrust of the motion was maintained and advised that the main reason for the motion was to advocate for farmers. He reiterated his disappointment that point 3 had been amended as he felt that agroforestry was a great option to explore and referred to the numerous benefits. In respect of point 2, he hoped that the Council could look into ways of measuring and improving how it sourced local produce.

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

Councillors Birch and R Walker indicated an interest in the following item and left the room. They took no part in the item.

- d) The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Clarke MBE and seconded by Councillor Soloman.

"This Council resolves to :

1. Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to call upon her to reverse the changes to Inheritance Tax rules for farmers and to explain the reasons why.
2. Write to Robert Jenrick MP to thank him for his opposition to the tax changes and ask that he continues to lobby the Chancellor on our behalf.
3. Write to James Naish MP to ask him to join us in opposing the Chancellor's decision and to lobby her on our behalf in order to change the decision.
4. Record our thanks to the farmers of Rushcliffe for all the intensive hard work they do on behalf of Rushcliffe residents to put food on our

tables.

5. Write to the local representatives of the National Farmers Union to express our support for the call to reverse the new tax changes.”

In moving the motion, The Leader stated that the recent budget was an attack on family farms and referred to Agriculture Property Relief (APR) and Business Property Relief (BPR). Both APR and BPR provided certainty that farms could be kept in the family, and without them families would be forced to sell land to pay Inheritance Tax. The Leader stated that this punitive tax was punishing the people that provided the country's food, and he was disappointed that James Naish MP had supported this tax, and he thanked farmers for their hard work.

Councillor Soloman seconded the motion and reserved the right to speak.

Councillor Gaunt agreed with the comments made about farmers and stated that the Government's commitment to them remained steadfast with the majority of farmers claiming APR being unaffected. The tax was being levied on the richest estates and farms, with many now sold to none farming investors. The money raised should be invested back into the country and would benefit rural communities, and this was a balanced approach, which would protect small, family farms. Councillor Gaunt felt that it would have been more appropriate to reach out to local farmers to see who would be affected and how they could be supported.

Councillor Gowland reiterated that the issue related to wealthy people buying land to avoid paying Inheritance Tax and this system would not affect small farms.

Councillor R Mallender stated that the Government was right to identify this loophole and it needed to take action to ensure that farmers could make a decent income and to shift to nature friendly farming.

Councillor Chewings noted the financially challenging times that the Government faced and although he wanted to see further taxation to stop wealthy people buying land, he did not feel that this tax was correct.

In seconding the recommendation, Councillor Soloman referred to the Borough's rich farming heritage, with generations of families working tirelessly to feed the country and support the local economy and she felt that the Government's approach to family farms was shortsighted. This tax would force families to sell land, and Council was reminded of the importance of ensuring food security. Generational farmers were at the heart of the rural community, and it was estimated that 75,000 farms could be affected, with 75% of farms valued over £1million, which was above the Government's estimate and. Councillor Soloman stated that Rushcliffe's farmers deserved better.

The Leader reiterated that 75% of farms could be affected, with the Government using data which was out of date and he urged the Chancellor of the Exchequer to review this decision.

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

47 **Questions from Councillors**

The questions from Councillors were carried over to the next Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.27 pm.

CHAIR