

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING BETWEEN SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT  
COUNCIL AND PARISH COUNCILS/MEETINGS

23rd February 2011

**PRESENT:**

**Representatives of South Derbyshire District Council**

Councillor Wheeler (Chairman) and Councillors Bale, Mrs. Farrington, Harrison and Lemmon.

**Officers**

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), M. Alflat (Director of Community Services), I. Bowen (Planning Policy Manager) and N. Betteridge (Democratic Services Manager).

**Parish Council Representatives**

J. Longley, D. Martin and H. Wheeler (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council), A. Heathcote and J. Wilcox (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council), J. Storer (Burnaston Parish Council), K. Fairbrother (Castle Gresley Parish Council), M. Kinson (Coton-in-the-Elms Parish Council), B. Cowley and P. Riley (Egginton Parish Council), R. Hill (Elvaston Parish Council), K. Cresswell and D. Muller (Etwall Parish Council), T. Beresford (Foston and Scropton Parish Council), R. Bell and C. Dobson (Hartshorne Parish Council), C. Thurman (Hatton Parish Council), J. Powell (Linton Parish Council), N. Collyer and D. Smith (Melbourne Parish Council), N. Eaton and A. Wing (Netherseal Parish Council), D. Buchanan (Newton Solney Parish Council), J. White (Overseal Parish Council), S. Grant and D. Shepherd (Ticknall Parish Council), H. Timms (Walton-on-Trent Parish Council), F. Crocker and K. Overton (Willington Parish Council) and E. Lummis (Woodville Parish Council).

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillor Mrs. Plenderleith, B. Wood (DALC), S. Jackson (Castle Gresley Parish Council), B. Bagnall (Findern Parish Council), S. Flowers (Hatton Parish Council), J. Bates (Hilton Parish Council), C. Knight (Overseal Parish Council), S. Reilly (Repton Parish Council), Smisby Parish Council and R. Statham (Woodville Parish Council).

PC/25. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chairman advised attendees of the recent death of Bill Lythgoe of Elvaston Parish Council, who had also served previously on both the District and County Councils. Those present stood in silence as a mark of respect.

PC/26. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd June 2010 were received.

PC/27. **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

A presentation was provided by the Planning Policy Manager on Localism and the Local Development Framework. The main headlines in the Localism Bill 2010 relating to development planning were:-

- Abolishing 'top down' regional housing building targets
- Reviewing the system for preparing local plans
- Allowing communities to prepare their own 'Neighbourhood Plans'
- A 'Community Right to Build' certain developments without planning permission
- Taking forward the Community Infrastructure Levy

The aims of the Localism Bill were to involve local communities in neighbourhood planning and a series of 'drop in' events had been arranged during January to March in various areas across the District.

It was stressed that Parish Councils had an important role in this process and parish representatives were encouraged to attend one of the 'drop-in' events, details of which could be found on the Council's website.

PC/28. **2011/12 BUDGET**

The Chief Executive gave a presentation on the Council's budget for 2011/12. Information was circulated at the Meeting indicating current council tax levels and the division between the various authorities, which revealed that the District Council retained only 10% of the total. Charts also showed how the District Council was funded, its net general fund expenditure for 2010/11 and the initial budget for 2011/12. A key issue of the financial settlement for 2011–13 concerned the reduction in Government grant funding levels. This had resulted in key challenges for 2011/12 and the need to identify savings and efficiencies. The Council's overall aim was to "reduce costs, not services".

Accumulated cashable efficiencies to date were outlined, including a Senior Management Review, which had resulted in the number of Directors being reduced from two to one and Heads of Service from six to three. The Chief Executive stressed that the authority faced further challenges in trying to reduce the deficit, whilst maintaining services.

The benefits of the Northgate Strategic Partnership were outlined. A further opportunity to make efficiency savings involved an initiative to work jointly with Derby City Council on the Internal Audit function. The disposal of assets, e.g. Council-owned land was also possible, subject to favourable terms.

A full copy of the Budget Report 2011/12 and Financial Plan to 2016 could be found on the Council's website and parish representatives were encouraged to comment on the proposals.

PC/29. **ILLEGAL ENCAMPMENTS**

Further to the discussion at the last Meeting, a public meeting had since been held in July 2010. The Chief Executive explained the constraints and requirements imposed on local authorities by legislation to remove unlawful encampments. It was hoped that new legislation would simplify the process of removing illegal encampments and the Council had petitioned the local MP on the matter, who had made appropriate representations in Parliament about the current system.

PC/30. **ELECTORAL REVIEW OF SOUTH DERBYSHIRE**

The Democratic Services Manager outlined the changes to the Ward boundaries following the recent publication of The South Derbyshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2011, which had been based on the final recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. The changes would be effective for the forthcoming District and Parish Elections on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011 and would reduce the number of Wards from 17 to 15, with the removal of the current North West Ward and the Hartshorne & Ticknall Ward. However, the number of District Councillors would remain at the current level of 36.

It was advised that a meeting would be held with Parish Council Clerks on the forthcoming elections on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011, at which nomination packs would be available.

PC/31. **QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION ITEMS**

The Chairman of Walton-on-Trent Parish Council advised that the village hall was experiencing financial difficulties and requested advice and ideas from other parishes which may have experienced similar problems.

The Chairman of Ticknall Parish Council advised that he had recently attended a Power of Wellbeing course facilitated by the Derbyshire Association of Local Councils (DALC) and suggested this as an item for a future Joint Meeting.

R. WHEELER

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.00 p.m.