



# Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP.

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Minutes of the 245<sup>th</sup> **MEETING of the COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HP on Monday, 23rd January, 2023 at 7.00 pm

**PRESENT:**

Councillor N Begy (Vice-Chairman)	Councillor P Ainsley
Councillor E Baines	Councillor K Bool
Councillor A Brown	Councillor P Browne
Councillor J Burrows	Councillor W Cross
Councillor J Fox	Councillor S Harvey
Councillor O Hemsley	Councillor S Lambert
Councillor A MacCartney	Councillor M Oxley
Councillor R Payne	Councillor K Payne
Councillor R Powell	Councillor L Stephenson
Councillor L Toseland	Councillor A Walters
Councillor G Waller	Councillor D Wilby

**OFFICERS PRESENT:**

Mark Andrews	Chief Executive
Angela Wakefield	Director of Legal and Governance
Tom Delaney	Governance Manager
David Ebbage	Governance Officer
Mathew Waik	Communications Service Manager

**ABSENT:**

Councillor D Blanksby	Councillor G Brown
Councillor J Dale (Chairman)	Councillor S Webb
Councillor R Wilson	

## 1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Blanksby, G Brown, J Dale, S Webb, and R Wilson.

## 2 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was noted the list of engagements attended by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had previously been circulated as follows:

- Service of Dedication for Armistice Day, grounds of Oakham Castle
- Lord-Lieutenant's Festival of Remembrance in aid of the RBL, Uppingham School
- RBL Service of Remembrance, All Saints' Church
- Celebration of Roof Replacement, St John's Church, Ryhall
- Investiture Ceremony for M Pocock BEM, Oakham Castle

- Mayor of Melton's Carol Service, St Mary's Church, Melton Mowbray
- Stocken Prison Carol Service
- Presentation of Horseshoe to the Lord of the Manor by The Rt Hon Lord Garnier, Oakham Castle

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

Councillor L Stephenson, Leader of the Council, announced to Members that following the recent announcement of a successful Levelling Up Fund bid for Rutland and Melton, the next steps for progressing the bid were underway including working with central government in assessments of the risk profiles of each project, and the Minister for Local Government and Building Safety had visited the Council the previous week to meet with the Leader, senior officers, and the local member of Parliament, it was explained discussions had focused on Rutland's success and financial challenges.

Councillor R Powell, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways and Transport, announced to Members that a new, calculation of the Rutland's 5-year housing land supply has been undertaken and showed a 6 year housing supply, up from 4.6 years in September, which meant that the National Planning Policy Framework para 11d would not have to be applied in decisions on planning applications. It was noted although this meant the Council had a stronger case for resisting applications for inappropriate sites and proposals, there was still a need to be mindful that the Council must maintain a five-year supply going forward over the next few years. It was also explained priority had been given to reducing the time between planning approval and the date by which sites could be included in the land supply calculations. It was also announced a well-attended Bus Users Forum had taken place the previous week, it was confirmed responses to various questions raised at the Forum would be publicised in due course. The elements of the successful Levelling Up Fund bid relating to transport were also welcomed as a way to address areas for the issues with travel faced by the county.

Councillor K Payne, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Performance, Change and Transformation, reiterated to Members that following Cabinet approval the draft budget for 2023/24 had gone out for public consultation during which time in-person consultation events would be taking place and the budget would be presented for consideration for the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee, following these steps the final budget would be going to Cabinet followed by Council in February 2023.

Councillor M Oxley, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Environment and Climate Change, highlighted to Members the success of the Levelling Up Fund bid and the opportunity to invest in the County Museum following recent historical discoveries in the County. It was also noted the county's recycling figures were low which was being seen by other Councils and believed to be related to the recent dry summer. Reference was also made to recent public campaigns by the Council regarding food waste, disposal of seating materials and batteries.

Councillor S Harvey, Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Care, announced to Members that she had recently represented the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board at a national workshop, and

provided an update on the most recent meeting of the Council's Health and Wellbeing Board.

#### **4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2022.

It was moved by Councillor L Stephenson and seconded that the minutes be approved. Upon being put to the vote, with 19 votes in favour and 3 abstentions, the motion was carried.

#### **RESOLVED**

a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2022 be **APPROVED**.

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

No petitions, deputations and questions had been received from members of the public.

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

No questions from Members of the Council had been received.

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

No referrals of Committee decisions had been received.

#### **9 CALL-IN OF DECISIONS FROM CABINET MEETINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM 7 NOVEMBER 2022 TO 23 JANUARY 2023 (INCLUSIVE)**

No call-ins of decisions from Cabinet Meetings

#### **10 REPORT FROM THE CABINET**

No reports from the Cabinet had been received.

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

No reports from Committees of the Council had been received.

#### **12 REPORTS FROM SCRUTINY**

No reports from Scrutiny had been received.

### **13 JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

Councillor K Bool announced to Members that the Combined Fire Authority would soon be considering its budget and it was currently expected there would be a small increase in the Authority's precept of 7%. It was noted this figure could be seen as high it should be considered in relation to the authority's prudent financial management in previous years and the increase equated to an increase of approximately £3 a year for a Band A household. It was confirmed this would be subject to consideration and a decision by a meeting of the Combined Fire Authority in February 2023 and Councillor Bool confirmed he would provide a further update to Members in due course.

Councillor K Payne presented Members with a report to be appended to the minutes regarding two recent positive meetings with Hanson Cement including a meeting of their Liaison Committee. It was set out that work was ongoing with regard to restoring disused areas of the quarry, and Hanson were beginning to look at extending their quarry working as reserves were at less than 10 years. It was confirmed the quarry continued to undertake surveys in ecological matters, water monitoring, noise and quality and archaeology, it was also set out a small Iron Age or Roman Enclosure and ditches had been discovered and were being examined by Leicestershire County Council archaeologists.

### **14 NOTICES OF MOTION**

No notices of motion had been received.

### **15 REPORT OF THE WELLAND PARTNERSHIP REMUNERATION PANEL**

Report No. 14/2023 was presented by Councillor L Stephenson, Leader of the Council. The report presented the report of the Welland Partnership Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances with a number of recommendations for consideration, it was noted officers had recommended that the Council recognise the gap between its allowances and those of comparator authorities, but only make several small changes at this juncture, including the restoration of index-linked rises in allowances, and undertake further considerations on closing of the gap after elections to the authority in May 2023.

It was confirmed that the motion as moved by Councillor L Stephenson included the following amendment put forward by Councillor G Waller, taking the form of additional text to the second recommendation as follows:

“, and to consider members' expenses, including travel expenses for ward related work, as part of its considerations on closing the gap.”

The report and recommendations were welcomed by Members overall although some Members felt that the recommendation to wait until after the upcoming elections before making a final decision on Members' Allowances would only further delay the issue of the Council's relatively low allowances which could be seen as deterring potential candidates to stand for election when it was important to attract Councillors from all walks of life. Many Members noted the requirement for Councillors to approve their own allowance levels meant it was a complicated and unenviable decision to take

at any juncture. The ability for individual Members to renounce any allowances they were entitled to was also noted.

A motion to approve the recommendations of Report No. 14/2023, with the addition of the amendment, was moved by Councillor L Stephenson and seconded. Upon being put to the vote, with 18 votes in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention, the motion was carried.

## **RESOLVED**

That Council:

- a) **RECEIVED** the report of the Welland Partnership Remuneration Panel at Appendix 1 and thanked the Panel for its review.
- b) **RECOGNISED** there is a gap between the Council's Member Allowances and those at comparator authorities as set out in Appendix 1a, and that following elections to the authority the Council should consider how to close this gap, and will consider members' expenses, including travel expenses for ward related work, as part of its considerations on closing the gap.
- c) **APPROVED** the proposed Member Allowances Scheme for 2023/24 at Appendix 2 incorporating the recommendations of officers as set out in Section 4, including index linked rises in allowances based on Pay Awards for Chief Officers as negotiated by the Joint Negotiating Committee.
- d) **APPROVED** that the new scheme is effective from 9 May 2023, which any index-linked rise arising from the JNC 2023-24 Pay Award will be back-dated to.

## **16 ANY URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business for consideration.

## **17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

This was noted as the Special Meeting on 21 February 2022.

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**The Vice-Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.40 pm.**

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## **Hanson Cement Liaison Meeting – Received from Councillor K Payne**

At the end of November I attended 2 meetings with Hanson Cement, a quarry restoration visit and the Hanson Cement Liaison Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> November. Points to note are: -

The restoration of disused areas of the quarry is impressive, the original, stored topsoil has been returned to site, pastureland and a woodland belt is being created, they are just waiting for better weather to plant 24,000 trees in this area. In a second area, the preparation for creation of calcareous grassland and woodland, starts this spring with a view grass seeding in spring 2024 and further tree planting in winter 2024.

Current quarry reserves are less than 10 years now and Hanson are looking to extend their quarry working. A scoping request is being submitted to our Planning department this month if it hasn't been received already. This will provide an outline of what Hanson wants to do and where, plus its impact on the environment and mitigating factors. They continue to carry out surveys into ecology (amphibians, reptiles, bats, badgers, birdlife etc) ground water monitoring, noise and air quality and archeology. An archeological and geophysical survey of one field towards the outskirts of Ketton towards the west of Empingham Road has revealed a small Iron Age or Roman Enclosure and ditches. Leicestershire County Archeologists are organizing trial trenching and recording of finds. Hanson will be holding a public exhibition of their proposed extensions in late spring/summer this year.

The quarry is currently shut for its annual maintenance program and will reopen at the end of this month.

All Emission levels were well within permitted tolerances. There have been 2 noise complaints only, one in August and 1 in November. Hanson are still monitoring these and looking for sources of the noise which may emanate from a conveyor belt.

Later this year, Ketton will be piloting a new Carbon Capture plant which will target capture of 50kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per day. They will need a variation to their Environment Agency permit to do this which they have applied for.

Improvements have been made, they've recently installed a new fueling station and tanks, also the cement bowline has been improved to prevent leaks.

One negative though. Hanson have recently experienced vandalism to their railway track and several arrests have been made which is positive. However, Hanson have installed steel post fencing along the track which creates an eyesore as you approach the village from Stamford and is causing issues to motorists at night with flicker from headlights. This has been raised with Hanson and I'm currently pursuing this through Highways and Planning. Otherwise, both meetings I attended were good, positive experiences.

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