

COUNCIL

Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Urban Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield,

on Thursday, 20th July, 2017 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Lachlan Morrison in the Chair;

Councillors Lee Anderson, Jim Aspinall, Chris Baron, Rachel Bissett, Ben Bradley, Tony Brewer, Amanda Brown, Tim Brown, Cheryl Butler, Steve Carroll, Christian Chapman, Don Davis, Joanne Donnelly, David Griffiths, Helen Hollis, Tom Hollis, Jackie James, John Knight, Rachel Madden, Cathy Mason, Glenys Maxwell, Lauren Mitchell, Keir Morrison, Mick Murphy, Nicolle Ndiweni, Christine Quinn-Wilcox, Paul Roberts, Kevin Rostance, Phil Rostance, Robert Sears-Piccavey, Helen-Ann Smith, Mike Smith, Sam Wilson and Jason Zadrozny.

Officers Present: Lynn Cain, Ruth Dennis, Sharon Lynch, Paul Parkinson and Julie Robinson.

Prior to opening the meeting, the Chairman took the opportunity to speak of the recent Grenfell Tower fire tragedy and asked all present in the Chamber to stand for a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

C.15 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests

1. Councillor Sam Wilson declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in relation to agenda item 9 (Notice of Motion 1). His interest arose from the fact that his spouse was currently a serving police officer.
2. Councillors Amanda and Tim Brown declared Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests in relation to agenda item 9 (Notice of Motion 2). Their interests arose from the fact that they are both currently employed by the Department for Work and Pensions.

C.16 Minutes

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 20th April and 25th May, 2017, as now submitted, be received and approved.

C.17 Announcements from the Chairman, Leader, Members of the Cabinet and the Head of Paid Service

Chairman

"Personally I have two announcements to make.....

First of all, the Council's Annual Civic Service; the date has been set and electronic invites have been sent to everyone. This is on the 29th October at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Hucknall. It promises to be a day of celebration and a community themed service. I invite all Members to attend and just to inform the Council as well, I am also going to extend my invite to past chairman of this Authority so hopefully we will have a good attendance of friends old and new.

My second announcement that I have to make is a bit more sombre.....Mr. de Coverly who has worked for this Authority for 15 years is moving to pastures new and I wish to inform Council but I also wish to pass on my personal thanks.

Edd has worked for this Authority for 15 years and he joined this Authority as a consultant, which may amuse some people, but he took on a very senior role at a very young age. His passion and enthusiasm has driven policies that this Council has formulated and clearly shows in the work that is carried out. Personally I like to think of the times when I was Chair of the Hucknall Area Committee and he was our Leading Officer, always guiding us in the right direction and providing an excellent service for that Committee; I think we were very lucky to get Edd as a Lead Officer for that Committee.

Personally I'm sad to see Edd go but professionally it gives me great delight to announce to Council that he has taken up a Chief Executive's role at Melton Mowbray Council. I am happy for him moving up in his role as a local government officer but like I say, for me it is going to be a sad loss to this Authority because he has been an excellent officer of this Authority and I'd personally like to put my thanks on record and those of the Council. I don't know if anyone has got anything that they'd like to add to that....."

Councillor Cheryl Butler

"Thank you and just to echo your words Chair, I am sad to see him go and I actually tried to get him to have a 12 month notice period but he wouldn't have it!

He has served us all well over the last 15 years and it is very sad that he's going....going to pastures new. I wish him all the best and know that we are here for him and will keep him updated on how things are going and how the projects he has started and been involved with carry on and go to fruition. Thank you."

Councillor Tim Brown

"I'd like to put on record my thanks to Edd, he's the Director of my Portfolio and he's absolutely excellent, a really true professional person and a real gentleman to go with it and I think Ashfield's loss will be Melton's gain. Really tragic but good news for Edd!"

Councillor Jackie James

"I just want to echo what the Leader and Tim have said, he's made some really great moves to help us be more commercial as a Council and I think it's a real true testament for someone to be with us for 15 years and to have gone across so many different roles. What great succession we have got in the Council and I think it's given some great opportunities for some other officers to step up. I really do wish him well and it's going to be a real sorry loss....."

Councillor Robert Sears-Piccavey

"Thank you very much. With regards to Edd de Coverly I have to say it is a loss to this Council....he will be a loss to this Council. I worked closely with Edd over the last 12 years and he's been an excellent ambassador for Environment helping raise recycling within this Authority.

We started rolling out the brown bin scheme together and it has been a massive success and continues to be. He's done excellent work and he's always been open to challenge and ideas that I've thrown at him....he has always had an answer but he's always open to them! I wish him all the best in his new role. I'm sure he will do an excellent job as a Chief Executive and I just think it's a sad loss to this Authority."

Councillor Nicolle Ndiweni

"I just wanted to echo everyone's sentiments. He is also on my Portfolio and when I got given the Portfolio I was just really happy to have someone like Edd, someone who is open, honest, hardworking and available all hours of the day.

There have been moments where there has been an emergency and he's been there, ready, e-mailing and always getting in touch so I just want to wish him all the best really. I think he really does deserve this promotion and this new job. He is really excited about it and I'm happy for him. Sad loss for Ashfield but great gain for him.

Councillor Keir Morrison

"One thing that strikes me about Edd is historically I've felt that sometimes there has been an officer culture at Ashfield where in years gone by there has been a bit of a default setting of why things can't be done as opposed to why some things can be done. I think that Edd's always been approachable, has always took on board everybody's views no matter what the colour of their political stripe and I think he will be a magnificent loss to this Authority.

He's always been approachable and come up with ideas and I think he also understands and gets the balance right in terms of what can be done from an officer level as well as the political level, so he understands that element as well. So good luck to him in his new role and hopefully he will keep in touch."

Councillor Phil Rostance

"I just thought the Conservative Group would like to wish him well. We have always found that if we copied Edd into anything that we did it more than likely got done that bit quicker so we would like to wish him well on his way and he's been a brilliant officer for Ashfield District Council."

Chairman

"I would like to draw the comments to a close but I think it is a testament to Edd that people from across the political spectrum have congratulated him and I hope that he will listen to this recording and I'd like to lead the Council in a round of applause for Edd....."

Leader of the Council

"I just want to thank everyone in this room for their patience and understanding whilst we are changing the building for the DWP moving in. I know it's a bit unsightly at the moment but thank you all for your patience."

(During the announcements, Councillors Joanne Donnelly and Mick Murphy entered the meeting at 7.07 p.m.)

C.18 Questions from the Public

There were no questions received from the public.

C.19 Petitions

No petitions were received for consideration.

C.20 Appointments to Outside Bodies

Council was requested to consider appointments to Outside Bodies.

Being duly moved and seconded, two nominations were received for the Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, namely Councillors Amanda Brown and Robert Sears-Piccavey. Having been put to the vote it was

RESOLVED that

- a) Councillor Amanda Brown be appointed as the Council's representative on the Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for the term ending 31st May, 2018.
- b) Councillor Don Davis be appointed as the Council's representative on the Memorandum of Understanding between Ashfield District Council, Mansfield District Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council and Nottingham County Council Sponsor's Board for the term ending 31st May, 2018.

C.21 Changes to Conservative Group seats on the Council's Committees

Council was requested to agree the changes to Committee memberships, following notification from Councillor Ben Bradley that he wished to be replaced on Scrutiny Panel A, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Local Plan Steering Group.

RESOLVED that

- a) Councillor Kevin Rostance be appointed as a replacement to sit on Scrutiny Panel A;
- b) Councillor Phil Rostance be appointed as a replacement to sit on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- c) Councillor Kevin Rostance be appointed as a replacement to sit on the Local Plan Steering Group.

C.22 Recommendations from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees

In accordance with the Council Procedure Rule 2(ix), Council considered a recommendation from the following:-

Minute No. CA.13
Cabinet – 13th July, 2017
Capital Out-turn 2016-17

RESOLVED

that approval be given to the slippage on the 2016/17 Capital Programme being carried forward to the 2017/18 Capital Programme, as outlined in the Cabinet report.

C.23 Notice of Motion 1

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct and the Council's Constitution, Councillor Sam Wilson had previously declared an interest in respect of this item. His interest was such that he left the room and took no part in the discussion and voting thereon.

The Council received a notice of motion moved by Councillor Cheryl Butler and seconded by Councillor Jason Zadrozny as follows:-

"In light of the terrible incidents of terrorism affecting our communities in recent times and the shocking incident at Grenfell Tower in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea in London, Ashfield District Council:-

A. opposes any further reductions to the Police, Fire and Ambulance services and calls for all blue light services to be properly funded and resourced, in order to respond to such incidents; and in order to keep our communities in Ashfield, in the wider Nottinghamshire area and elsewhere across the country, safe.

B. resolves to write a letter to the Prime Minister, signed by the Council Leader, and opposition Leaders, stating our opposition to any further reductions to our blue light services in all areas of Nottinghamshire and to ask that Ashfield's blue light services are protected from any further funding cuts."

Councillor Keir Morrison moved an amendment to the motion, seconded by Councillor Tom Hollis, in the following terms:-

“In light of the terrible incidents of terrorism affecting our communities in recent times and the shocking incident at Grenfell Tower in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea in London, the Leader of Ashfield District Council will write to the Prime Minister:-

- a) Calling for the Police, Fire and Ambulance services to be funded to ensure they are operating in the most integrated and effective way possible, in order to respond to such incidents and keep our communities in Ashfield and elsewhere across the Country safe;*
- b) Calling for funding to our blue light services across Nottinghamshire to be maintained at a level which supports the outcomes and any requirements arising from the forthcoming public inquiry into the Grenfell Tower incident;*
- c) Calling on her government to scrap the 1% public sector pay cap to recognise the incredible work done by those working in all our public services.”*

Having considered the suggested amendment, Councillors Cheryl Butler and Jason Zadrozny, as the mover and seconder of the motion, duly agreed to the change of wording.

Having been fully considered, the motion was then put to the vote and it was

RESOLVED

that the Leader of the Council will write to the Prime Minister:

- a) calling for the Police, Fire and Ambulance services to be funded to ensure they are operating in the most integrated and effective way possible, in order to respond to such incidents and keep our communities in Ashfield and elsewhere across the Country safe;
- b) calling for funding to our blue light services across Nottinghamshire to be maintained at a level which supports the outcomes and any requirements arising from the forthcoming public inquiry into the Grenfell Tower incident;
- c) calling on her government to scrap the 1% public sector pay cap to recognise the incredible work done by those working in all our public services.

(During consideration of the motion, Councillor Cathy Mason left the room at 7.43 and returned to the meeting at 7.44 p.m. Councillor Ben Bradley also entered the meeting at 7.31 p.m.)

C.24 Notice of Motion 2

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct and the Council's Constitution, Councillors Amanda and Tim Brown had previously declared

interests in respect of this item. Their interests were such that they stayed in the room, did not contribute to the discussion and refrained from voting.

The Council received a Notice of Motion moved by Councillor Don Davis and seconded by Councillor Rachel Madden as follows:-

“This council places great importance on jobs in our District being for local people who have a vested interest in the local community. We understand how, by keeping it local, we help our area’s businesses stay healthy, vibrant and sustainable.

Therefore this council is opposed to the DWP’s proposed closure of its site on Sherwood Industrial Park in Annesley. We recognise the significant impact in the area, both in the terms of the loss of over 130 jobs, many of them women with caring responsibilities in addition to their role at the site in Annesley, and the subsequent economic impact on our area, this closure will have.

It is proposed that:

- a) We make representations to The Minister of State and the Chief Executive of the DWP stating our opposition to the closure of this site and to any job losses. We request that officials of the DWP meet with us so that we can discuss alternatives to the planned closure.*
- b) The council work with all groups including the MP and organisations that represents the staff at the site.*
- c) We seek to publicise these proposals and work with the business and community sectors to make them aware of the impacts such a closure could have for them.*
- d) This Council further agrees to work with other UK based Councils faced with similar proposals.”*

Having been fully considered, the motion was then put to the vote and it was

RESOLVED that

- a) the Council make representations to The Minister of State and the Chief Executive of the DWP stating our opposition to the closure of its site on Sherwood Industrial Park in Annesley and to any job losses and furthermore, request that officials of the DWP meet with the Council to discuss alternatives to the planned closure;
- b) the Council work with all groups including the MP and organisations that represent the staff at this site;
- c) the Council seek to publicise these proposals and work with the business and community sectors to make them aware of the impacts such a closure could have for them;

- d) the Council further agrees to work with other UK based councils faced with similar proposals.

(During consideration of this motion, Councillor Jim Aspinall left the room at 8.03 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 8.05 p.m.)

C.25 Questions received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, the following question was submitted:-

From Councillor Cathy Mason:

“To have a home which is warm, dry and safe, is a right that every person, of any age, deserves.

Ashfield Labour's Manifesto Pledge to establish a 'Selective Landlord Licence' has been introduced to enable this to happen in Ashfield's private rented sector.

Can you tell the council, the benefits this scheme is already having for the private tenants in the New Cross and Stanton Hill areas of Sutton-in-Ashfield?”

Councillor Keir Morrison, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Assets, responded as follows:-

“Thank you for your question Cathy, and I agree with your comments about safe and habitable housing, particularly in the private sector where historically there has been evidence to suggest unsafe housing conditions in Ashfield, particularly in the New Cross and Stanton Hill areas.

As Council is aware, it was the Labour Group, which after a consultation period, took the decision to introduce a Selective Licensing Scheme back in 2015. The aim of this was to drive up standards in the private rented market and to demonstrate a holistic approach to housing in Ashfield, underpinned by a convincing evidence base in line with our own housing strategy.

A week last Thursday I took a Cabinet report regarding the fantastic progress of the Selective Licensing Scheme and I would like to take this opportunity to share this information with Council.

Currently the Council's selective licensing team are processing 260 applications, and are actively engaged with 560 landlords. Initial projections on the number of landlords requiring a licence have been surpassed as we now anticipate approximately 950 properties will require a licence across the two areas. This increased number, coupled with a lower than expected uptake of the discounted rate means projected income from the scheme has been significantly increased – any income generated from this scheme must only be used to develop it further.

In light of the increased demand and corresponding income, there is a requirement for additional resources in terms of recruitment; the costs of which can be fully met by the licence.

Particularly pleasingly, the scheme has brought about early improvements we are seeing in housing quality in the New Cross and Stanton Hill areas. Most notably:

- *36 properties have been fully re-wired*
- *17 properties have had new roofs and new windows*
- *8 properties with serious risks identified have been remediated.*

Finally, whilst we recognise there are responsible landlords operating in Ashfield, as an authority we aren't naïve enough to think that all landlords comply with building regulations and safety standards, therefore let this be a clear message to any rogue landlord within Ashfield's designated selective licensing areas.

We will not tolerate poor housing in the private sector and if you fall short of what is required we will always push for the strongest possible enforcement action to be taken."

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.5, Councillor Mason was invited to ask a supplementary question as follows:-

"You've just answered Keir that the money that we make has got to be reinvested. Are we looking at developing this in different areas?"

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Assets again responded as follows:-

"My own view is that I'd like to go for this fully; I'd like the whole of the District to be covered by the Selective Licensing Scheme but obviously we've got to take a pragmatic approach, a staggered approach in terms of staffing capacity and also what evidence base we have. Therefore I'm requesting a further Cabinet report in January 2018 with regards to widening the scope of the Selective Licensing Scheme."

(During consideration of this item, Councillors Rachel Madden and Robert Sears-Piccavey left the room at 8.13 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 8.15 p.m. and 8.16 p.m. respectively. Councillors Chris Baron and Tom Hollis also left the room at 8.13 p.m. and 8.14 p.m.)

C.26 Questions received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.2 - In relation to Cabinet and Committee Meeting Minutes published since the last ordinary meeting of the Council

There were no questions submitted by Members.

**C.27 Section 100A Local Government Act, 1972;
Exclusion of Press and Public**

RESOLVED

that in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting during the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, in respect of which the Proper Officer considers the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

C.28 Recommendations from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2(ix), Council considered recommendations from the following:-

Minute No. CC5

Charities Committee – 10th July, 2017

The Surrender of the Ground Lease with St. John Ambulance
on land to the rear of Lammas Leisure Centre
(Exempt by virtue of Paragraph 3)

RESOLVED that

- a) approval be given to the request for surrender of the ground lease by St. Johns' Ambulance on land held in trust by Ashfield District Council;
- b) delegated authority be granted to the Director of Legal and Governance (and Monitoring Officer), to sign a deed of surrender on behalf of the Council, as trustee of the site.

Minute No. CA.19

Cabinet – 13th July, 2017

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Property Investment
(Exempt by virtue of Paragraphs 3 and 5)

RESOLVED

that approval be given to the Capital Budget being increased by the bid amount to fund the potential purchase, subject to a successful bid.

Minute No. CA.18

Cabinet – 13th July, 2017

Potential Land Acquisition
(Exempt by virtue of Paragraph 3)

RESOLVED

that approval be given to an increase in the Capital Programme, as set out in the Cabinet report attached to the agenda.

(During consideration of the recommendations as presented, Councillors Chris Baron and Tom Hollis returned to the meeting at 8.19 p.m. and 8.20 p.m. respectively.)

The meeting closed at 8.27 pm

Chairman.