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## **COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a Council Meeting held on Thursday 20 November 2014 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock at 6.00 pm.**

### **PRESENT**

Councillor Geoff Stevens, MBE - In the Chair

Councillors Jacque Bevan, Richard Bright, Steve Bull, Sue Burfoot, David Burton, Bob Cartwright, Albert Catt, Tom Donnelly, Ann Elliott, David Fearn, Richard FitzHerbert, Steve Flitter, David Frederickson, Chris Furness, Neil Horton, Cate Hunt, Angus Jenkins, Andrew Lewer, Tony Millward, Jean Monks, Garry Purdy, Irene Ratcliffe, Mike Ratcliffe, Lewis Rose, OBE, Peter Slack, Jacquie Stevens, Colin Swindell, Barrie Tipping, Judith Twigg and Carol Walker.

Dorcas Bunton (Chief Executive), Peter Foley (Corporate Director), Sandra Lamb (Head of Corporate Services), Tim Braund (Head of Environmental Health), Steve Capes (Head of Regeneration and Policy), Giles Dann (Policy & Economic Development Manager), Mike Hase (Planning Policy Manager) and Jackie Cullen (Committee Assistant).

2 members of the public and 1 member of the Press.

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jennifer Bower, Ken Bull, Mike Longden, Philippa Tilbrook and Jo Wild.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Joyce Pawley, as Cromford Parish Councillor and also speaking on behalf of residents of Cromford, presented a petition regarding the Council's management of land, as follows:

"We the undersigned are concerned that the grass in St Marks' Churchyard in Cromford is being left partially uncut and that bushes are being left untrimmed. We would like the Derbyshire Dales District Council to reconsider their recent decision to leave the grass long in some areas and to come to a new decision to renew their former policy of clearing the whole Churchyard on a regular basis."

The petition was handed to the Chairman. Under the terms of the Council's Constitution, the petition would be determined by Officers to see if the situation could be remedied, after which it would be handed to the relevant policy committee for consideration.

## 193/14 – MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Geoff Stevens, MBE, seconded by Councillor Richard FitzHerbert and

**RESOLVED** That the minutes of the Council meetings held on 25 September  
(unanimously) 2014 and 2 October 2014 be approved as a correct record.

The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

## 194/14 – CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Carol Walker, Chairman of the District Council of the Derbyshire Dales, reported on her attendance at recent civic engagements; in particular her attendance at the Bakewell and Matlock Remembrance Services on 9<sup>th</sup> November. Councillor Walker thanked Councillor Albert Catt for attending the Remembrance Service at Ashbourne on behalf of the Council.

Councillor Walker thanked all staff who had contributed to the 'office bake-off', which had raised a substantial amount for her local charities.

## 195/14 – COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor Tony Millward, seconded by Councillor Tom Donnelly and

**RESOLVED** That the reports of the Committees listed in the Minute Book for the  
(unanimously) period 25 September 2014 to 6 November 2014 be received.

## 196/14 – QUESTIONS (RULE OF PROCEDURE 15)

Councillor Peter Slack asked the following question of Councillor Lewis Rose, OBE, Leader of the Council:

*“Application No. 14/00074/OUT - Residential development (367 dwellings), employment site, commercial and community facilities, link road, access and landscaping (outline) at Ashbourne Airfield, Ashbourne*

*Why did this application get away with a very low number of Affordable Housing on a very large development, and can you give members and myself reassurance that Affordable Housing will not have a lower profile and that developers will not be able to take advantage of the Council not having the Local Plan in place?”*

Councillor Rose replied that the provision of affordable housing was the Council's key priority. With regard to Ashbourne Airfield, a detail viability assessment had been undertaken to establish the amount of affordable housing that would be feasible whilst ensuring the scheme remained sustainable. This had been independently analysed by the District Valuer on the Council's behalf, and had been deemed acceptable. It was necessary to take into account the substantial costs relating to associated infrastructure, such as roads, education, etc., and in this instance, Officers were satisfied that the maximum amount that could be justified had been obtained. Councillor Rose stressed that in the future, the Council would continue to press for as

many affordable houses as were attainable, and that the situation with regard to a local plan was not relevant when assessing affordable housing.

**Supplementary Question from Councillor Slack:**

Councillor Slack thanked Councillor Rose for his response; however he asked whether this decision might set a precedent with developers in the future?

Councillor Rose replied that this would not happen as each case stood on its own merits. Council would aim for their target of 45% affordable housing, but it had to be borne in mind that sometimes infrastructure costs would be very high.

**197/14 – PEAK DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP DRAFT STATEMENT OF PRIORITIES 2015-2019**

Councillor Richard Bright left the meeting at 6.30pm during discussion of this item.

Council considered a report that identified key achievements over the last five years, and recommended consideration and subsequent adoption of a new, more succinct Statement of Priorities 2015-2019 retaining the long term vision of the current Community Strategy.

The Draft Statement of Priorities (attached as Appendix 1 to the report) set out the purpose, past achievements, evidence for and priorities of the Peak District Partnership. Once adopted, the Statement of Priorities 2015-2019 would provide the new community strategy for the area, and the framework for co-ordinating partner actions to improve the quality of life for those living and working in the area. The main roles of the Partnership were summarised in paragraph 3.2 of the report, and it was proposed that the long term vision for the Peak District set out by the former community strategy be incorporated within the District Council's corporate planning for 2015-19.

The Peak District Partnership Board (on which the Council was represented by the Leader and Chief Executive) endorsed the Draft Statement for consultation at its October meeting. This began on 20 October and runs until 28 November 2014. Following the consultation, a final draft Statement of Priorities would be considered at the Partnership's Board meeting on 16 December.

Members were asked to consider the Draft Statement of Priorities and, following conclusion of the consultation process, authorise the Council Leader to approve the final document on behalf of the Council.

It was moved by Councillor Andrew Lewer, seconded by Councillor Lewis Rose OBE and

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

1. That the key achievements under the 2009-14 Sustainable Community Strategy be noted;
2. That, subject to final amendments being agreed by the Council Leader, as the Council's representative on the Peak District Partnership, the Statement of Priorities 2015-2019 be adopted as the new community strategy for the area;
3. That the vision contained within the Statement of Priorities continues to be incorporated within the District Council's

corporate planning for 2015-19.

## **198/14 – DERBYSHIRE DALES CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE 2014/15 AND PRIORITISATION 2015/16**

Council considered a report that set out progress against the Corporate Plan targets for 2014/15; set out the headlines from the Budget Conversation; agreed Corporate Plan target areas for 2015/16 based on the findings of the Budget Conversation, and set out a process for undertaking a comprehensive review of the Corporate Plan for the period 2015-2019.

The current Corporate Plan was adopted by Council on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and reflected Member Workshops held in Autumn 2013. It identified two Improvement Priorities with five target areas during 2014/15; a third priority to maintain essential services valued by local people; and an underpinning priority recognising the need to manage financial pressures.

Consultation and engagement with the public and Members had sought views on the District Council's future spending priorities, as a means of achieving a "sense check" on future areas of spending for 2015/16. The results of the survey were summarised in the report, and Appendix 2 to the report set out the detailed results of the survey. Although a limited survey, the budget conversation consultation affirmed that housing, jobs, clean streets and safe communities remained high priorities for residents. It was therefore proposed that the 2014/15 priorities and target areas be retained for 2015/16.

The District Council's Corporate Plan set out priorities for a four year period, with the current plan covering the period 2011-2015. A comprehensive review of the Corporate Plan was therefore required to be undertaken in order to identify the District Council's priorities for 2015-2019 and it was proposed that this would commence in June 2015, with the new Corporate Plan to be presented to Members for approval at Council in November 2015.

It was moved by Councillor Albert Catt, seconded by Councillor Chris Furniss and

- RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)
1. That progress against the Corporate Plan 2014/14 be noted.
  2. That the results of the Budget Conversation Spending Priorities consultation be noted.
  3. That the Corporate Plan priorities and targets for 2015/16 remain as set out in the Corporate Plan 2013/14.
  4. That the process for preparing the Corporate Plan 2015-2019 as set out in Section 5 of the report be approved.

## **199/14 – CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014/15 TO 2019/20**

Councillor David Frederickson left the meeting at 6.50pm during discussion of this item. Councillor Judith Twigg left the meeting at 7.08pm during discussion of this item.

Council considered a report that determined the revised Capital Programme and financing arrangements for 2014/15; outlined the Capital Programme proposals for 2015/16 to 2019/20, and sought Members' views on a policy to provide revenue funding for future capital projects.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose, OBE, seconded by Councillor Jacquie Stevens, and

- RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)
1. That the revised Capital Programme and financing arrangements for 2014/15 in the sum of £3,696,019 be noted and approved.

2. That the revised Capital Programme proposals for 2015/16 to 2019/20 in the sum of £5,059,344 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be noted.
3. That Members consider the introduction of a policy to provide an annual contribution from revenue budgets that will be transferred to reserves to finance future capital expenditure.

## **200/14 – REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT**

Council considered a report that informed Members of the actions already taken in respect of the review of Development Management and of the ways in which the remainder of the review would now be progressed. It also sought guidance on the involvement of Members in various parts of the review process.

At its meeting on 19 June 2014 Members approved the scope and methodology of the review, including the engagement of Planning Officers Society Enterprises to undertake an independent appraisal of the current service.

Following the previous report to Council, Planning Officers Society Enterprises were engaged as recommended and undertook a thorough evaluation of the existing service. The consultants' initial recommendations were reproduced as Appendix 1 to the report.

The recommendations were grouped into 5 main themes, as set out in the report.

The Review Team had been established and had held an inception meeting. and it was expected that a number of sub-groups would be formed to work on each of the review themes.

No work had yet begun on the issues of Development Control to Development Management and Officer/Member Relationship. Officers felt that Members would need to be an integral part of these elements, helping to shape the final recommendations that would be brought back to Council, and it was suggested that a Member panel of 5 be formed, taking account of political balance. The purpose of the panel would be to play an active part in the 2 areas of the review outlined in paragraph 2.6 of the report and to help to form options for the future development of the service in these areas.

As with all service reviews, the Development Management Review would need to produce 3 options, all of which should produce efficiency savings. These options should be low, medium and high risk. The review should also aim to move transactions onto the District Council's website.

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

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

1. That the work undertaken by Planning Officers Society Enterprises be noted.
2. That the role of Members in the on-going Review be agreed.
3. That a panel of 5 Members be appointed to fulfil that role in the Review, as follows:

Cllr G Stevens, MBE  
Cllr Albert Catt,  
Cllr Garry Purdy

Cllr David Fearn  
Cllr Mike Ratcliffe

## **201/14 – REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATIONS 2014**

Council considered a report that informed Members of the progress of the review and comments received during the second consultation period in response to the publication of representations received during the first consultation period and to the comments of the Returning Officer.

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places. A compulsory review must be completed between 1 October 2013 and 31 January 2015 (inclusive).

At Stage 2, comments were invited in response to the representations received and the comments of the Acting Returning Officer. The comments received were detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

Proposed changes to the Polling Scheme were detailed in appendix 1 to the report, and related to the following Polling Places or Districts

- Sheldon – delete polling place and redirect voters to Monyash
- Atlow – delete polling place and redirect voters to Hognaston
- Curbar – delete polling place and transfer electorate to Calver Village Hall
- Upland Drive (Polling District) – move properties 3,5,6,7, and 8 to Darley Dale polling area SHE, subject to carrying out a Community Governance Review with regard to the realignment the boundary of the associated Polling Districts.

The final decision on the Polling Scheme for Derbyshire Dales rested with the Council to determine whether or not to approve each of the proposed changes detailed in appendix 1 to the report, bearing in mind the considerations set out in paragraph 2.2 of the report.

Details of the final scheme and copies of any representations received would be published, and grounds for appeal to the Electoral Commission were set out in the report.

### **Uplands Drive**

It was moved by Councillor David Fearn, seconded by Councillor Jacquie Stevens, and

**RESOLVED** That the proposed changes to the Derbyshire Dales Polling Scheme  
(unanimously) with regard to 3,5,6,7 and 8 Uplands Drive be approved.

### **Sheldon**

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose, OBE, seconded by Councillor Cate Hunt, and

**RESOLVED** That the proposed changes to the Derbyshire Dales Polling Scheme  
with regard to Sheldon be rejected.

### **Voting:**

<b>For</b>	27
<b>Against</b>	0
<b>Abstentions</b>	1

### **Atlow**

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose, OBE, seconded by Councillor Irene Ratcliffe, and

**RESOLVED** That the proposed changes to the Derbyshire Dales Polling Scheme with regard to Atlow be rejected.

**Voting:** 27  
**For** 1  
**Against** 0  
**Abstentions**

### **Curbar**

It was moved by Councillor Cate Hunt, seconded by Councillor Jacque Bevan, and

**RESOLVED** 1. That the proposed changes to the Derbyshire Dales Polling Scheme with regard to Curbar be rejected.

**Voting:**  
**For** 26  
**Against** 2  
**Abstentions** 0

It was moved by Councillor Geoff Stevens, MBE, seconded by Councillor Chris Furniss, and

**RESOLVED** 2. That any changes to polling places that are necessary before  
(unanimously) the next Review be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the appropriate Ward Members, parish council and election agents.

## **202/14 – APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillor Cate Hunt left the meeting at 7.54pm during discussion of this item.

The report invited the Council to appoint a representative to serve on the Board of the Erewash Credit Union.

An invitation had been received from the General Manager of the Erewash Credit Union for a representative of the Council to become a Board Director.

To avoid a potential conflict of interest and to minimise risk to the individual, officer representation was recommended and the Head of Housing had been specifically mentioned in the invitation to become involved.

It was moved by Councillor Chris Furniss, seconded by Councillor Colin Swindell, and

**RESOLVED** That the Head of Housing be appointed to serve on the Board of the  
(unanimously) Erewash Credit Union until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

## **203/14 – SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

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

#### **204/14 – EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

It was moved by Councillor Geoff Stevens, MBE, seconded by Councillor Tony Millward, and

**RESOLVED** That any members of the public or press be invited to leave the  
(unanimously) meeting for the remaining item of business for the reason shown  
below:

“This report contains information which is commercial sensitive until  
the Contract has been awarded and the cooling off period has  
lapsed.”

#### **205/15 – PROCUREMENT OF LEISURE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE AND ONLINE BOOKINGS AND PAYMENTS SYSTEM**

Council considered a report that outlined the process of assessing the appropriate option for a replacement system, and that recommended a replacement system based on a business case.

Written references were being sought for Gladstone and a visit would be made to local authorities that already use the system in order to confirm successful operation. On the basis that these were positive it was recommended that the preferred supplier be Gladstone.

It was moved by Councillor Steve Bull, seconded by Councillor Tony Millward, and

**RESOLVED** 1. That Gladstone MRM be assigned as a Preferred Bidder for the  
(unanimously) leisure management, bookings and payments system and that  
subject to due diligence and agreement on a suitable contract be  
offered the business of providing the system for a minimum of 3  
years, with options to extend for a further 2 years  
2. That £53,813 be released from the Invest to Save Reserve to  
fund the above procurement  
3. That the sum of £13,000 earmarked from the Invest to Save  
Reserve for managing the procurement and implementation of  
the new system, approved by the Chief Executive with the Head  
of Resources under delegated authority, be noted.

#### **206/14 – EXEMPT MINUTES TO BE RECEIVED**

Council were asked to consider receiving Minute No. 145A/14 of the Licensing & Appeals Sub-Committee, from their meeting dated 30 September 2014.

It was moved by Councillor Garry Purdy, seconded by Councillor Carol Walker and

**RESOLVED** That Council confirm the decision to dismiss the appellant on the  
(unanimously) grounds of gross misconduct.

**MEETING CLOSED 7.58PM**

**CHAIRMAN**