



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP.

Telephone 01572 722577 Facsimile 01572 75307 DX28340 Oakham

Minutes of the **TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTY EIGHTH MEETING of the COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HP on Monday, 17th December, 2018 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT:

Mr I Arnold
Mr N Begy
Mr E Baines
Ms R Burkitt
Mr G Conde
Mr J Dale
Mrs J Fox
Mr O Hemsley
Mr A Mann
Mrs L Stephenson
Mr D Wilby

Mr G Brown
Mr K Bool
Mr O Bird
Mr B Callaghan
Mr W Cross
Mr R Foster
Mr R Gale
Mr J Lammie
Mr M Oxley
Miss G Waller

**OFFICERS
PRESENT:**

Mrs H Briggs
Mrs H Bremner
Mr P Horsfield

Mrs N Taylor

Chief Executive
Head of Communications
Deputy Director for Resources –
Corporate Governance
(Monitoring Officer)
Governance Manager

--o0o--

The Chairman asked Council to join him in one minutes silence in remembrance of the late Mr Terry King, former Leader of the Council.

--o0o--

459 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Alderman, Mr Lowe, Mr Parsons and Mr Walters.

460 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced that the list of engagements had been circulated.

The Chairman confirmed that he had sent a letter of condolence on behalf of the Council to the family of Mr Idris Evans former officer of RCC and Oakham Town Council who had recently passed away.

The Chairman also asked Council to join him in expressing thanks Dr O'Neill (Director for People) for his services to the Council and wishing him every success in his new role at Birmingham City Council starting the New Year.

461 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

Mrs Stephenson, Portfolio Holder for Culture and Leisure, Highways and Transport, reminded members that the Local Transport Plan Consultation was due to end on the 11 January 2019 and that all comments and submissions were welcomed. The documents were available on line and there were also hard copies in Customer Services.

Mrs Stephenson also confirmed that service requests from Parish Councils to Highways could be requested online from next week, the link would be sent out to Parishes. The Highways Transport Service Group which considered service requests from Parish Councils had met twice since September and the meetings notes were available online. Mrs Stephenson would send a link to members.

462 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Oxley declared a personal interest in Item 12) a) of the agenda as he was Chairman of Uppingham Town Partnership and the owner of a holiday let in Uppingham.

Mr Oxley declared an interest in Item 15 of the agenda as he had been quoted in the newspaper with regard to a complaint made against Mr Alderman. He would not take part in the debate or decision on this item.

463 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 277th meeting of the Rutland County Council District Council held on 12 November 2018 were confirmed by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

464 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no petitions, deputations or questions received from members of the public.

465 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

There were no questions received from members of the council.

466 REFERRAL OF COMMITTEE DECISIONS TO THE COUNCIL

No committee decisions had been referred.

467 CALL-IN OF DECISIONS FROM CABINET MEETINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM 12 NOVEMBER TO 14 DECEMBER 2018 (INCLUSIVE)

No call-ins were received.

468 REPORT FROM THE CABINET

Report No. 236/2018 from the Cabinet was received, the purpose of which was to consider the recommendations and note the key decisions of the Cabinet since the publication of the agenda for the previous ordinary meeting of the Council on 20 November 2018.

Mr Brown introduced and moved the recommendations in the report. Mr Foster seconded the recommendations.

During debate the following points were noted:

- i. At this stage there were no plans for disposal of any Council owned assets. Investigations were focused on property maintenance and in particular heating and ventilation systems. The council did not have an officer that was qualified to carry out the technical investigatory work on these systems;
- ii. The delegation proposed would only provide the Director for Places with the authority to reduce the Green Waste charge, any proposed increase would have to be brought back before Council for approval; and
- iii. A report on the findings of the investigation would come back to Cabinet and as with all Cabinet Reports there would be the opportunity for Scrutiny to see this report first.

RESOLVED

- 1) Council **NOTED** the Key Decisions made by Cabinet since the publication of the agenda for the previous ordinary meeting of the Council on 12 November 2018, as detailed in Appendix A of Report No. 236/2018.
- 2) Council **APPROVED** the recommendation from Cabinet:
 - a) To keep the Green Waste charge at £35 for 2019/20, reduce the discounted fee to £26 and delegate authority to the Director for Places to set this fee annually subject to the fee not increasing beyond this amount (see appendix 3, para 3.9.3-3.9.4 of Report No. 193/2018);
 - b) To fund £85k from prudential borrowing on investigation works to determine future property maintenance requirements on Council owned assets.

469 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

There were no reports from Committees of the Council.

470 REPORTS FROM SCRUTINY COMMISSION / SCRUTINY PANELS

471 Oakham Town Task And Finish Group Final Report

Report No. 241/2018 was received, the purpose of which was to receive the final Report of the Oakham Town Task and Finish Group along with accompanying evidence which had been referred to Council following consideration at the Growth, Infrastructure and Resources Scrutiny Panel on 15 November 2018 and seek agreement in principle to establish a Partnership Board (independent of the Council) to take forward the Town Centre work.

Mr Callaghan introduced and moved the recommendations in the report. Mr Hemsley seconded the recommendations in the report.

During debate the following points were noted:

- i. Mr Dale, who had been a member of the Task and Finish Group, highlighted how the group had worked towards a common aim and the hard work that had

- been put into the final report over a period of months. He asked Council to accept the report in a constructive way and recognise the achievement of putting together such a comprehensive paper;
- ii. Mr Conde was concerned that any investment in the County Town would not be at the expense of rural areas and villages;
 - iii. Mr Conde also highlighted the importance of ensuring that any solutions to car parking payment systems should take account of the aging population in Rutland;
 - iv. Miss Waller requested clarification on the level of initial funding. This was confirmed by Mrs Briggs (Chief Executive) as the figure of £2000 initial funding as detailed in recommendation 4;
 - v. Miss Waller did not think that it was appropriate for RCC to be members of the Partnership Group as that would risk the independence of the group, but that relevant Ward Members should attend as observers;
 - vi. Mr Bird also felt that RCC should not be members and that the Group should be completely independent of the Council;
 - vii. Mr Callaghan responded to the comments regarding membership and stressed that it was very important that RCC were members of the group, albeit with the same status as the other members. RCC would have an important role to play, but would not lead or influence the group;
 - viii. Mr Baines credited the Task and Finish group for the enormous amount of work that had been done and felt there was a real sense of community involvement. The Task and Finish Group Report (Appendix A) contained some achievable recommendations, others might need to be looked at in more detail;
 - ix. Mr Gale was concerned that the timescales were very tight;
 - x. Mr Hemsley confirmed in relation to the composition of the Partnership Group, that care had been taken not to be too prescriptive. The Council was willing and had the expertise to set up the Partnership Group, but once it had been established the Council would cede any further responsibility. He also confirmed that the aim was that the infrastructure for the group would be in place by May 2019 and that time should be taken to ensure this was right without losing the momentum to drive the work forward;
 - xi. Mr Cross commended the report, however, he felt it was very important that the word "Centre" should be deleted from the report and that the focus should be on the market town as a whole;
 - xii. Mr Callaghan confirmed that the use of the word "centre" had been debated by the Task and Finish Group and that they had agreed on a specific area for the main focus which was detailed on page 94 of the report, but that the impact on the wider area should also be considered when looking at any improvements.

Mr Conde proposed an amendment to motion 2) to remove the word "centre". This was seconded by Miss Waller.

Upon being put to the vote the AMENDMENT was DEFEATED.

Debate returned to the original motions.

RESOLVED

Council:

- 1) **THANKED** the Task and Finish Group for its work and recommendations on the Town Centre
- 2) **AGREED** in principle to establish a Partnership Board (independent of the Council) to take forward the Town Centre work subject to a future report following the consultation in recommendation 3
- 3) **DELEGATED** authority to the Director of Place to consult the groups represented on the Task and Finish group to seek agreement to participate in a Partnership Board
- 4) **APPROVED** initial funding of £2,000 for the Partnership Board
- 5) **NOTED** the comments on potential deliverability of proposals (section 5 of Report No. 241/2018)

--o0o--

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow for members of the public to leave the Council Chamber.

Mr B Callaghan left the meeting and did not return.

The Chairman re-adjourned the meeting.

--o0o--

472 POVERTY REVIEW

Report No. 237/2018 from the Scrutiny Commission was received, the purpose of which was to provide the final report arising from the Scrutiny Poverty Review and seek Council approval of recommendations as detailed in the report.

Mr Conde introduced and moved the recommendations in the report. Mr Cross seconded the recommendations.

During debate the following points were noted:

- i. Mr Dale welcomed the report as positive outcome of the review and congratulated all members that had taken part in it. He hoped that the recommendations would be approved so that information for members of the public on where they can go for help and support would be improved;
- ii. Mr Baines felt the report was positive and that the Council should rightly focus on providing support to those that need it, but that as the Citizens Advice Bureau had already published a very good report on poverty he did not feel that it was necessary for the Council to have produced its own report. Mr Baines requested information on how much time and resource had been spent on this report;
- iii. Mr Lammie highlighted the fact that this had been a new approach for Scrutiny and that engagement had been challenging, however, the report would be valuable in ensuring that focus remained on vulnerable residents when considering budget pressures and delivery of services in the future;
- iv. Mr Oxley felt the report was an important platform in increasing the profile of problems faced by those living in poverty and building on the information and support offered to those people;
- v. Mr Conde agreed that the recommendations in the report would ensure that the impact on residents in relation to poverty was a consideration in all proposed changes to policies and service delivery;

- vi. Miss Waller suggested that a future Scrutiny Panel item might look at the impact of proposals in the report on alleviating poverty;
- vii. Mrs Briggs, Chief Executive, confirmed that the website information to be improved would be the Rutland Information Service and the Council's Financial Assistance pages;
- viii. Mr Cross asked members to consider the effect of high fuel levies imposed by central government on poverty; and
- ix. Mr Conde confirmed that lessons had been learnt from trying a new approach to Scrutiny and that Scrutiny Commission were working on proposing improvements to the Scrutiny process. They were awaiting the Government guidance on Scrutiny which was due to be published shortly to enable them to develop these proposals further.

RESOLVED

Council **ENDORSED** the Poverty Review Final Report (Appendix A) and **APPROVED** the recommendations detailed on page 8 of Report No. 238/2018.

473 JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- i. Mr Bool - Combined Fire Authority
Mr Bool confirmed that there had recently been two fatalities of elderly people in house fires and urged members to highlight to Parish Councils and residents that free fire safety surveys can be requested by contacting Oakham Fire Station.
- ii. Miss Waller - information circulated in writing to members
- iii. Mrs Stephenson - Active Rutland
Mrs Stephenson had attended the Active Rutland Awards in November where she had been inspired by both young and old people who were overcoming disabilities. There were also funding opportunities available for young people between the ages of 12 and 18 who were showing promise in their chosen sport and the link would be shared with members.

474 NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

--o0o--

Mr Oxley left the meeting.

--o0o--

475 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Report No. 238/2018 was received from the Chief Executive the purpose of which was for Council to determine whether to grant a dispensation in order to allow Councillor Richard Alderman to remain a member of the Authority following non-attendance at a meeting of the Authority for a period of six consecutive months.

The Chairman confirmed that the meeting would remain in public session unless members wished to enter into detailed discussion on the exempt appendices to the report.

Mrs Briggs, Chief Executive introduced the report.

Mr Lammie moved the motion that “Council does not grant a dispensation to allow Councillor Richard Alderman to remain a member of the Authority following non-attendance at a meeting for a period of six consecutive months”. This was seconded by Mr Conde.

Mr Baines proposed the motion that the question now be put and that Council moved to the vote in accordance with Procedure Rule 48 (r) (i). This was seconded by Mr Cross.

Council voted on the motion and it was CARRIED.

--oOo--

In accordance with the provisions of Procedure Rule 11, paragraph 2 –
Recording of Votes - Mr Gale requested that his abstention from the vote on the above resolution be recorded.

--oOo--

Council then moved directly to the vote on the motion as proposed by Mr Lammie.

RESOLVED

Council **AGREED** not to grant a dispensation to allow Councillor Richard Alderman to remain a member of the Authority following non-attendance at a meeting for a period of six consecutive months.

--oOo--

In accordance with the provisions of Procedure Rule 11, paragraph 2 –
Recording of Votes - Mr Gale requested that his abstention from the vote on the above resolution be recorded.

--oOo--

Mr M Oxley rejoined the meeting.

--oOo--

476 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Paragraph 4: Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.

477 SENIOR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

---oOo---

After debate and voting on this item the Council **APPROVED** that the meeting returned to public session.

---oOo---

478 ANY URGENT BUSINESS

There was no other urgent business.

---oOo---

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.52 pm.

---oOo---