

MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING of the
SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
held at the Civic Offices, Civic Way, Swadlincote
on Thursday 22 June 2023
at 6.00pm

PRESENT:

Councillor S Bambrick (Chair) and Councillor M Gee (Vice-Chair) and Councillors A Archer, S Harrison, A Haynes, I Hudson, J Jackson, A Jones, J Jones, L Mulgrew, M Mulgrew, R Pearson, D Pegg, V Redfern, G Rhind, D Shepherd, L Singh, K Storey, B Stuart, S Taylor, A Tilley and N Tilley.

Conservative Group

Councillors N Atkin, D Corbin, M Fitzpatrick, M Ford, K Haines, A Kirke, J Lowe, S Meghani, D Muller and P Watson.

Liberal Democrats

Councillors G Andrew and J Davies

Non-Grouped

Councillor A Wheelton

CL/27 **FORMER COUNCILLOR ROGER REDFERN**

A minute's silence was held in memory of former Councillor, Roger Redfern and Members paid tribute regarding his service as a District Councillor.

CL/28 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Carroll (Labour Group) and Councillor Ford (Conservative Group)

CL/29 **ELECTION**

The election of the following Members at the Hilton By-Election held on 15 June 2023 was reported to Council:

- Grahame Warwick Andrew
- Jayne Elizabeth Davies
- Sundeep Meghani (commonly known as Sundip Meghani)

CL/30 **TO CONFIRM THE OPEN MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The Open Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on the 18 May 2023 (CL1/-CL/24) and Civic Council Meeting held on 25 May 2023 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

CL/31 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

CL/32 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

The -Chair of the Council congratulated the newly elected Hilton Councillors. Council was informed of the Chair's attendance at the British Empire Awards Ceremony, the Dance in the Forest event at Rosliston Forestry Centre and the Festival of Light.

CL/33 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER**

The Leader of the Council welcomed the new Members to the Chamber and thanked the Returning Officer for carrying out the election.

Council was informed that the Leader had been in discussions to seek the best way to continue to develop communications. It was noted that this would include a monthly newsletter from the Leader and Chief Executive to both Members and Staff, the circulation of press releases and the use of instant communication for urgent items.

The Leader of the Council updated Members regarding the East Midlands Devolution and informed them of a TEAMS briefing taking place on 27 June 23 and outlined some of the 20th Anniversary Toyota City Partnership celebration events and activities taking place.

The Leader of the Council invited Councillor Corbin to address Council. Councillor Corbin, as Leader of the Conservative Group announced that Councillor Meghani would be Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group.

CL/34 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE**

The Chief Executive addressed Council and confirmed that Stenson Fields Parish Council were now quorate.

CL/33 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10**

Council was informed that no questions had been received.

CL/34 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No.11 Councillor Fitzpatrick asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

“With the written permission of Miss Claire Cadd, I would like to ask a question of the Leader of the Council regarding Miss Cadds’ experience of our council housing service.

I first met Miss Cadd, when I supported a fundraiser for Miss Cadds' daughter Poppy in Summer 2021. Poppy has a very rare disease called Canavans, a disorder that damages the ability of nerve cells in the brain to send and receive messages. The villagers of Hatton have raised tens of thousands of pounds to support Poppy in her need of pioneering surgery in the United States.

In February 2022 I was contacted again by the family who had recently been accepted onto our housing register as a priority case and had bid for a property in Hatton where they needed to be close to their family support network.

They were unsuccessful in this first bid and in March 2022 asked about a second property in the area which already had some adaptations with a ramp and wet room. This property was not offered to the family either.

By July 2022, I was involved again in trying to help when the family asked about a property on Appletree Road in Hatton which was described as "being empty for some time".

The family were keen to move into Appletree Road, but they claim that they were told that property would be too expensive to modify and that SDDC officers were looking at a more "suitable" property for them.

In Sept 2022 an offer of a property in Mickleover was made but because of the distance away from family this was not accepted. The family also asked that an empty ground floor flat in Hatton be considered for them.

In Oct 2022 after further assessment work by other agencies, a decision was made that the property at Appletree Road could meet the family's needs and in Nov 22, the family accepted this without adaptations (due to waiting list for assessments). A schedule of other works was identified at the property.

By March 2023, I tried to move things on at SDDC with the hope that works could be completed by the end of the month. However, in both April and May 2023 further works are identified at the property which again prevented a handover.

The last issue was the need for a new EPC certificate and on Friday 26th May the family accepted the keys with an agreement that decoration would not be carried out by SDDC and that in lieu, decoration vouchers would be supplied to support their own decorating efforts.

The family with their supporters started the decoration works immediately only to find that huge chunks of plaster fell off the walls and that exposed electrical works and some incorrect pipework in the kitchen prevented them from completing several tasks.

This month, remedial works have been carried out by SDDC/Novus, which will finally let the family move into the property.

Although the family are now pleased to be in a property close to their support network, they do describe the process that they have been through as traumatic and highly stressful. At a time when they had a disabled daughters needs to attend to our processes and multiple delays caused them unnecessary added pressures and they hope that no other family has to go through the same ordeal to find a council property in South Derbyshire.

It also seems highly ironic to them that a property they identified themselves as long ago as July 2022 has taken nearly a year to become available to them and this is without the adaptations that Poppy will need as she grows and which will have to be fitted later.

I recognise that officers at SDDC have worked very hard on this case, and I am in no way questioning their efforts. Despite these best efforts I am left with the feeling that we have failed this family and in presuming that the Leader of the Council agrees with me that this level of service to a family with a disabled child is not acceptable, can he please advise this council of what lessons can be learnt from this case and how we can improve our service in this area.”

The Leader of the Council thanked Councillor Fitzpatrick for raising awareness of the situation. The Leader of the Council informed Members that whilst it was not appropriate to discuss an individual case in public, that following discussions with officers it could confirm that the Council’s adaptation process was a long process and an improvement plan had been put in place. It was further noted that following a review a number of recommendations had been made that included purpose-built houses.

Councillor Fitzpatrick raised a supplementary question regarding the length of time that the Apple Tree Road property had been empty.

The Leader of the Council explained that he did not have knowledge of that information, but it would be supplied in a written response to Councillor Fitzpatrick.

CL/35 **NOTICES OF MOTION IN ORDER OF WHICH THEY WERE RECEIVED**

Council was informed that no notices of motion had been received.

CL/36 **SHARED PROSPERITY FUND**

The Chief Executive addressed the Committee and outlined the key areas within the report highlighting the allocation of £400K rural fund and a programme of activities. The Chief Executive sought approval to allow for the signing of the revised Memorandum of Understanding.

Councillor Taylor supported the recommendations and noted the support of all Members for the funding allocation specifically for deprived rural areas.

RESOLVED:

1.1 Council authorised the District Council to enter into a revised Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities regarding the administration and delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

1.2 Council granted authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to finalise the terms of the agreement with Government.

CL/37 **OPEN MINUTES:**

Council received and considered the open minutes of the following Committees.

Committee	Date	Minute No's
Planning Committee	23 August 2022	PL/51 – PL/69
Planning Committee	20 September 2022	PL/70 – PL/80
Etwall Joint Committee	11 January 2023	EL/14 – EL/18
Etwall Joint Committee	26 April 2023	EL/19 – EL/23

RESOLVED:

That the Open Minutes of the above mentioned Committees were approved as a true record.

CL/38 **POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY**

It was reported that the Council's duty to determine the allocation of seats was prescribed by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as modified by the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

A report was submitted which confirmed the political composition of the Council. It also set out the requirements to review representation of the different political groups for the remainder of the Municipal 2023/24.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 Council approved and adopted the recommended allocation of seats to the Political Groups and Non-Grouped Member for the remainder of the municipal year 2023/24.***
- 1.2 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/39 **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PANELS 2023/24**

Members reviewed the composition of Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Panels for the remainder of the municipal year 2023/24.

RESOLVED:

The nominations of Members to serve on Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Panels for the remainder of the municipal year, as set out at Annexe "B" to these Minutes were received and noted.

CL/40 **COMPOSITION OF SUBSTITUTE PANELS**

Members reviewed the composition of the Substitute Panels for remainder of the municipal year 2023/24.

RESOLVED:

Nominations of Members to serve on Substitute Panels for the remainder of the municipal year, as set out at Annexe “C” to these Minutes, were received and noted.

CL/41 **APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2023/24**

The Leader of the Council announced a revision to the Outside Bodies representation list.

RESOLVED:

South Derbyshire Partnership

Councillor Gordon Rhind to be appointed.

CL/42 **APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER CHAMPIONS**

Members reviewed the Representation of Member Champions.

RESOLVED:

Council was informed no amendments were to be made.

CL/43 **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

The Exempt Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 18 May 2023 (Minute Nos.CL/25-CL/26) 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.

The meeting terminated at. 18:40 hours.

COUNCILLOR S BAMBRICK

CHAIR OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annexe B

COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PANELS **2023/24**

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (13)

Labour Group (8)

Councillor R Pearson (Chair), Councillor L Singh (Vice-Chair)
Councillors S Harrison, M Mulgrew, G Rhind, S Taylor, N Tilley, and B Stuart.

Conservative Group (4)

Councillors D Corbin, M Fitzpatrick, M Ford and S Meghani

Liberal Democrats (1)

Councillor G Andrew

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE (13)

Labour Group (8)

Councillor S Taylor (Chair), Councillor K Storey (Vice-Chair)
Councillors A Archer, I Hudson, J Jackson, A Tilley, V Redfern, and B Stuart

Conservative Group (3)

Councillors K Haines, J Lowe and P Watson

Non-Grouped (1)

Councillor A Wheelton

Liberal Democrats (1)

Councillor G Andrew

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE (13)

Labour Group (9)

Councillor G Rhind (Chair), Councillor M Mulgrew (Vice-Chair)
Councillors A Archer, S Harrison, A Haynes, J Jackson, D Pegg, D Shepherd and A Tilley.

Conservative Group (3)

Councillors D Corbin, M Fitzpatrick and J Lowe.

Liberal Democrats (1)

Councillor J Davies.

PLANNING COMMITTEE (13)

Labour Group (8)

Councillor G Jones (Chair), Councillor D Shepherd (Vice-Chair)
Councillors J Carroll, M Gee, I Hudson, A Jones, L Mulgrew and K Storey

Conservative Group (3)

Councillors K Haines, A Kirke and D Muller.

Non-Grouped (1)

Councillor A Wheelton

Liberal Democrats (1)

Councillor J Davies

LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE (15)

Labour Group (10)

Councillor M Gee (Chair)
Councillors S Bambrick, A Haynes, A Jones, M Mulgrew, V Redfern, G Rhind
A Tilley, N Tilley and S Taylor

Conservative Group (4)

Councillors N Atkin, M Fitzpatrick, A Kirke and P Watson

Liberal Democrats (1)

Councillor

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (8)

Labour Group (5)

Councillor S Bambrick (Chair), Councillor M Gee (Vice-Chair)
Councillors A Jones, G Jones and L Mulgrew

Conservative Group (3)

Councillors N Atkin, A Kirke and D Muller

STANDARDS COMMITTEE (6)

Labour Group (4)

Councillors R Pearson, L Singh, S Taylor and N Tilley

Conservative Group (2)

Councillor K Haines and S Meghani

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (5)

Labour Group (3)

Councillors R Pearson and N Tilley

Conservative Group (2)

Councillor M Ford and S Meghani

ETWALL LEISURE CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (3)

Labour Group (2)

Councillors D Shepherd and L Singh

Conservative Group (1)

Councillor D Muller

AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE (5)

Labour Group (3)

Councillor D Shepherd (Vice-Chair)
Councillors A Jones and A Tilley

Conservative Group (1)

Councillor N Atkin

Non-Grouped (1)

Councillor A Wheelton (Chair)

HERITAGE GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE (4)

Labour Group (3)

Councillors S Taylor and N Tilley

Conservative Group (1)

Councillor P Watson

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE COMMUNITY GRANT FUND GRANTS PANEL (5)

Labour Group (3)

Councillors R Pearson, G Rhind and S Taylor

Conservative Group (2)

Councillor D Corbin and M Fitzpatrick

LOCAL PLAN WORKING GROUP (5)

Labour Group (2)

Councillors S Taylor and A Tilley.

Conservative Group (2)

Councillors K Haines and P Watson.

Non-Grouped (1)

Councillor A Wheelton

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE (2)

Labour Group (1)

Councillor S Taylor

Conservative Group (1)

Councillor P Watson

ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE PANEL (2)

Labour Group (1)

Councillors L Singh

Conservative Group (1)

Councillor M Ford.

Annexe C

SUBSTITUTE PANELS 2023/24

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (13)

Labour Group (8)

Councillors A Archer, J Jackson, A Haynes, I Hudson, D Pegg, V Redfern, K Storey and A Tilley

Conservative Group (4)

Councillors K Haines, J Lowe and P Watson

Liberal Democrats (1)

Councillor J Davies

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE (13)

Labour Group (8)

Councillors J Carroll, S Harrison, A Haynes, M Mulgrew, R Pearson, D Shepherd, L Singh and N Tilley

Conservative Group (3)

Councillors D Corbin, M Fitzpatrick and M Ford

Liberal Democrats (1)

Councillor J Davies

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE (13)

Labour Group (9)

Councillors J Carroll, I Hudson, R Pearson, V Redfern, B Stuart, L Singh, S Taylor and N Tilley

Conservative Group (3)

Councillors K Haines, D Muller and S Meghani

Liberal Democrats (1)

Councillor G Andrew

PLANNING COMMITTEE (13)

Labour Group (8)

Councillors S Harrison, J Jackson, M Mulgrew, R Pearson, G Rhind, L Singh, A Tilley and N Tilley

Conservative Group (3)

Councillors N Atkin, J Lowe and P Watson

Liberal Democrats (1)

Councillor G Andrew

ETWALL LEISURE CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (3)

Labour Group (2)

Councillors I Hudson

Conservative Group (1)

Councillor A Kirke

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Labour Group (2)

Councillors G Rhind and S Taylor

Conservative Group (1)

Councillor M Fitzpatrick and A Kirke

HERITAGE GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE (4)

Labour Group (3)

Councillors G Rhind and D Shepherd

Conservative Group (1)

Councillor N Atkin

ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE PANEL (2)

Labour Group (1)

Councillors G Rhind

Conservative Group (1)

Councillor M Fitzpatrick.