

MINUTES of a meeting of the CABINET held in the Board Room, Council Offices, Coalville on TUESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2016

Present: Councillor R Blunt (Chairman)

Councillors R D Bayliss, T Gillard, T J Pendleton, N J Rushton and A V Smith MBE

In Attendance: Councillors R Adams, N Clarke, J G Coxon, D Everitt, J Geary, G Houlst, R Johnson, J Legrys, S McKendrick, S Sheahan and M Specht

Officers: Mr S Bambrick, Ms C E Fisher, Mr A Hunkin, Mr G Jones, Mr P Padaniya and Miss E Warhurst

31. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

32. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Members declared the following interests:

Councillor R D Bayliss declared a non pecuniary interest in item 7 – Financial Support to Support Community Ambitions, as a Member of Ashby de la Zouch Town Council.

Councillor N J Rushton declared a non pecuniary interest in item 7 – Financial Support to Support Community Ambitions, as a Member of Ashby de la Zouch Town Council and a pecuniary interest in item 13 – Coalville Market Strategy and Action Plan, as an owner of a market in the district.

33. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

There were no questions received.

34. MINUTES

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2016

It was moved by Councillor R Blunt, seconded by Councillor A V Smith and

RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Reason for decision: To comply with the Constitution.

35. RIVER MEASE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN - DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTION SCHEME 2

The Regeneration and Planning Portfolio Holder presented the report to Members. He advised Members that the old scheme had done the job that was needed and that a second scheme was required to allow the further planning consents to be approved. He stated that the developer contribution was levied on roof tops and any property built in the area would contribute to the Mease conservation. He thanked officers for the work in developing the scheme.

Chairman's initials

Councillor R Blunt asked if the authority could expect a surge in applications once the Scheme was adopted.

Councillor T J Pendleton stated that the completion of DCS1 had allowed a back log of applications in Ashby to build up but that DCS2 would have the effect of allowing some of those applications to now be granted. He also made the point that DCS2 only provided limited capacity and the long term solution after 2020 would be for Severn Trent Water to construct a pipeline to pump sewage out of the Mease catchment.

It was moved by Councillor T J Pendleton, seconded by Councillor T Gillard and

RESOLVED THAT:

1. The River Mease Water Quality Management Plan Developer Contributions Scheme 2 be adopted as a supplementary policy document (as appended to the report) and implement the scheme with immediate effect; and
2. Responsibility to review and amend the Developer Contribution Scheme as and when required, monitoring and review of phosphorous reductions as required by delegated to the Director of Services in consultation with the Regeneration and Planning Portfolio Holder and will be referred back to Cabinet only where significant material revisions to the scheme are required.

Reason for decision: To provide a mechanism through which major and other new residential and commercial development can continue to be allowed in the River Mease catchment without having an adverse impact on the integrity of the SAC. At present the District Council has in place the River Mease SAC Water Quality Management Plan Developer Contributions Scheme 1 (DCS1) however, this developer scheme has now reached its maximum capacity. The District Council is therefore unable to permit further development within the River Mease catchment by way of DCS1 and therefore seeks adoption of DCS2.

36. CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2015/16

The Regeneration and Planning Portfolio Holder presented the report to Members. He advised Members that it would be an annual report to Cabinet and that it provided an overview of the safeguarding systems of the Council. He informed Members that the number of referrals that had been made to the Designated Safeguarding Officers (DSO) had risen in years, that over the past year the authority had lost four of its DSOs but had been able to recruit an additional five DSOs and well executed training had been delivered.

It was moved by Councillor T J Pendleton, seconded by Councillor R D Bayliss and

RESOLVED THAT:

Cabinet supported and noted the Safeguarding programme

Reason for decision: To comply with the Council's statutory duty to ensure compliance with safeguarding duties as detailed in the Children Act 2004 and Working Together 2015

37. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY AMBITIONS

The Community Services Portfolio Holder presented the report to Members. She highlighted to members that the report set out proposals to provide financial assistance to five communities in the area. She informed Members that the first proposal was to allocate

Chairman's signature

a sum of £50,000 to Newbridge High School to assist the school with investigations into the possibility of developing a running track that would be open to all the community not just the school and that it could prove to be a sporting legacy adding that the nearest tracks were in Loughborough and Burton. She advised Members that the second proposal was to allocate funds to Ashby de la Zouch Town Council to support the delivery aspects of its Neighbourhood Plan and the improvements to St Helen's Churchyard. Finally Members were informed that the final proposal was to provide support to Castle Donington, Lockington cum Hemington and Kegworth Parish Councils in delivering community projects.

The Leader then invited Mr J Jordan, neighbour of Newbridge High School, to address the meeting.

Mr J Jordan advised the Members that he was addressing them as a Parish Councillor of Hugglescote and Donington le Heath Parish Council and a neighbour of Newbridge High School.

'As a Parish Councillor I have to report that at the Parish council meeting last week when this application was revealed there was dismay that yet again we had not been involved in any discussions and it was only by looking at this meeting's agenda online that we heard about it. This lack of consultation was also evident when the 3G pitch was in the planning stage.

As a neighbour of the school this is typical of the utter contempt the school hierarchy has for its neighbours or in fact with anyone else. An example is when the 3G pitch was being planned, neighbours only heard about it 3 days after the planning application was lodged with the planning dept. Local residents were promised access to the facilities yet are now effectively barred from even accessing the school premises when the facilities are in use by either the pupils or paying customers. This also includes an evening stroll around the playing field perimeter once enjoyed by many residents.

The school has reneged on promises made to neighbours in that they stated when the sports hall was being discussed that it would be green in colour to make it less obtrusive yet it turned out to be bright blue. They said it would not apply for an extension to the original hours of use yet came to the council a couple of years later requesting and being granted an extension to the hours of use.

As far as this application is concerned there a number of points that concern me as a tax payer.

- a. The proposal for a running track is without evidence, there are no plans or details at all.
- b. This 50 k should be invested in the assets already owned by NWLDC at the Hermitage leisure facilities.
- c. If this 50k was invested in the Hermitage leisure there would be a return for the taxpayer. Giving it to Newbridge would bring no return whatsoever.
- d. Newbridge High School is to all intents a private company and does not even intend to contribute any money itself to the project.
- e. Well known fact sports participation lower after London 2012 than before.

It should be borne in mind that the extra traffic this will generate will further raise the already dangerous traffic situation that exists on Forest Road, There will shortly be an exit from the new Wilson estate at 104 Forest Road which will be a matter of a few metres from the school gates. Already there are 2 or 3 near misses a week when traffic exits Newbridge.

I would contend that this running track would be used more during out of school hours either by the community or for inter school events. A short while ago the school held inter school competitions on Monday evenings and the traffic congestion this caused in Forest

Chairman's signature

Road, Avenue Road and Broughton street was horrendous. It was so bad the police and I believe your own enforcement staff had to attend. It is my understanding that the school have still not provided a traffic plan, again showing contempt for its neighbours.

Hardly any of the community users of the Newbridge facilities are local. This is evident from the frill car park every night and weekend. The pollution these vehicle movements produce make a mockery of any "green" policy the council have. Any additional facilities that are made available to community users will only exacerbate this pollution.

Newbridge already has a plethora of sports facilities. Google maps shows a total of 10 5 aside football pitches. One or more netball courts, I'm not sure how big a netball court is, a frill size 3G pitch, two grass football or rugby pitches and what looks like a long jump pit. This is in addition to whatever facilities are within the sports hail and dance studio. Surely enough for a 500 pupil school.'

Councillor A V Smith thanked Mr J Jordan for speaking at the meeting to raise his concerns and also for meeting beforehand to be able to discuss his concerns. She stated that at the moment the Council was only looking at allocating the money following an approach by the school who want to investigate the proposal further. She advised that there was no space at Hermitage for such a facility and that the project could be worth millions and provide a local facility to the greater Coalville area. She appreciated the concerns over issues in the past relating to development at the school and that should the proposal go forward traffic issues would be looked at and at the appropriate time if the project is to proceed Mr J Jordan and other neighbours would be kept informed.

Councillor R Blunt stated that he was pleased to hear Mr J Jordan's comments and that he felt that any resident or business should be a good neighbour. He advised that both the Community Services Portfolio Holder and the Director of Services had heard what Mr J Jordan had said and understood his concerns.

Councillor T J Pendleton stated that Mr J Jordan's concerns over planning were good points and that should the running track proposal go forward appropriate consultations with statutory authorities including traffic issues would be carried out.

Councillor R D Bayliss felt that participation in sport may be lower than expected after the Olympics but this could be explained by the fact that there were not the facilities in the district.

It was moved by Councillor A V Smith, seconded by Councillor R Blunt and

RESOLVED THAT:

1. The allocation of £50k reserves to assist Newbridge School in developing its running track proposal be approved
2. The transfer of the £50k allocated to free wifi, to support Ashby de la Zouch Town Council's improvements to St Helen's churchyard be approved
3. The allocation of £300k reserves to assist Ashby de la Zouch Town Council in delivering aspects of its neighbourhood plan be approved
4. The allocation of £300k reserves to assist Castle Donington, Lockington cum Hemington and Kegworth Parish Councils in achieving their local community projects be approved

Chairman's signature

5. Authority be delegated to the Director of Services in consultation with the Community Services Portfolio Holder to commit expenditure of the Newbridge School reserve referred to in recommendation 1
6. Authority be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Community Services Portfolio Holder to commit expenditure of the Ashby de la Zouch Town Council reserve referred to in recommendations 2 and 3
7. Authority be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Community Services Portfolio Holder to commit expenditure of the Castle Donington, Lockington cum Hemington and Kegworth Parish Councils reserve referred to in recommendation 4
8. Authority be delegated to the Chief Executive and Director of Services to negotiate and agree the terms of the legal agreements required in the furtherance of recommendations 1 to 7

Reason for decision: Approval is needed for allocation of reserves towards supporting community ambitions.

38. AUTHORITY TO AWARD THE DESKTOP COMPUTER REPLACEMENT SUPPLY CONTRACT

The Corporate Portfolio Holder presented the report to Members. He stated that having a modern ICT desktop infrastructure was an integral part of the Council's move towards maintaining an up to date working environment. He advised Members that the contract to replace the current desktops had been through the tender process, but the fall in the value of the pound had had an effect on the contract price. He informed Members that officers had considered the chosen contractor's revised price against the other original bids and price was still the cheapest adding that if the authority went out to tender again there was a risk of the costs going up further.

It was moved by Councillor N J Rushton, seconded by Councillor A V Smith and

RESOLVED THAT:

1. The award of the contract for the provision of replacement desktop computers be approved; and
2. Authority to award the contract for the provision of replacement desktop computers be delegated to the Interim Director of Resources in consultation with the Corporate Portfolio Holder.

Reason for decision: The estimated value of this contract requires Cabinet approval and the contract is required to enable the replacement of the desktop computers throughout the Council, to provide a new working platform, up to date software, increase staff productivity and provide a modern working environment as part of the ICT Road Map and Strategy.

39. 2016/17 QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Leader presented the report to Members and highlighted the following:-

- The average re-let times had improved in quarter 1 achieving 38 days against a target of 40

Chairman's signature

- 28 new tenants responded to a satisfaction survey regarding the allocations and lettings service, with 96% being satisfied with the process and 96% would recommend North West Leicestershire District Council as a landlord
- 494 customers had used the new 'Direct Debit over the Web'
- Compost Week Recycling Roadshow at Coalville Market and Morrisons had engaged over 1,000 residents and resulted in over 1,500 recycling containers ordered
- The standard of taxi vehicles had improved with 65 of 93 vehicles that were checked in quarter 1 passed the inspection 1st time, stating that the public expect the Council to ensure that all the vehicles were fit for purpose.

He informed Members that the sickness target for the year was 1.85 days per quarter with the outturn for quarter 1 being 1.73 days and that there had been a reduction of around 25% in long term sickness days compared to the figures at the same time for the previous year.

Councillor T Gillard stated that the Enterprising North West Leicestershire Grants Scheme was helping to support small business in the district and had resulted in 59.5 new jobs being created. He thanked the business team for their hard work and that local businesses were very grateful.

Councillor R D Bayliss stated that in the past the re-let times had been grim and he was pleased that the figures had improved a lot. He highlighted that percentage of Right First Time repairs was 100%, but had felt that it was too good to be true which had been proved right and as such the targets had been redesigned.

Councillor T J Pendleton stated that the Planning team continued to work above both local and national targets however advised that there had been a slight issue in determining minor applications within 8 weeks however he was confident that it was just a slight blip and that it would smooth itself out.

Councillor A V Smith advised Members that since the opening of the Health and Wellbeing Centre in Ashby there had been 784 contacts with 551 attending for follow up appointments and 253 new patients.

In response to a question from Councillor R Blunt, Councillor A V Smith advised Members that the wellbeing centre provided services such as out patients appointments and physiotherapy that would have been at Ashby Hospital.

It was moved by Councillor R Blunt, seconded by Councillor T Gillard and

RESOLVED THAT:

The quarter one performance report (April - June 2016) be received and noted.

Reason for decision: The report is provided for Members to effectively monitor the organisation's performance.

40. FORMER TENANT RENT ARREARS, CURRENT TENANT RENT ARREARS, COUNCIL TAX, NON DOMESTIC RATES AND SUNDRY DEBTOR WRITE-OFFS

The Corporate Portfolio Holder presented the report to Members. He reminded Members that writing off debts was only considered when all appropriate recovery and measures had been taken. He advised Members that there were two Non Domestic Rates for write off approval over £10,000 where one company had gone bankrupt and the second was an absconder and there had been no trace of them.

Chairman's signature

Councillor T J Pendleton stated that it was good that the authority could get on the front foot in attempting to recover debts as the longer it took the more costly it would get.

It was moved by Councillor N J Rushton, seconded by Councillor R Blunt and

RESOLVED THAT:

1. The write offs over £10,000 detailed in the report be approved.
2. The amounts written off under delegated powers be noted.

Reason for decision: To comply with proper accounting practices.

41. EXTENDING AND EXPANDING THE COALVILLE SHOP FRONT IMPROVEMENT GRANT SCHEME LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORDER

The Regeneration and Planning Portfolio Holder presented the report to Members. He advised Members that the Local Development Order would grant permission to ensure the continuation of the Shop Front Improvement Scheme success and as the money had been extended to include further streets the order required expanding also.

Councillor R Blunt thanked the Regeneration and Planning Portfolio Holder for his support and stated that the project was getting traction, with the work that had already been carried out along High Street presenting an upward curve to improvement.

It was moved by Councillor T J Pendleton, seconded by Councillor R Blunt and

RESOLVED THAT:

1. The extension and expansion of the Local Development Order (LDO) at appendix 1 to the report, that is supporting the Coalville Shop Front Improvement Grant Scheme;
2. The revised LDO be subject to a six week public consultation following the end of the call-in period; and
3. Authority be delegated to the Director of Services, in consultation with the Regeneration and Planning Portfolio Holder, to adopt the LDO with or without modifications at the end of the consultation period.

Reason for decision: To support the Building Confidence in Coalville programme, by making it easier for property owners to undertake specified improvements and the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 provides for local planning authority to formally adopt the Local Development Order.

42. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

By affirmation of the meeting it was

RESOLVED THAT:

In pursuance of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the business to be transacted involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and that the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Chairman's signature

Reason for decision: To enable the consideration of exempt information.

43. COALVILLE MARKET STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Having declared a pecuniary interest Councillor N J Rushton left the meeting for the consideration of the item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

The Business Portfolio Holder presented the report to Members. He advised Members that an external company had been engaged to develop a strategy and action plan for the market. He outlined some of the proposed measures that officers were now looking to implement or had already been implemented.

Councillor R Blunt stated that the Council had agonised for years over the future of the market was pleased that the hall would be fit for purpose. He advised that he had been down to the market hall earlier in the day and had listened to the comments that were being made by residents and they were mostly positive. He added that markets were an important part of everyone's life and that the Council was doing what it could.

Councillor T Gillard took the opportunity to thank the Head of Community Services and his team for all the hard work that they had put in.

Councillor T J Pendleton stated that he had recently visited the market and he was very pleased to see how much it had been improved.

It was moved by Councillor T Gillard, seconded by Councillor R Blunt and

RESOLVED THAT:

1. The contents of the report be noted;
2. The market action plan be endorsed; and
3. Responsibility be delegated to the Director of Services to annually review the action plan in consultation with the Business Portfolio Holder

Reason for decision: To provide delegated authority to the Director of Services to ensure delivery of the proposed actions.

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 5.39 pm

Chairman's signature