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MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING of the
SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
held at the Civic Offices, Civic Way
on Thursday, 15 September 2022
at 6.00pm

PRESENT:

Labour Group

Councillor Dunn (Chair), Councillor Bambrick (Vice-Chair) and Councillors, Heath, L. Mulgrew, M Mulgrew, Pearson, Rhind, Richards, Shepherd, Singh, Southerd, Stuart, Taylor and Tilley.

Conservative Group

Councillors Atkin, Bridgen, Brown, Corbin, Ford, Fitzpatrick, Hewlett, Lemmon, Muller, Patten, Redfern and Smith.

Independent Group

Councillors MacPherson and Roberts.

Non-Grouped

Councillor Wheelton

A minute's silence was held in memory of the Queen Elizabeth II

CL/44 **APOLOGIES**

Council was informed that apologies had been received from Councillor Gee (Labour Group) and Councillors Ackroyd, Dawson, Smith and Watson (Conservative Group) and Councillor Churchill (Non-Grouped).

CL/45 **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The Open Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 12 May 2022, (CL/1-CL/24); Civic Council Meeting held on 19 May 2022 (CC/1-CC/6) and Council Meeting held on 23 June 2022 (CL/28-CL/43) were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair of the Council.

CL/46 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Council was informed that no declarations of interest had been received.

CL/47 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair of the Council addressed Members and paid tribute to Queen Elizabeth II. The Chair invited Members to join him in laying flowers in memory of the Queen Elizabeth II at the Princess Diana Memorial following the meeting. The Chair of the Council informed Members of his attendance at a Memorial Service held at

Derby Cathedral and shared a pray with Members from the memorial service. The Chair announced his Charity for the Civic year would be the NSPCC.

CL/48 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER**

The Leader of the Council gave condolences to the longest serving monarch and acknowledged the Queen's commitment to service and duty during her reign. The Leader invited other Group Leaders to pay their respects.

Councillors Corbin, MacPherson and Wheelton honoured the Queen's memory and paid tribute to her devotion to public duty, noting the loss to the nation.

CL/49 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE**

The Head of Paid Service paid tribute to the Queen Elizabeth II and invited Members to honour the Queen in the book of condolence, in the foyer of the Civic Offices.

The Head of Paid Service advised following the report of the Devolution matter in the Press, it was expected that the four Councils involved would meet in November regarding the proposals, followed by a consultation process.

CL/50 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No.10 the Chair of the Council invited Michael King to ask the Leader of the Council the following question:

“In a Daily Telegraph survey of English local authorities in April this year, at 80%, South Derbyshire District Council had the sixth highest percentage of council staff working from home. Does the Council not accept that the practice of a high proportion of staff working from home was an undesirable practice left over from the Covid pandemic which is having an adverse effect on productivity?”

Leader of the Council thanked Michael King for bringing forward the question but confirmed that he did not accept that staff working from home was undesirable and that it did not have an adverse impact on the delivery of Council business. The Leader of the Council clarified that those working from home did so with the approval of Managers and as per the Council's Flexible Working Policy.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No.10 the Chair of the Council invited Michael King to ask the Leader of the Council the following question:

“Was the Council aware that the slowness of its planning service was having an adverse effect on the local economy by impeding development and investment and hence employment?”

The Leader of the Council informed Council he was not aware of any slowness in relation to the delivery of service from the Planning department; he requested that the Chief Executive look into the matter and report back to the next Council meeting. It was further noted that South Derbyshire District Council, like other Local Authorities, was struggling to recruit experienced planning officers.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 10, Michael King raised a supplementary question regarding the use of one queuing system for all types of planning applications.

The Leader of the Council reassured Council that a separate process for different types of application was in place but reiterated a staffing shortage had been problematic and would await the outcome of the Chief Executive's findings.

CL/51 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11**

Council was informed that no questions had been received.

CL/52 **TO CONSIDER ANY NOTICES OF MOTION**

Council was informed that no notices had been received

CL/53 **APPOINTMENT OF A RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION PANEL**

The Chief Executive, in line with the Constitution, and considering the Council's Political Proportionality, sought nominations for the Recruitment and Selection Panel from the Leader of the Council.

RESOLVED:

1.1 Council approved that the appointment and recruitment into the post of Strategic Director (Service Delivery) (SM03) be delegated to a panel of five Members from the Finance and Management Committee to along with the Chairs of Housing and Community Services and Environmental and Development Services Committee Cllr making a total of seven panel members in accordance with the Appointment Procedure for the Chief Executives and Directors.

1.2 Council agreed that the following nominations for the Panel reflected the current political balance of the Council:

**Councillors Rhind, Richards, Southerd and Taylor (Labour Group)
Councillors Haines and Smith (Conservative Group)
Councillor Andrew Churchill (Non-Grouped)**

1.3 Council approved that final arrangements regarding the selection procedure to be followed, including timescales, along with determining the selection process for the final appointment, to be agreed between the Chief Executive and Elected Members of the Panel.

CL/54 **POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services presented the report to Council, requesting that Members approve the recommendations contained within the report. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services requested Group leaders make appointments to Committees as outlined.

The Leader of the Council proposed amendments as follows:

Committee	Membership	Conservative Group	Labour Group	Independent Group	Non – Grouped
Finance & Management	13	6	6	0	1
Environmental & Development Services	13	6	6		1
Housing & Community Services	13	6	6	1	0
Planning	13	6	6	0	1
Licensing & Appeals	15	7	6	2	0
Overview & Scrutiny	8	4	4		0
Standards	6	2	3	1	0
Joint Consultative	5	2	2	0	1
Etwall JMC	3	1	1	1	0
Audit Sub	5	2	2	0	1
Heritage Grants Sub	4	2	2	0	0

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 That Council approved and adopted the recommended allocation of seats to the Political Groups and Non-Grouped Members for the remainder of municipal year 2022/23.**
- 1.2 That the Council allocated seats between the Political Groups and Non-Grouped Members as set out at Annexe ‘A’ of the report and invited Group Leaders and Non-Grouped Members to make nominations to fill the seats.**

CL/55 **OPEN MINUTES:**

Council received and considered the open minutes of its Committees.

RESOLVED:

That the Open Minutes of the following Committees and Area Forums were approved as a true record.

Committee	Date	Minutes No's
Environmental and Development Services	04.01.22	EDS/160to EDS/168
Housing and Community Services	06.01.22	HCS/57 to HCS/65
Finance and Management	13.01.22	FM/111 to FM/121

Environmental and Development Services	25.01.22	EDS/169 to EDS/178
Housing and Community Services	27.01.22	HCS/66 to HCS/74
Overview and Scrutiny	09.02.22	OS/25 to OS/34
Environmental and Development Services	03.03.22	EDS/182 to EDS/189
Housing and Community Services	10.03.22	HCS/78 to HCS/87
Etwall Joint Management Committee	06.04.22	EL/14 t- EL/20
Housing and Community Services	19.04.22	HCS/91to HCS/99
Environmental and Development Services	20.04.22	EDS/193 to EDS/203
Environmental and Development Services	26.05.22	EDS/01 to EDS/09
Housing and Community Services	01.06.22	HCS/01 to HCS/10
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	15.06.22	OS/01 to OS/10
Etwall Joint Management Committee	06.07.22	EL/ 01 to EL/09

<u>Area Forum</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Minutes No's</u>
Swadlincote	30.06.22	1 - 7
Newhall	05.07.22	1 - 7
Etwall	07.07.22	1 – 7
Linton	12.07.22	1 - 7
Melbourne	14.07.22	1 - 7
Repton	19.07.22	1 - 7

CL/56 **TO REVIEW THE COMPOSITIONS OF COMMITTEE, SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PANELS**

The Members reviewed the composition of Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Panels 2022-23.

Council was advised that amendments to the composition of Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Panels for the remainder of the municipal year were as per those submitted in writing.

RESOLVED:

- (1) *That the nominations of Members to serve on Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Panels for the remainder of the ensuing year, as set out at Annexe “B” to these Minutes be received and noted.*
- (2) *That the appointments of Chair and Vice-Chair be approved as indicated in Annexe B” to these Minutes.*

CL/57 **TO REVIEW THE COMPOSITIONS OF THE SUBSTITUTE PANELS**

Council was advised that amendments to the composition of Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Panels for the remainder of the municipal year were as those submitted in writing.

RESOLVED:

That the nominations of Members to serve on Substitute Panels, as set out at Annexe “C” to these Minutes, be received and noted.

CL/58 **TO REVIEW THE REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members reviewed the Outside Bodies representation list.

RESOLVED:

Council was informed no amendments were to be made.

CL/59 **TO REVIEW MEMBER CHAMPIONS**

Members reviewed the Representation of Member Champions.

RESOLVED:

Council was informed no amendments were to be made.

CL/60 **TO APPOINT CHAIRS OF AREA FORUMS**

The Chairs of the Area Forums were reviewed.

RESOLVED:

Council was informed that Councillor Wheelton would be Chair and Councillor Pegg would be Vice-Chair of Linton Area Forum

CL/61 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined under the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as indicated in the reports of Committees.

EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

The Exempt Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on the 12 May 2022(CL25-CL27) were approved as a true record.

EXEMPT QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NUMBER 11

Council was informed that no questions had been received.

EXEMPT MINUTES:

Council received and considered the Exempt Minutes of its Committees.

RESOLVED:-

That the Exempt Minutes of the following Committees be approved as a true record:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Minutes No's</u>
<i>Finance and Management</i>	<i>13.01.22</i>	<i>FM/122 to FM/123</i>
<i>Environmental and Development Services</i>	<i>25.01.22</i>	<i>EDS/179 to EDS/181</i>
<i>Housing and Community Services</i>	<i>27.01.22</i>	<i>HCS/75 to HCS/77</i>
<i>Environmental and Development Services</i>	<i>03.03.22</i>	<i>EDS/190 to EDS/192</i>
<i>Housing and Community Services</i>	<i>10.03.22</i>	<i>HCS/88 to HCS/90</i>
<i>Housing and Community Services</i>	<i>19.04.22</i>	<i>HCS/100 to HCS/102</i>
<i>Environmental and Development Services</i>	<i>20.04.22</i>	<i>EDS/204 to EDS/205</i>
<i>Housing and Community Services</i>	<i>01.06.22</i>	<i>HCS/11 to HCS/14</i>

The meeting terminated at 18:45 hours.

COUNCILLOR P DUNN

CHAIR OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL