



# Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP.

Telephone 01572 722577 Facsimile 01572 75307 DX28340 Oakham

Minutes of the XXX **MEETING of the COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HP on Monday, 9th March, 2020 at 7.00 pm

**PRESENT:**

Mr K Bool	Mr O Hemsley
Mr G Brown	Mrs L Stephenson
Mr A Walters	Mr D Wilby
Mr P Ainsley	Mr E Baines
Mr N Begy	Mr D Blanksby
Mr A Brown	Ms J Burrows
Mr W Cross	Mrs J Fox
Mrs S Harvey	Mr A Lowe
Ms A MacCartney	Mr M Oxley
Mrs K Payne	Mrs R Powell
Mr I Razzell	Miss G Waller
Mrs S Webb	

**APOLOGIES:**

Mr J Dale	Mr R Coleman
Miss M Jones	Mr N Woodley

**OFFICERS**

**PRESENT:**

Helen Briggs	Phil Horsfield	Chief Executive
Emma Powley		Monitoring Officer
Carol Snell		Governance Manager
		Head of HR

**ABSENT:**

**596 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Coleman, Jones, Dale and Woodley.

**597 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements from the Chairman.

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

Councillor Walters, as the Cabinet Member for Health commented that the Council were aware of the Covid 19 issue and that government guidance was being followed. It was noted that there had been not reported instances of Coronavirus in Rutland but that all necessary

plans were being implemented to mitigate risk and that updates and briefings would be issued as appropriate.

## **599 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Lowe declared a personal non pecuniary interest in Item 15, as an Oakham Town Councillor and noted that he would abstain from voting.

## **600 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meetings held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January, 27<sup>th</sup> January and the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

## **601 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were none.

## **602 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

Councillor A Brown submitted a question in accordance with the Constitution:

*“RCC stopped short of declaring a climate emergency and subsequently set up a Task and Finish group to look at bio-diversity. The bio-diversity task and Finish Group has now completed its work. I consider this to be very small first step in the things RCC need to do to combat the climate emergency. What will this council be doing next on this very important matter, and what is the timescale? The one thing we do not have much of is time”.*

In response Councillor G Brown stated:

*“I would remind Cllr Brown that when I presented the Motion to Council in October that I explained that we should not declare an Emergency but lay out an Action Plan and proceed to deal with the issues we face. Unfortunately, our initial progress has not been as rapid as I had wished with the personnel changes we have experienced in the Places Director level as well as in Property and Highways and now Environment. In addition, the time taken with the Local Plan and Council Budget over the last 3 months has also impacted on the work.*

*It is not possible to set out a fully comprehensive pathway to net zero in our initial plan, as the government has not yet mapped its plans for the country. Decarbonising some sectors, such as heat, will require national policy to direct the relevant technologies and provide a framework for action.*

*Work has been started in a number of areas and I am looking forward to receiving the Bio-diversity Task & Finish Group report.*

*In partnership with the Sustainable Land Trust we have taken the following actions so far:*

- *Initial consultation into land based issues and actions – including a survey of stakeholders of which the results analysed and ready to be presented.*
- *Liaison with organisations interested in becoming partners*
- *Liaison with members of the public who attended the consultation meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November*
- *Creation of Rutland CAN brand, (Climate Action Network) Facebook page and Twitter/Instagram account*

- *Sustainable Land Trust application to become members of the international Climate Action Network*
- *Expression of Interest submitted to National Lottery Climate Fund for funding for 2 officers (1 x land, 1 x infrastructure (housing, transport, industry, etc), plus marketing and resources*
- *Brought together SLT to work with Kendrew Barracks to undertake mass tree planting*
- 

*The next steps for the partnership are:*

1. *Meeting with partners and interested members of public on 31<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30pm at VAR. Councillors are welcome to attend*
2. *Collate baseline information, set targets and indicators and agree priorities for action.*
3. *Create action plan and timetable.*
4. *Identify and apply for funding/ donations/ contracts to deliver plan and timetable.*
5. *Marketing the Rutland CAN concept and broadening the membership so that every person and parish knows about the group*
6. *Identify locations for land based actions/ initiatives and work with relevant land owners.*
7. *Cost the initiatives and determine where funding/ income will be sourced.*

*One of my concerns has been our general lack of knowledge about climate change and the processes to get to net zero carbon. I am currently working through the Carbon Literacy Project e-learning module they also provide both direct training and also e-training – something we might consider if we are all quarantined in the next few weeks.*

*We are already ahead of other local authorities with the installation of the LED street lights which provided a reduction in energy use by over 60%*

*The waste management strategy has been drafted and will go out for consultation this week. You will recall that Rutland County Council are in the top twenty authorities for recycling with only just over 2% of our total waste ending up in landfill with the rest being either recycled or the energy recovered from incineration.*

*In line with the NPPF the Local Plan has provided a positive strategy for energy from renewable sources and identified suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources and supporting infrastructure.*

*I will issue an updated schedule of the Action Plan for members shortly which will include the work we are doing with schools, our contact with the Rutland Youth Council*

*To date there have been no direct costs incurred by the Council other than the Electric Vehicle Charging point at Catmose”.*

## **603 REFERRAL OF COMMITTEE DECISIONS TO THE COUNCIL**

There were none.

## **604 CALL-IN OF DECISIONS FROM CABINET MEETINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM 10TH NOVEMBER 2019 TO 18TH FEBRUARY 2020 (INCLUSIVE)**

There was no call-in of decisions from Cabinet meetings.

## **605 REPORT FROM THE CABINET**

Report No. 57/2020 from the Cabinet was received, the purpose of which was to consider the Key Decisions made by Cabinet since the publication of the agenda for the previous ordinary meeting of the Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

### **RESOLVED:**

Council NOTED the Key Decisions made by Cabinet since the publication of the agenda for the previous ordinary meeting of the Council on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 as detailed in Appendix A of this report.

## **606 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL**

There were no reports from Committees of the Council

## **607 REPORTS FROM SCRUTINY COMMISSION / SCRUTINY PANELS**

There were no reports from the Scrutiny Commission or Scrutiny Panels

## **608 JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

Councillor Waller explained that both she and Councillor Dale had made suggestions to Leicestershire Health Trust on their consultation process and how improvements could be made. It was explained that the long-term plan was for 3 clinical commissioning groups with a joint Chief executive to work with promoting initiatives.

Councillor Oxley explained that there had been lots of publicity with regards to Fair Trade goods nationally and thanked officers for improving the links on the RCC website to the Fair Trade websites.

Councillor Fox reported that 4Oakham had held their first stakeholder meeting and that there would be further updates at various Council Committees in the near future.

## **609 NOTICES OF MOTION**

There were none.

## **610 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

The Leader elaborated on the report presenting recommendations to the Council on a proposed Members' Allowances scheme. He explained that the allowances had remained very low in comparison to other Council's and considered the increase could attract a high calibre of potential candidates. It was noted that the majority of Councillors spent a vast amount of time and effort both in their Council work and their wards and stated that should any member vehemently oppose the increase they would have an option to sacrifice their allowance.

Councillor Oxley proposed the report and noted that there had been very few increases since the Council became Unitary and stated his preference would be for it to be index linked as there was a need for Councillors, especially in the future, to be compensated with the potential to attract younger people to become Councillors.

Councillor Cross declared that he was unaware that payments were made to Councillor and whilst he understood the concept that it could encourage younger people to enter into local politics, he considered that senior generations were more likely to give up their time.

Councillor Baines commented that the allowances should not be used as a deterrent nor as an incentive. He explained that claiming allowances facilitated Councillors in their decision-making role without which, the Council would be unable to function.

In response to questions asked, it was explained that a review of the allowances was a requirement of the Council and that it had not been included in the budget as, should the Council chose not to approve the increase, the budget figures would not be accurate. It was reported that the increase if approved would be included in future budgets. It was further explained that despite an additional expenditure of £80k per annum, the Council would continue to look for savings and identify areas where costs could be cut.

Councillor Begy seconded the report.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Members Allowances scheme recommended by the independent Remuneration Panel (with a Basic Allowance be increased of £4,944 per annum) be approved
2. That the new Scheme be effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 202 be approved
3. That the annual increase in allowances be linked to the NJC pay award made to officers be approved.

**611 PAY POLICY STATEMENT**

Councillor Hemsley, as the relevant Cabinet Member proposed the report and explained that the Council was required to review and publish on an annual basis its Pay Policy Statement. It was reported that 30 per cent of gross expenditure of the Council was on employees' wages and on costs and there was recognition that there was a need to continue to develop and support staff.

Councillor Cross seconded the report and stated that the Council were very lucky to have hardworking, dedicated staff.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the updated Pay Policy for 2020-21 be approved.
2. That the latest update regarding the Local Government National Pay Award for 2020 be noted.
3. That the value of the pay policy in the context of recruitment and retention be noted.
4. That the Council's Gender Pay Gap data for 31 March 2019 be noted.

**612 LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP**

Councillor Hemsley proposed the report which sought Council's approval that Rutland join the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership. It was noted that since 2017 and the creation of the Cambridgeshire Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) functions from the Greater Peterborough Greater Cambridgeshire LEP (GPGCLEP) had been transferred to the CPCA Business Board. Since the GCGP LEP ceased to exist in 2018, Rutland had been left without a LEP.

Councillor G Brown seconded the report.

Councillor Waller proposed and Councillor MacCartney seconded the amendment which read:

*'This Council defers the decision on report no 59/2020 until its meeting of the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 and that between now and then, a members' briefing be arranged in order to fully inform members of all the implications relating to the recommendations within the report'.*

In response to questions asked by Council, the Chief Executive stated that if the report was not approved, then the Council would in effect become 'LEPless' and to become part of Greater Lincolnshire LEP (GLLEP) would allow Rutland County Council access to their services. It was noted that the GLLEP had already supported some of Rutland's local businesses and there had been an opportunity for Rutland to contribute to their Local Industrial strategy (LIS). The proximity and shared landscape could be beneficial to Rutland as an alignment with the GLLEP could be of benefit due to similarities in the rural economy, agriculture, tourism and food and drink sector. The Chief executive continued to inform Council that the sooner Rutland became part of a LEP, the sooner they would be able to take advantage of the services offered and would allow full membership on the Board thus having influence and the opportunity to share opinions. It was further explained that other local LEPS had been considered but that their focus had little affinity with the needs of Rutland.

Councillor Waller, having been satisfied with the clarification and updates from the Chief Executive withdrew her amendment. Councillor MacCartney seconded the withdrawal of the amendment.

Members debated the substantive motion.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That Rutland join the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership based on the conditions outlined within the report
2. That the Leader of the Council represent Rutland County Council as a member of the LEP Board and the Deputy leader as his substitute.

**613 ANY URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business.

---oOo---

**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.57pm**

---oOo---