

AMENDMENTS TO MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 JUNE 2020 PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR S SHEAHAN

7. LEADER'S AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MINUTES CURRENTLY READ AS FOLLOWS

He advised that the Labour Group's shadow portfolio team would remain the same as the previous year and he acknowledged that the reference to individual portfolio holder decisions had been dropped as he had felt that the decision was brought in too quickly, as it did not allow proper scrutiny or response to the decisions that were being made. He felt it was not good for democracy and did not wish to repeat the decision in the future.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO READ AS FOLLOWS:-

Cllr Sheahan announced that his Shadow Portfolio Holder Team is exactly the same as it was last year. He acknowledged the fact that the Leader had dropped the reference to decision-making by individual portfolio holders, as decisions came forward too quickly for proper scrutiny, there was very little time to make a proper response and hardly any time for officers to reply to that response. He added that it was not good for democracy and we shouldn't really want to repeat that experiment.

10. MOTIONS

THE MINUTES CURRENTLY READ AS FOLLOWS

Councillor S Sheahan moved the motion as set out in the agenda and presented it to Members. He noted that he had been given three files of documents in relation to the re-opening of the Ivanhoe Line by Frank Straw, the last Labour Leader of the Council, and that the documents were a testament to the importance of the Ivanhoe Line, that was attached to the communities that stood to benefit from it. He advised that the motion aimed to set out a few steps which the Council could undertake to position itself to throw some weight behind the line. He outlined the two reasons for bringing forward the motion, which were the community group, CRIL, and the same worrying economic circumstances, under which the Ivanhoe Line was conceived back in the 1980s. He stated that restoring the passenger line between Burton and Leicester held the promise of a transformative effect on the local economy, whilst reaping environmental benefits.

Councillor S Sheahan informed Members that strategic plans were supportive of the line and that functional partnerships needed to be built with LCC, CRIL and others to create a sense of shared responsibility and shared endeavour.

THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO READ AS FOLLOWS.

Cllr Sheahan advised that when Frank Straw was getting ready to retire from front-line politics, he handed Cllr Sheahan three thick files of documents. Cllr Sheahan explained that for the benefit of those who didn't know Frank, he was Leader of this Council when it was last run by Labour. The documents in the three files were about twenty years old and all related to the Ivanhoe Line. Cllr Sheahan outlined some of the contents: a briefing note for a meeting with a junior minister, numerous press releases, minutes of partnership meetings, correspondence with the Leader of the County Council, a consultant's report and questions in Parliament from David Taylor MP. Taken together, these documents were a testament to the importance attached to the Ivanhoe Line by the communities that stood to benefit from it and the level at which this Council was engaged with the project.

Cllr Sheahan said this motion aimed to set out a few steps that the Council could take to once again position itself to throw some weight behind the Ivanhoe Line. He said he had

Chairman's initials

two reasons for wanting the Council to do this: firstly because there is a very promising community group, CRIL to partner up with and secondly we are facing the same worrying economic circumstances in which the Ivanhoe Line was conceived in the 1980's with the large scale loss of productive capacity. Then, it was the closure of the mines, now it's the coronavirus crisis.

Cllr Sheahan further explained that restoring passenger rail services from Leicester to Burton still held the promise of a transformative effect on our local economy, attracting long term, good quality investment. With the Ivanhoe Line, we could reap not only economic dividends but also environmental benefits, such as reduced road congestion and improved air quality, doing our bit for climate change in the process.

Cllr Sheahan concluded by saying that the Council needed to make sure its strategic plans were supportive of the Ivanhoe Line and presented no hidden obstacles. We need to build up functional partnerships with the County Council, CRIL and others to create a sense of shared responsibility and common endeavour.

THE MINUTES CURRENTLY READ AS FOLLOWS

Councillor S Sheahan stated that he was very happy with the supportive nature of the comments and the amendment was harmless. He felt that the substantive motion that was before them was very good and he had no problems with supporting it as it stood.

THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO READ AS FOLLOWS.

Speaking to wind up the motion, Cllr Sheahan said he was very happy with the supportive nature of the comments in the debate and as he had said, the amendment was harmless. What was left was a very good substantive motion which his side would be pleased to support.

Chairman's initials