

MINUTES of the MEETING of the
SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
held at the Civic Offices, Civic Way, Swadlincote
on Thursday 25th September 2014
at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Murray (Chairman), Councillor Atkin (Vice Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Brown, Ford, Mrs. Hall, Harrison, Hewlett, Mrs. Hood, Mrs. Patten, Mrs. Plenderleith, Roberts, Smith, Stanton, Mrs. Watson, Watson and Wheeler.

Labour Group

Councillors Bambrick, Chahal, Frost, Mrs. Heath, Mrs. Mead, Pearson, Rhind, Richards, Shepherd, Southerd, Stuart, Taylor, Tilley and Wilkins

CL/41 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Bale, Bell, Dunn, Jones, Lemmon and Mulgrew.

CL/42 **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL**

The Open Minutes of the Council held on 3rd July 2014 (Minute Nos. CL/22-CL/38) were approved as a true record.

CL/43 **PRESENTATION BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL**

The Chairman made presentations of the Council coat of arms to Eileen Banton and Graham Nutt, in recognition of their long service to the people of the District. The Council was informed of their careers and the important contributions that they had made to our communities. Council members joined with the Chairman in thanking them and wishing them well for the future.

CL/44 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Council was informed that no declarations of interest from elected members had been received.

CL/45 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, LEADER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor Murray, listed the events that he had attended since the last meeting of the Council in July. Many of these events, he explained, had been within the District and involved local communities. They included events to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of World War One.

The Chairman also noted the recent death of the Dowager Duchess of Devonshire. Given the hospitality shown to the Council and its representatives at Chatsworth House over the years, he called on members to authorise the Chief Executive to write a letter to the Duke, offering condolences on the sad death of his mother. Council agreed to this.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Wheeler, reminded members of the emergency in the Newhall area that had occurred during the summer. He offered his thanks to all those in the military, Council and other agencies who had responded to this and helped to protect and support local people throughout the emergency. He also pointed out that a South Derbyshire Council officer, Kate Allies, had been nominated for an award for her work in promoting learning in communities.

CL/46 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10**

Council was informed that no questions had been received.

CL/47 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11**

Council was informed that no questions had been received.

CL/48 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN – ANNUAL REVIEW**

Council received a copy for information of the Local Government Ombudsman's review letter for 2014. The Chief Executive explained that this provided a summary of the complaints made about the Council during 2013/14. The Ombudsman's office made decisions on 8 complaints during the year. Of these, 4 were closed after initial enquiries and 2 were referred back to for local resolution. Advice was given to 1 complainant and 1 complaint was upheld and resolved. Once again, there had been no case of mal-administration found against the Council.

RESOLVED:-

Council accept the Local Government Ombudsman's Annual Review letter 2014.

CL/49 **ANNUAL REPORT**

Members received a copy of the Annual Report for 2013/14. The Chief Executive explained that this set out the Council's progress during the year towards achieving its corporate goals and objectives. The Leader of the Council welcomed the report and thanked all of the officers who had helped to pull this together. There was some discussion about the issues that would be covered in next year's annual report and how action on them would be dealt with through the Council's committee process.

RESOLVED:-

Council approve the Annual Report for 2013/14

CL/50 **OPEN REPORTS**

Council received and considered the open minutes of its committees.

RESOLVED:-

That the open minutes of the following Committees are approved as a true record:-

Licensing & Appeals Sub-Committee 16.06.2014 (LAS/48-LAS51)

Planning Committee 25.06.2014 (PL/1-PL/10)

Overview & Scrutiny Committee 25.06.2014 (OS/1-OS/5)

Finance & Management Committee 26.06.201 (FM/20-FM24)

Licensing & Appeals Sub Committee 02.07.2014 (LAS/52-LAS/54)

Planning Committee 15.07.2014 (PL/12-PL/25)

Planning Committee 05.08.2014 (PL/29-PL/35)

Licensing & Appeals Sub-Committee 06.08.2014 (LAS/60-LAS/62)

Environmental & Development Services Committee 21.08.2014 (EDS/13-EDS/26)

Licensing & Appeals Sub-Committee 26.08.2014 (LAS/60 – LAS/62)

Housing & Community Services Committee 28.08.2014 (HCS/12-HCS/24)

Licensing & Appeals Sub Committee 01.09.2014 (LAS/63-LAS/67)

Finance & Management Committee 04.09.2014 (FM/27-FM/45)

Members discussed minute FM/35 Budget and Financial Monitoring 2014/15. In particular, the fact that the amount of time taken by the Council to process benefit claims had slipped significantly and was now well below the target, or in other words were taking far longer to process than was expected. In this context Councillor Richards referred to the problems experienced by one of his constituents. There was a general consensus that action must be taken to improve performance in this important area and members welcomed the action to achieve this goal, which was being implemented.

Planning Committee 26.08.2014 (PL/38-PL/49)

Finance & Management Committee 19.06.2014 (FM/05-FM/18)

Linton Area Forum 28.05.2014 (LA/1-LA/12)

Repton Area Forum 02.06.2014 (RA/1-RA/12)

Etwall Area Forum 04.06.2014 (EA/1-EA/12)

Melbourne Area Forum 10.06.14 (MA/1-MA/12)

Swadlincote 17.06.2014 (SA/1-SA/12)

Newhall Area Forum 17.07.2014 NA/1-NA/12

CL/51 **THE COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES & WORKING PANELS FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR**

Council was informed that no changes had been made to the composition of committees, sub-committees and working panels since its last meeting.

CL/52 **COMPOSITION OF SUBSTITUTE PANELS**

Council was informed that no changes had been made to the composition of the substitute panels since its last meeting.

CL/53 **REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Council was informed that no changes had been made to the Council's representation on outside bodies since its last meeting.

CL/54 **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.

CL/55 **EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL**

The Exempt Minutes of the Council, held on 3rd July 2014 (Minute Nos. CL/39–CL/40) were approved as a true record

CL/56 **EXEMPT QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NUMBER 11**

Council was informed that no questions had been received.

CL/57 **EXEMPT REPORTS**

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:-

Planning Committee 25.06.2014 (PL/11)

Finance & Management Committee 26.06.2014 (FM/25-FM/26)

Planning Committee 15.07.2014 (PL/26-PL/28)

Planning Committee 05.08.2014 (PL/36-PL/37)

Members discussed Minute PL/37 – Permitted Development, Woodville. They asked for clarification of what progress had been made with the so-called ‘Article 4 Direction.’ This would require the Committee to grant planning permission, before the demolition of a nineteenth century former brewery building in the Woodville Area could take place. The Chief Executive made it clear that members would be informed of the process on this and the actions taken.

Environmental & Development Services Committee 21.08.2014 (EDS/27-EDS/28)

Planning Committee 26.08.2014 (PL/50)

Housing & Community Services Committee 28.08.20142014 (HCS/25-HCS/26)

Finance & Management Committee 04.09.2014 (FM/46-FM/50)

The meeting terminated at 6.45pm

Councillor P. Murray

CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL