

COUNCIL

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

on Thursday, 16th February, 2017 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor David Griffiths in the Chair;

Councillors Jim Aspinall, Chris Baron, Rachel Bissett, Ben Bradley, Tony Brewer, Amanda Brown, Tim Brown, Cheryl Butler, Steve Carroll, Christian Chapman, Don Davis, Helen Hollis, Tom Hollis, Jackie James, John Knight, Rachel Madden, Cathy Mason, Glenys Maxwell, Lauren Mitchell, Keir Morrison, Lachlan 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.

Apology for Absence: Councillor Lee Anderson.

Officers Present: Lynn Cain, Ruth Dennis, David Greenwood, Robert Mitchell, Julie Robinson and Carys Turner-Jones.

C.49 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests

Councillors Amanda Brown, David Griffiths, Jackie James and Cathy Mason declared Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests in relation to agenda item 7(b) (Ashfield Homes Limited - Update). Their interests arose from the fact that they were currently members of the Ashfield Homes Board.

C.50 Minutes

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8th December, 2016, as now submitted, be received and approved.

C.51 Announcements from the Chairman, Leader, Members of the Cabinet and the Head of Paid Service

No announcements were made.

C.52 Questions from the Public

There were no questions received from the public.

C.53 Petitions

No petitions were received for consideration.

C.54 Pay Policy Statement 2017 - 2018

Council was requested to approve and adopt the Pay Policy Statement for 2017/18.

RESOLVED

that the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2017/2018, as presented, be received and approved.

Reason:

To ensure that the Council complies with legislative requirements.

C.55 Ashfield Homes Limited - Update

Council was updated on the arrangements for the winding up of Ashfield Homes Limited and requested to approve authorisation for the Leader of the Council to commence the procedural steps for a Voluntary Strike Off application.

(Councillors Amanda Brown, David Griffiths, Jackie James and Cathy Mason had previously declared Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests in respect of this item. Notwithstanding the nature of their interests, they made the decision to leave the room for the duration of the item and took no part in the discussion and voting thereon).

Councillor Lachlan Morrison temporarily took the Chair.

RESOLVED that

- a) the update regarding arrangements for the winding up of Ashfield Homes Limited, be received and noted;
- b) approval be given to utilise the Voluntary Strike Off procedure to wind up the company;
- c) authorisation be given to the Leader of the Council, acting as Council shareholder representative of Ashfield Homes Limited, to commence the procedural steps to proceed with the Voluntary Strike Off application at the next AHL Board meeting and any other necessary steps required by the Shareholder.

Reason:

The Council as the sole shareholder of Ashfield Homes Limited is required to

agree to the winding up of the company. The Leader as nominated shareholder representative can approve the process on behalf of the Council at the next Board meeting.

Councillor David Griffiths duly returned to the Chair.

C.56 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. SP.16

Standards and Personnel Appeals Committee – 12th December, 2016

Draft Member Development Strategy

RESOLVED

that the draft Member Development Strategy, as presented to Council, be approved and adopted.

Minute No. CA.62

Cabinet – 19th January, 2017

Ashfield Community Partnership (Formerly Known as Ashfield Community Safety Partnership) Strategic Plan 2014-17 (Annual Refresh 2016)

RESOLVED

that the 2016 annual refresh of the Ashfield Community Partnership Strategic Plan 2014-2017, as appended to the Cabinet report, be approved.

C.57 Notice of Motion 1

The Council received a notice of motion moved by Councillor Robert Sears-Piccavey and seconded by Councillor Jason Zadrozny as follows:-

“This Council acknowledges the growing public concern that unconventional gas extraction entails significant risks to the environment and to the health and wellbeing of neighbouring communities. These include, but are not limited to, earth tremors, potential air pollution, pollution of water resources and increased industrialisation of the countryside. There appears to be insufficient regulation and scrutiny of current unconventional gas extraction operations in the UK and as a consequence these operations risk irreversibly polluting water sources, established nature and tourism activities.

Council further recognises that fracking may have a detrimental effect on house prices, as well as building insurance within the vicinity of fracking wells. Additionally, an investigation by Greenpeace found that many fracking licenses have been issued to companies linked to offshore tax havens, raising questions about the purported economic benefits of shale gas extraction and any potential tax benefits to the Treasury.

There is also concern that exploration and extraction of fossil fuels by unconventional will undermine investment in safe and secure renewable

energy future. The Government has been diverting incentives and investment away from renewable energy sources, while at the same time encouraging and supporting non-renewables such as fracking.

It is the duty of the Council to protect the health and wellbeing of residents and the integrity of our natural environment and to play its part in supporting sustainable energy for future generations. Ashfield District Council has already demonstrated a commitment to using clean, green energy and in accordance with this commitment:

Therefore this Council will take the following steps:

- i) Ashfield District Council will not allow any exploratory drilling, fracking or coal-bed extraction on land it owns or controls.*
- ii) Whilst this Council is unable to introduce planning policies seeking a presumption against fracking because of national planning policy introduced by Central Government, the Council will nevertheless ensure in accordance with the law that there is a rigorous criteria for assessing planning applications for the exploration or extraction of gas, including the practice commonly known as fracking. Planning applications will be assessed against appropriate planning policies and relevant material planning considerations to ensure that any such application is considered in appropriate detail. Ashfield District Council will oppose strongly any attempt to weaken or override its powers as a planning authority when considering any applications for fracking.*
- iii) Ashfield District Council agrees to consult with local communities on any planning applications related to fracking received for their area.*
- iv) Ashfield District Council aims to take steps within its statutory powers to work to harness the abundant sustainable and renewable energy resources available locally such as wind and river weirs, and aims to work towards becoming fossil-free by 2025.*
- v) Ashfield District Council will write to Nottinghamshire County Council asking them to consider implementing points 1-4 of this motion.*
- vi) Finally, in line with the Paris Agreement 2015, we call on the Secretary of State for Energy & Climate Change to reconsider the Government's reversal of the scrapping of clean energy subsidies, to reintroduce rules on zero-carbon housing and tax incentives on 'green' cars and to reinstate the energy efficiency budget, increasing investment in renewables in a bid to reduce our carbon emissions."*

Councillor Don Davis moved an amendment to the motion, seconded by Councillor Cheryl Butler, in the following terms:-

"...Therefore this Council will take the following steps:

- i) Ashfield District Council in principle will not allow any exploratory drilling, fracking or coal-bed extraction on land it owns or controls.*

- ii) *Ashfield District Council will strongly encourage Nottinghamshire County Council to assess planning applications for the exploration or extraction of gas, including the practice commonly known as fracking. Planning applications will be assessed against appropriate planning policies and relevant material planning considerations to ensure that any such application is considered in appropriate detail. Although Ashfield District Council has no direct powers as a planning authority when considering any applications for fracking it is expected Nottinghamshire County Council takes on board all representations made by Ashfield District Council.*
- iii) *It is Nottinghamshire County Council's duty to consult with local communities on any planning applications related to fracking received for their area. However, Ashfield District Council will facilitate community engagement as much as possible when required by NCC.*
- iv) *Ashfield District Council aims to take steps within its statutory powers to work to harness the abundant sustainable and renewable energy resources available locally such as wind and river weirs, and aims to work towards becoming fossil-free by 2025.*
- v) *Ashfield District Council will write to Nottinghamshire County Council asking them to consider the intent and outcome of points 1-4 of this motion.*
- vi) *Finally, in line with the Paris Agreement 2015, we call on the Secretary of State for Energy & Climate Change to reconsider the Government's reversal of the scrapping of clean energy subsidies, to reintroduce rules on zero-carbon housing and tax incentives on 'green' cars and to reinstate the energy efficiency budget, increasing investment in renewables in a bid to reduce our carbon emissions."*

The meeting was adjourned at 7.36 p.m. to enable Members to consider the amendment. The meeting reconvened at 7.47 p.m.

Having considered the suggested amendment, Councillors Robert Sears-Piccavey and Jason Zadrozny, as the mover and seconder of the motion, duly agreed to the change of wording.

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

RESOLVED

that Council will take the following steps:-

- a) Ashfield District Council in principle will not allow any exploratory drilling, fracking or coal-bed extraction on land it owns or controls;
- b) Ashfield District Council will strongly encourage Nottinghamshire County Council to assess planning applications for the exploration or extraction of gas, including the practice commonly known as fracking. Planning applications will be assessed against appropriate planning policies and relevant material planning considerations to ensure that any such application is considered in appropriate detail. Although Ashfield District Council has no direct powers as a planning authority when considering any

applications for fracking it is expected Nottinghamshire County Council takes on board all representations made by Ashfield District Council;

- c) It is Nottinghamshire County Council's duty to consult with local communities on any planning applications related to fracking received for their area. However, Ashfield District Council will facilitate community engagement as much as possible when required by NCC;
- d) Ashfield District Council aims to take steps within its statutory powers to work to harness the abundant sustainable and renewable energy resources available locally such as wind and river weirs, and aims to work towards becoming fossil-free by 2025;
- e) Ashfield District Council will write to Nottinghamshire County Council asking them to consider the intent and outcome of points 1-4 of this motion;
- f) Finally, in line with the Paris Agreement 2015, we call on the Secretary of State for Energy & Climate Change to reconsider the Government's reversal of the scrapping of clean energy subsidies, to reintroduce rules on zero-carbon housing and tax incentives on 'green' cars and to reinstate the energy efficiency budget, increasing investment in renewables in a bid to reduce our carbon emissions.

C.58 Notice of Motion 2

The Council received a notice of motion moved by Councillor Helen-Ann Smith and seconded by Councillor Christine Quinn-Wilcox as follows:-

"This Council notes with concern the decision by the Government to invite US President Donald Trump on a state visit to the UK. This Council notes the extreme, discriminatory actions announced by the US President immediately after the visit of the Prime Minister to Washington DC.

This Council further notes that some residents of Ashfield District are now barred from visiting the USA by these divisive measures.

This Council agrees to:

1) take no formal part in any state visit to the UK by the US President and to withhold any Council resources from being used to support any such state visit."

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

RESOLVED

that the Council takes no formal part in any state visit to the UK by the US President and withholds any Council resources from being used to support any such state visit.

(During consideration of the motion, Councillor Rachel Madden left the room at 8.13 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 8.15 p.m.)

C.59 Questions received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13

There were no questions submitted by Members.

C.60 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.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Chairman.