

## CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL

### MEETING OF THE CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD IN THE PRESTON ROOM, WOODGATE CHAMBERS, LOUGHBOROUGH ON MONDAY, 25TH JUNE 2018

#### PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor C. Harris)  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor B. Seaton)

Councillor T. Barkley	Councillor R. Jones
Councillor B. Bebbington	Councillor R. Jukes
Councillor I. Bentley	Councillor P. Mercer
Councillor J. Bokor	Councillor J. Miah
Councillor J. Bradshaw	Councillor J. Morgan
Councillor M. Brookes	Councillor P. Murphy
Councillor J. Capleton	Councillor K. Pacey
Councillor B. Cooper	Councillor B. Page
Councillor M. Draycott	Councillor T. Parton
Councillor S. Forrest	Councillor J. Poland
Councillor H. Fryer	Councillor P. Ranson
Councillor D. Gaskell	Councillor C. Radford
Councillor S. Gerrard	Councillor R. Rollings
Councillor D. Grimley	Councillor J. Savage
Councillor H. Hachem	Councillor R. Shepherd
Councillor L. Hadji-Nikolaou	Councillor M. Smidowicz
Councillor C. Hamilton	Councillor D. Snartt
Councillor L. Harper-Davies	Councillor J. Sutherland
Councillor K. Harris	Councillor J. Tassell
Councillor D. Hayes	Councillor D. Taylor
Councillor R. Huddleston	Councillor J. Tillotson
Councillor J. Hunt	Councillor E. Vardy

#### 11. OPENING THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed Councillor Jane Hunt to her first Council meeting after being elected at the Quorn and Mountsorrel Castle by-election.

The Mayor stated that that the meeting was being recorded and the sound recording would be made available on the Council's website. In addition, under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations people may film, record, tweet or blog the meeting and that was outside the Council's control.

The Mayor informed Council that she would not be having a Chaplain. Instead she intended to begin each Council meeting with words, poems and thoughts that could provide calm moments for reflection. She then read a poem entitled 'On Children' by Kahlil Gibran.

## 12. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Hampson, Lowe, Paling, Parsons and Smith, and from Honorary Aldermen Bush, Shields, Stott and Tormey.

## 13. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY AND PERSONAL INTERESTS

The following disclosures of pecuniary and personal interests were made:

- (i) by Councillor Bentley – a personal interest in item 8, Provision of Bring Sites, as a member of Leicestershire County Council;
- (ii) by Councillor Fryer – a personal interest in item 8, Provision of Bring Sites, as a member of Leicestershire County Council and as former chairman of the Overview Scrutiny Group that considered the matter;
- (iii) by Councillor Miah – a personal interest in item 8, Provision of Bring Sites, as a member of Leicestershire County Council;
- (iv) by Councillor Parton – a personal interest in item 8, Provision of Bring Sites, as a member of Leicestershire County Council;
- (v) by Councillor Poland – a personal interest in item 8, Provision of Bring Sites, as a member of Leicestershire County Council;
- (vi) by Councillor Radford – a personal interest in item 8, Provision of Bring Sites, as a member of Leicestershire County Council;
- (vii) by Councillor Seaton – a personal interest in item 8, Provision of Bring Sites, as a member of Leicestershire County Council;
- (viii) by Councillor Shepherd – a personal interest in item 8, Provision of Bring Sites, as a member of Leicestershire County Council;
- (ix) by Councillor Smidowicz – a personal interest in item 8, Provision of Bring Sites, as the previous Chair of the Overview Scrutiny Group

## 14. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 21st May 2018 were confirmed and signed.

## 15. ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 15.1 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following announcement.

“A short reminder about my chosen charities:

#### Sense

Sense is a national disability charity that began by supporting those who are deafblind. Today they continue to do this but also support people with other complex communication needs to be understood, connected and valued. They support children, young people and adults in their home, in the community and at their centres, in their education and transition to adulthood and through holidays, arts, sport and wellbeing programmes. Also, they offer practical help and support to families and carers, including information, advice, short breaks and family events. Their mission is simple – to make sure no one with complex communication needs is isolated, left out or unable to fulfil their potential. There is a Sense charity shop in Loughborough.

#### Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust protects and campaigns on behalf of this country's woods, plants trees and restores ancient woodlands. Their vision is a UK rich in native woods and trees for the benefit of people and wildlife and would want them enjoyed and valued by everyone within the British Isles. In total, their landholdings in the UK extend to over 73 square miles. Within Charnwood Borough there are woodlands managed by the Woodland Trust.

So, as with the previous Mayor (Councillor Pauline Ranson), if anyone's phone goes off during the Council meeting then I will be 'fining' them and any monies will go towards my charities.”

### 15.2 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader made the following announcement.

“Madam Mayor, I was delighted to attend the official handover of the Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre at nearby Stanford Hall. The building was offered to the nation by the Duke of Westminster to the Prime Minister, Theresa May, in the presence of the Duke of Cambridge, HRH Prince William.

This facility will give world-class medical care to those members of our armed forces who have made huge sacrifices, at great personal cost, to protect the interests of this nation.

While mostly located in the neighbouring borough of Rushcliffe, the nearest town to the DNRC is of course Loughborough. I am sure every resident will join me in welcoming the patients and staff when they visit the town and borough.

This Council has long supported the Armed Forces and has its own Armed Forces Covenant. We have recently been successful in securing funding to support Armed Forces personnel in this area, working with colleagues in Rushcliffe and Melton.

I offer the Council's unwavering support to the DNRC and wish its patients and staff the very best for the future".

### 15.3 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chief Executive made no announcements.

### 16. PETITIONS

No petitions were submitted.

### 17. BUSINESS RESERVED TO COUNCIL

There was no business reserved to Council to be considered at the meeting.

### 18. CALL-IN REFERENCES

There were no call-in references from Scrutiny.

### 19. POSITION STATEMENTS

To consider the following position statement submitted under Full Council Procedure 9.10.

#### A. The Current Provision of Bring Sites Managed by the Council and the Proposal to Close all 70

The Labour Group had requested the submission of a position statement on the bring sites managed by the Council (item 8 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Councillor Harper-Davies introduced the position statement and thanked colleagues from all parties for the various questions submitted to the Head of Cleansing & Open Spaces.

It was explained that the change to the Bring Sites was initially examined by the Overview Scrutiny Group (OSG) on 16th October 2017 who supported the recommendations set out in the report. The matter was classified as a Key Decision as the decision affected two or more wards. All councillors were notified by e-mail on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018 that an officer delegated decision was in the pipeline on this matter and a further e-mail was sent to all councillors on 14<sup>th</sup> June with the officer delegated decision notice attached. It was noted that no call in request was received in response to that delegated decision.

It was stated that the Council received £540,000 a year less in funding from Leicestershire County Council to operate the recycling service meaning the Council needed to run a very lean and efficient service. Accordingly the Council would be making changes to bring sites across the borough including removing 79 glass and aluminium recycling banks at a number of locations as the sites were no longer deemed necessary as materials can be recycled through the kerbside recycling service or at recyclable sites. The Council was making these changes ultimately because the recycling banks duplicated the kerbside recycling service, noting that the banks to be removed collected just over 200 tonnes of glass and aluminium last year, just over one percent of the total 16,500 tonnes of recyclable material collected by the Council. In summary the changes to the bring sites across the borough would remove a duplication of service and save approximately £20,000 a year.

The following points were raised by councillors:

- (i) Reference was made to the introduction of bring sites and the passage of time had seen an improvement in the quality of the kerbside collection service
- (ii) Reassurance was sought about the capacity of the kerbside collection service to take on the recyclable material which would have otherwise be sent to the bring sites and because of the advent of the 'consumable society'
- (iii) The relatively small level of the savings identified warranting the removal of some of the bring sites and uncertainty about the projected savings. Suggestion that the savings be used to purchase more waste bins
- (iv) Potential for more fly tipping as a consequence of the removal of some of the bring sites
- (v) Openness and transparency of how the decision was taken

- (vi) Discrepancy in the number of sites identified and the distinction between commercially or privately owned. Suggestion that on private sites the owners be charged if the facilities remain
- (vii) Some Parish Councils have queries and concerns. Suggestion that direct representations through either the Lead Member or Head of Cleansing & Open Spaces
- (viii) Improved publicity that residents can request additional bags for recycling with specific focus on students.

In summing up, Councillor Harper-Davies stated that she considered the decision making process to be very open and transparent and reiterated that the changes would not affect charity recycling banks, or the Household Waste and Recycling sites (tips) operated by the County Council. Furthermore she added that the existing sites unfortunately already attracted fly tipping and in the future the Council would be offering a removal service from commercial premises. She closed by thanking councillors for their comments and confirming her support of the officer's delegated decision on this matter.

It was proposed by Councillor Miah and seconded by Councillor Draycott that the subject of the position statement be referred to the Scrutiny Management Board (SMB).

The motion was defeated.

In accordance with Full Council Procedure 9.15(e), the following councillors asked for their individual votes in favour of the motion to be recorded:

Councillor Bradshaw  
Councillor Draycott  
Councillor Forest  
Councillor Hamilton  
Councillor K. Harris  
Councillor Huddleston  
Councillor Jones  
Councillor Miah  
Councillor Radford  
Councillor Sutherland  
Councillor Tassell  
Councillor Tillotson

20. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

No motions on notice had been submitted.

21. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The Questions on Notice and the responses of the Leader or his nominee were submitted (item 10 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

21.1 Councillor Fryer – Member Grants Scheme

Councillor Fryer stated an application supported by herself and her fellow ward member (Councillor Ranson) had recently been accepted which demonstrated how worthwhile the scheme was for local communities. She asked a supplementary question about whether the scheme would continue for 2019/20 and if the performance of the scheme would be scrutinised by Scrutiny.

In response Councillor Taylor reiterated that some of the onus for publicising the scheme sat with Members who have been encouraged to promote the grants scheme through their local networks. She also stated that the scheme would be reviewed later in the year but there were no plans for the matter to be taken through the scrutiny process. After the review of the effectiveness of the scheme a decision on the continuation of the scheme would be made alongside the budgetary process.

21.2 Councillor Jukes – Housing and Planning Act 2016

Councillor Jukes stated that he was saddened that the recommendations about HMO's from the 2014 review had not been actively acted upon and it had taken an act of central government to kick start HMO action. He stated that it was three years since Professor Smith of Loughborough University was commissioned to investigate Charnwood's Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's). He asked when the findings would be made available.

In response Councillor Smidowicz stated that Professor Smith was the world's expert and that the draft numerical analysis on the private rented sector had been presented to officers. The written report on Loughborough and the wider borough was still awaited. She also stated that the occupancy of houses in multiple occupation was not confined to student rentals and that owners of properties of five or more persons from two or more households had received letters. Crucially the Council did know which properties needed to be licensed by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018. Reminder letters would be issued in August and failure to comply would result in a criminal offence. The Council had an Enforcement Policy and was signed up to the national landlord

database. In relation to the timing of the impact of the 2016 Act and mandatory licensing she was unable to comment but stated that houses with three plus occupancy from two or more households would be added to the database and would be used by officers for the housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and planning decisions. In addition she confirmed that once Professor Smiths report was finalised a presentation to all councillors would be organised.

22. MINUTE REFERENCES

There were no minute references.

23. URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS EXEMPTED FROM CALL-IN

There were no urgent decisions taken by the Cabinet or urgent key decisions taken by an officer under delegated powers that were exempted from call-in.

24. CHANGES TO THE DELEGATION OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

A report of the Chief Executive, informing the Council of changes to the delegation of Executive functions, was submitted (item 13 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

In response to a question from Councillor Miah about making amendments to Nomination Agreements in place between the Council and Registered Providers, including releasing properties from such agreements, the Leader said he would arrange for a full response to be emailed to all Councillors.

25. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

It was proposed by Councillor Morgan, seconded by Councillor Barkley and

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Hunt be appointed to the Licensing Committee

Reason

To fill a vacancy on the Committee.

Note

These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record at the next meeting of Council, which is scheduled for Monday, 3rd September 2018.