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COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council Meeting held on Thursday 24 July 2014 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock at 6.00pm

PRESENT

Councillor Geoff Stevens MBE - In the Chair

Councillors Jacque Bevan, Richard Bright, Steve Bull, Bob Cartwright, Albert Catt, Tom Donnelly, Ann Elliott, David Fearn, Richard FitzHerbert, Steve Flitter, David Frederickson, Chris Furness, Neil Horton, Mike Longden, Jean Monks, Garry Purdy, Irene Ratcliffe, Mike Ratcliffe, Lewis Rose OBE, Peter Slack, Andrew Statham, Jacque Stevens, Colin Swindell, Barrie Tipping, Judith Twigg and Carol Walker.

Dorcas Bunton (Chief Executive), Peter Foley (Corporate Director), Paul Wilson (Corporate Director), Heidi McDougall (Head of Environmental Services), Karen Henriksen (Accountancy and Exchequer Manager), Steve Capes (Head of Regeneration and Policy), Ashley Watts (Head of Community Development), Sandra Lamb (Head of Democratic Services), and Jackie Cullen (Committee Assistant).

Jim Fearn (Communications and Marketing Manager) attended as an interested party.

4 members of the public and one member of the press.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jennifer Bower, Ken Bull, Sue Burfoot, David Burton, David Chapman, Cate Hunt, Angus Jenkins, Andrew Lewer, Tony Millward, Andrew Shirley and Jo Wild.

OPENING ADDRESS

Mr Grayden Daniels gave an opening address on the subject of further development of Fair Trade, as follows:-

The Fairtrade Premium

The trading conditions in many commodity markets, such as tea, coffee, cocoa, sugar, cotton, make it very difficult for producers to earn a living. Farmers are often paid prices which don't begin to cover the cost of production. By requiring companies to pay sustainable prices for commodities, Fairtrade seeks to address the injustices of conventional trade, which traditionally discriminates against the poorest, weakest producers.

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, long-term contracts and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in developing countries.

Fairtrade supports the development of thriving farmer and worker communities that have more control over their lives and protecting the environment in which they live and work.

On top of a fair price, a *Fairtrade Premium* is paid and this is what makes Fairtrade unique. It is an additional sum of money paid on top of the Fairtrade price that farmers and workers can use to invest in development projects to help their communities and businesses. The use of the Fairtrade Premium is decided upon democratically by producers within farmers' organisations or by workers on a plantation. This is done annually, and projects include: schools, healthcare, clean water, sanitation, improvements to roads and bridges, new tools, improvements to increase yield and quality, and mills for processing products, such as drying tea or washing coffee beans. Most projects funded by the premium are communal and so the wide community often benefits from the Fairtrade Premium.

Mr Grayden gave an example of how the Fairtrade Premium brings much needed development, which local people actually want, to local communities. Oromia Coffee Farmers Co-operative Union represents over 200 coffee co-operatives in southern Ethiopia. Oromia manages to sell 65% of its coffee beans to the Fairtrade market, but for many organisations it's often much lower.

Here is a list of infrastructure projects built at Oromia from the Fairtrade Premium 2006-2013:

- 25 primary schools
- 6 high schools
- 35 additional classrooms
- 3 kindergartens
- 1 library
- 9 health posts
- 7 dry latrine schemes
- 86 spring development schemes
- 3 boreholes
- 5 road improvement schemes
- 8 bridges
- 5 flour mills
- 4 coffee processing mills (for washing and drying coffee beans for export)
- 1 warehouse

This demonstrated how Fairtrade and the Fairtrade Premium in particular is making a real difference to the lives of poor producers in developing countries. The success of Fairtrade

depends on market demand. By making the choice to buy Fairtrade marked products organisations and individuals would increase the demand for Fairtrade products.

71/14 – MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Geoff Stevens, MBE, seconded by Councillor Steve Bull and

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 June 2014 be
(unanimously) approved as a correct record.

The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

72/14 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In accordance with the procedure for public participation, Messrs Bill Storey and Ken Goodfellow, local residents, spoke against the recommendations with regard to the Wet Play Area at Bakewell Recreation Ground, under Item 8 of the Agenda.

73/14 - CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A list of functions attended by Councillor Walker from June to date was circulated at the meeting. Councillor Walker presented a brief summary in her announcement, with particular mention of the event on 10th July at which Councillors Walker, Lewis Rose, OBE, and Geoff Stevens, MBE, met with HRH Queen Elizabeth II and attended a lunch at Chatsworth House in her honour.

74/14 – COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor Tom Donnelly, seconded by Councillor Carol Walker and

RESOLVED That the reports of the Committees listed in the Minute Book for the
(unanimously) period 19 June 2014 to 10 July 2014 be received.

75/14 - QUESTIONS (RULE OF PROCEDURE 15)

Councillor Richard Bright arrived at 6.28pm during this item.

Councillor Mike Ratcliffe asked the following question of Councillor Lewis Rose, OBE, Leader of the Council:

“Given the increasing number of complaints and criticisms I and others have received concerning the Council’s reduction in spending on front line services, in particular grass cutting and gully cleaning, will the Council agree to establish a contingency fund, taken from reserves, in order to meet these needs where appropriate?”

Response from Councillor Rose

Councillor Rose responded that the service was undergoing a major change following the implementation of the APSE review. As such, the Council now had fewer men concentrating on the most visible areas, but this was a transitional period and monitoring would be ongoing, with a review by Members after the summer season. It was also proposed to hold a Members’ workshop in the autumn.

Information regarding current aspects of the service provided were set out in Councillor Rose's response.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Ratcliffe

Councillor Mike Ratcliffe asked how, why and under what Committee had this naturalisation policy been instituted, wherein the Council would allow some areas to 'return to nature'?

Councillor Rose replied that he assumed Councillor Ratcliffe was referring in particular to the playing fields at Bolehill, and that the Council was aware of these issues. Councillor Rose reminded Members that they had also been criticised in the past for not allowing areas to remain 'natural'. The proposed Members' workshop would deal with these issues.

76/14 – BAKEWELL RECREATION GROUND – WET PLAY AREA

Council considered a report that set out the background to potential issues of noise nuisance in relation to the operation of the wet play facility at Bakewell Recreation Ground. The report outlined two potential options in regard to modified operating hours in order to ensure that the District Council properly discharged its legal obligations.

Since 2012, the District Council's Environmental Health Section had been investigating complaints about noise from the pump that operated the wet play area and screaming from the children that use it; details of the complaints together with subsequent measures taken by the Council were set out in the report. In 2013 an investigation by the District Council's Environmental Health Officers indicated that noise levels were sufficiently intrusive as to have potential to amount to a statutory noise nuisance, with the result that the District Council remained vulnerable to the possibility of legal challenge.

In 2014 Council Officers met with the complainant and discussed a number of options aimed at reducing the noise associated with the use of the wet play equipment. A number of measures were suggested, and proposed operating times were introduced on a trial basis on 1 June 2014, as outlined in the report. These have included both reducing the operating times and the number of days on which it operated to limit the level of exposure to the noise. It was subsequently recommended that Council considered revising the operating times and considered the option of implementing the trial operating times as outlined above on a permanent basis. A considerable number of objections to this proposal had been received and details of these were collated at Appendix 1 to the report.

In respect of noise from the pump house, both the mains pressure valve and the inlet water pressure valve have been reduced, following a site visit by Guardian Water on 30 June, 2014. The water jets have also been adjusted to reduce the water pressure. These measures were well received by the complainants.

Council was asked to consider ensuring that ‘best practicable means’ (BPM) was used to reduce noise (and therefore nuisance) to a minimum. The Council was under no duty to eradicate noise, but instead must demonstrate that it had used BPM, which is the main defence against the existence of a noise nuisance.

In this regard, two potential options were considered available to Council, and were set out in the report.

Irrespective of which, if either, of the above options was to be pursued, further investigations were still needed and if necessary the findings, appropriate action and associated cost be reported to a future committee.

It was moved by Councillor Carol Walker, seconded by Councillor Colin Swindell and

RESOLVED That having regard to the technical improvements made to the pump house; the commitment to undertake appropriate monitoring, and the ongoing investigation for potential improvements to reduce noise, the original opening hours be reinstated with immediate effect to run until 1 September 2014.

Voting :

For	25
Against	0
Abstentions	2

77/14 – SERVICE REVIEW PROGRAMME 2014/15

Council considered a report setting out the findings of the initial service reviews and recommending a review programme for 2014/15.

On 26 September 2013, Council considered the Medium Term Financial Plan which showed that savings of over £1.4 million were required. At the same meeting, the Council considered a report on ‘Planning for the Future’, which approved a series of service reviews, to be carried out with the intention of achieving savings to contribute towards the overall savings target, and agreed the creation of an Invest to Save Reserve to fund certain short term costs where a long term business case for savings could be demonstrated.

Up to five service reviews were scheduled, and Members were asked to approve the 2014/15 Service Review programme as set out in the report. The Head of Regeneration and Policy advised Members that he was confident that an additional review, of Matlock Bath Illuminations, would identify further savings by modernising and generating income.

The report also set out updates on the 2013/14 ongoing reviews, as well as 2013/14 reviews that had been completed and for which implementation was now underway.

As well as the internal service reviews summarised in the report, work was progressing across Derbyshire to seek savings jointly between councils; there would be a review of services to see how/if we could work more closely. Financial implications for this review, together with a specific project on Treasury Management were outlined in the report. The

Treasury Management and Investment Policies would be updated in a report to September Council.

The reviews had so far identified £122,662 in savings, of which £92,894 had been achieved to date, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

Councillor Lewis Rose, OBE, recorded his thanks, on behalf of the Council, to the Officers involved in these reviews.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose, OBE, seconded by Councillor Steve Bull and

- RESOLVED**
1. That the 2014/15 Service Review programme is approved
 2. That the findings of the 2013/14 Service Reviews are noted
 3. That progress with ongoing reviews and joint projects is noted

Voting:

For	26
Against	1
Abstentions	0

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

78/14 – SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

It was moved by Councillor Judith Twigg, seconded by Councillor Carol Walker and

- RESOLVED** That the Common Seal of the Council be fixed to those documents, if
(Unanimously) any, required to complete transactions undertaken by Committees or by way of delegated authority to Officers since the last meeting of the Council.

79/14 – EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was moved by Councillor Geoff Stevens, MBE, seconded by Councillor Albert Catt and

- RESOLVED** That members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the
(Unanimously) remaining item of business to avoid disclosure of exempt information.

80/14 – EXEMPT MINUTES TO BE RECEIVED

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose, OBE, seconded by Councillor Albert Catt and

- RESOLVED** That the exempt minutes or the Corporate Committee held on 26
(unanimously) June 2014 be received.

MEETING CLOSED 7.26PM

CHAIRMAN