

**MINUTES  
COUNCIL**

**Wednesday 30 January 2019**

Councillor Barbara Miller (Mayor)

Present: Councillor Pauline Allan  
Councillor Michael Adams  
Councillor Bruce Andrews  
Councillor Emily Bailey Jay  
Councillor Peter Barnes  
Councillor Sandra Barnes  
Councillor Chris Barnfather  
Councillor Alan Bexon  
Councillor Tammy Bisset  
Councillor Nicki Brooks  
Councillor Bob Collis  
Councillor John Clarke  
Councillor Jim Creamer  
Councillor Kevin Doyle  
Councillor Boyd Elliott  
Councillor David Ellis  
Councillor Andrew Ellwood  
Councillor Kathryn Fox  
Councillor Gary Gregory  
Councillor Sarah Hewson  
Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth  
Councillor Meredith Lawrence  
Councillor Viv McCrossen  
Councillor Marje Paling  
Councillor John Parr  
Councillor Michael Payne  
Councillor Carol Pepper  
Councillor Stephen Poole  
Councillor Paul Stirland  
Councillor John Truscott  
Councillor Jane Walker  
Councillor Muriel Weisz  
Councillor Henry Wheeler  
Councillor Paul Wilkinson

Absent: Councillor Roxanne Ellis, Councillor Paul Feeney,  
Councillor Helen Greensmith, Councillor Colin Powell  
and Councillor Alex Scroggie

**31 OPENING PRAYERS.**

The Mayor's Chaplain Reverend Ogle delivered opening prayers.

Council stood in silent tribute for Councillor Denis Beeston MBE who had passed away on 16 January.

**32 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Ellis, Feeney, Greensmith, Powell and Scroggie.

**33 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

The Mayor expressed her sadness at the passing away of Councillor Denis Beeston MBE.

Members paid tribute to Councillor Beeston on his commitment to the people of Gedling and Bestwood Village and his long service to the community. Councillor Beeston was a loyal, respected and excellent servant of the Borough and a great supporter of many local causes and will be fondly remembered and missed by members.

The Mayor informed Council that James O’Riordan, former Borough and County Councillor, had suffered a severe stroke before Christmas. She had sent him good wishes on behalf of all members.

**34 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2018.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the above meeting, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record.

Vote: 35 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.

**35 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

Councillor Allan declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Item 10 as the owner of an empty property within the Borough.

**36 TO DEAL WITH ANY PETITIONS RECEIVED UNDER STANDING ORDER 8A.**

None.

**37 TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ASKED BY THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 8.**

Question from John Flynn.

Mr Flynn did not attend and therefore the question was not dealt with.

Question from Sebastian Soar.

I would like to know how many people were fined in Gedling Borough in the last year for failing to clear up after their dogs. I would like to know how often the councils 'mobile surveillance units' (reference to dog fouling posters in Gedling) have been deployed and how many people they caught in the last year. Does the council regard the answers to these questions to be a success? And what other measures is the council doing to tackle this issue for local residents?

Response from Councillor David Ellis

It's important to be clear from the outset when tackling dog fouling that it is the owner's responsibility to clear up after their dogs. Most dog owners in Gedling are responsible and do clear up. I would applaud those who act responsibly.

However, we all know that there are some irresponsible owners who do not 'pick up' and allow their dogs to damage the environment for others. Dog fouling is not just unpleasant it can be dangerous.

The first approach we take is prevention. Our aim is to encourage owners to take responsibility and clean up after their dogs. The Communications Team at the Council uses a variety of media to get the message across - you may have seen the messages on the side of refuse freighters. The neighbourhood wardens engage directly with dog owners both on a casual basis and at planned events such as Arnold Carnival. These prevention approaches are all designed to reduce dog fouling.

We have also made it easier for owners to dispose of poo bags by introducing dual purpose waste bins across the whole borough area.

Where there are complaints of dog fouling in an area, we work with dog owners to make them aware of the offence and encourage reporting in order to identify those responsible. As appropriate we distribute leaflets to local residents, use banners (especially outside schools and parks), or signs on lampposts, and signs painted on footpaths. We find that this sort of reminder does work and reduces the problem.

The Council's second approach, on which the question focuses, is enforcement.

Our Warden Service takes the lead on this. They are all well trained on gathering and using evidence for enforcement.

The operational tactics they can deploy are varied, ranging from overt patrols in uniform through to more covert 'plain clothed' approaches depending on the time of day and the location where dog fouling is happening. Last year the wardens undertook 15 of these operations, the majority of which were carried out very early in the morning when dog walkers are likely to be out.

Over the last year, 5 people were issued with fixed penalty notices for failing to clear up after their dogs. The owners admitted their guilt, accepted the notice and paid their fine of £50.

The council would not undertake any form of 'directed surveillance' as defined in the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) since the offence of dog fouling does not fall within the seriousness categories.

In the context of an authorised RIPA operation the council does not have nor has ever used 'mobile surveillance units'.

The Council recognises that dog fouling is still an issue that local residents wish us to tackle. We do feel that we have been successful in reducing the number of dog fouling incidents across the Borough but recognise that this is no reason to be complacent. There are areas where dog fouling still occurs repeatedly, and this is where we will continue to invest time and operational activity.

**38 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

Consideration was given to a report of the Service Manager Democratic Services which sought approval to appoint Councillor Sandra Barnes as a second Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Gedling with immediate effect for the remainder of the 2018/19 municipal year.

**RESOLVED:**

To appoint Councillor Sandra Barnes as a second Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Gedling with immediate effect for the remainder of the 2018/19 municipal year.

Vote: 33 For, 0 Against, 2 Abstentions.

**39 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL - REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2019/20**

Consideration was given to a report of the Service Manager Democratic Services to inform Council of the latest report from the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), relating to member remuneration for 2019/20, and invite Council to consider the recommendations made by the Panel.

An amendment was moved in the following terms by Councillor Michael Payne and seconded by Councillor Clarke:

To accept the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel subject to the inclusion of allowances to Party Business Managers to be paid at the current rate of 25% of the Leader's allowance with the 2% uplift in line with the pay award to senior officers.

**RESOLVED to:**

- 1) Thank the Independent Remuneration Panel for its work and accept the recommendations subject to the inclusion of allowances to Party Business Managers to be paid at the current rate of 25% of the Leader's allowance with the 2% uplift in line with the pay award to senior officers;
- 2) Agree the schedule of members' allowances for 2019/20 as attached at Appendix 2 to this report which will have been uplifted

by 2% in line with the pay award to Senior Officers with the inclusion of the allowance to be paid to Party Business Managers;

- 3) Agree that the size of the Panel shall reduce from 5 to three members with immediate effect; and
- 4) Authorise the Monitoring Officer to make appropriate amendments to Part 6 of the Constitution to reflect any changes to members' allowances agreed.

Vote: 34 For, 45 Against, 0 Abstentions

#### **40 COUNCIL TAX EMPTY PROPERTY LEVY**

Councillor Allan left the meeting.

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance to seek permission to change the amounts of council tax levied on properties in the Borough of Gedling which have been vacant for a period of two years or more.

#### **RESOLVED to:**

- 1) Adopt an empty property levy of 100% with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 for dwellings which have been vacant for a period of two years or more,
- 2) Adopt an empty property levy of 200% with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 for dwellings which have been vacant for a period of five years or more; and
- 3) Adopt an empty property levy of 300% with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 for dwellings which have been vacant for a period of ten years or more.

Vote: 34 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.

Councillor Allan re-joined the meeting.

#### **41 AMENDMENTS TO SCHEME OF POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Service Manager Democratic Services which sought approval to amendments to the published scheme of polling places, polling districts and polling stations for Gedling Borough.

RESOLVED:

To approve the polling place for polling districts GA3 and SB1 as detailed in the table at paragraph 2.1 of the report.

Vote: For 35, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

**42 REFERRAL FROM CABINET: GEDLING GAMBLING STATEMENT OF POLICY**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Community Health and Wellbeing, which had been referred to Council by Cabinet.

**RESOLVED:**

To approve the amended Gedling Gambling Statement of Policy at Appendix 1 to the report which includes the amendments approved for consultation on 21st September 2018 and amendments following the consultation.

Vote: For 34, Against 0, Abstention 0

**43 REFERRAL FROM THE APPOINTMENTS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE COMMITTEE: PAY POLICY STATEMENT**

Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager Organisational Development, which had been referred to Council from the Appointments and Conditions of Service Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

To adopt the Pay Policy Statement for publication on the Council's website.

Vote: For 35, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

**44 REFERRAL FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE: KPMG ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2017/18**

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance which had been referred to Council by Audit Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

To receive and note the KPMG Annual Audit Letter 2017/18.

Vote: For 35, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

**45 TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ASKED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER STANDING ORDER 9.**

None received.

- 46 TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS CONCERNING ANY MATTER DEALT WITH BY THE EXECUTIVE OR BY A COMMITTEE OR SUB-COMMITTEE (STANDING ORDER 11.1).**

In accordance with Standing Order 11.1, a number of comments were made and responded to by the appropriate Cabinet Member or Committee Chair.

- 47 TO CONSIDER COMMENTS, OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN, UNDER STANDING ORDER 11.03(A).**

None received.

- 48 TO CONSIDER MOTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 12.**

None received.

The meeting finished at 7.40 pm

Signed by Chair:  
Date: