

MINUTES COUNCIL

Wednesday 23 July 2025

Councillor Kyle Robinson-Payne (Mayor)

Present:	Councillor Sandra Barnes	Councillor Helen Greensmith
	Councillor Michael Adams	Councillor Paul Hughes
	Councillor Pauline Allan	Councillor Alison Hunt
	Councillor Roy Allan	Councillor Darren Maltby
	Councillor Stuart Bestwick	Councillor Andrew Meads
	Councillor David Brocklebank	Councillor Julie Najuk
	Councillor John Clarke	Councillor Marje Paling
	Councillor Jim Creamer	Councillor Sue Pickering
	Councillor Andrew Dunkin	Councillor Alex Scroggie
	Councillor Boyd Elliott	Councillor Martin Smith
	Councillor David Ellis	Councillor Sam Smith
	Councillor Rachael Ellis	Councillor Ruth Strong
	Councillor Roxanne Ellis	Councillor Jane Walker
	Councillor Andrew Ellwood	Councillor Russell Whiting
	Councillor Kathryn Fox	Councillor Paul Wilkinson

Absent: Councillor Paul Feeney, Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth, Councillor Ron McCrossen, Councillor Viv McCrossen, Councillor Michael Payne, Councillor Lynda Pearson, Councillor Catherine Pope, Councillor Grahame Pope, Councillor Clive Towsey-Hinton and Councillor Henry Wheeler

In attendance M Hill, F Whyley, M Avery, N Osei, E McGinlay and C Goodall

27 THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Members observed a minute's silence to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide.

The Mayor's chaplain then read an extract from the letter of St Paul to the Romans, which centred the idea of loving those around us.

28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Feeney, Hollingsworth, Ron McCrossen, Viv McCrossen, Payne, Pearson, Catherine Pope, Grahame Pope, Towsey-Hinton and Wheeler.

29 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Meads to the council and congratulated him on his recent win in the Calverton ward by-election.

The Mayor spoke about the recent community events he had attended across the borough and highlighted a few – noting his particular pleasure to have attended the recent unveiling of the Queen Elizabeth II memorial in Gedling Country Park and the Arnold Summer Fair hosted at Arnot Hill Park.

30 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 JUNE 2025

RESOLVED:

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

31 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Clarke declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6, noting he was a CAMRA (campaign for real ale) member.

32 TO DEAL WITH ANY PETITIONS RECEIVED UNDER PROCEDURAL RULE 7.8

The Mayor welcomed the petitioners to present the petition to the council, which had been signed by 272 residents of the borough and related to changes to the Horse and Groom Public House in Linby.

After the petition had been presented, the Mayor confirmed that it had been accepted, the requested action being as follows:

‘That Gedling Borough Council give full consideration to the petition and ensure that any planning or licensing applications related to the Horse and Groom are subject to rigorous scrutiny, with particular attention to conservation, amenity and community impact.

Should no planning application be in place or submitted prior to the clearly planned refurbishment the local community understand are due to commence in mid-august 2025, the Council will deploy all measures available to protect the Horse and Groom Pub to prevent any further alterations by the owner until both the Council, any other interested stakeholders and local residents are sighted and consulted on the proposed changes and correct permissions are sought. These actions are time critical.”

As the petition had been accepted, that became the motion which was deemed to have been seconded.

It was noted that since the publication of the report, there had been some further background information that Members should be aware of.

The detail of this was as follows:

'Since the publication of the Report, the Council's Planning and Conservation officer visited the Horse & Groom with Members of the Parish Council on 21st July following a request from the parish for the building to be listed and for the Council to serve a Building Preservation Notice.

A building preservation notice is a form of temporary listing and protects a building for up to 6 months. In this 6 month period, Historic England would assess the building and submit a report to the Secretary of State to consider whether to list the building formally.

Prior to serving a Building Preservation Notice the local authority must consult with Historic England.

During the visit on 21st July, the Planning and Conservation Officer observed that the building clearly had a historic core but has been substantially altered in the 20th Century. Due to the alterations, the building is, in their professional opinion, unlikely to be considered worthy of listing, however, the building has a notable 1930s phase, which includes bar fixtures and fittings which both the Council and CAMRA a Pub Heritage Group can identify historic interest in.

The Council are now engaging directly with Historic England in order to establish whether the building may merit listing and building preservation notice served.'

Members debated the motion and on being put to a vote, it was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED that:

Council have debated and accepted the petition actions.

33

TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ASKED BY THE PUBLIC UNDER PROCEDURAL RULE 7.7

Four questions were received from members of the public and two of the questioners were in attendance to ask their questions. The questions and answers were as follows:

- 1) Question to the Leader of the Council – Read by Mike Hill on behalf of Tahir Butt

NG5 area is one of the Biggest in Nottinghamshire. So, we believe the Arnold should also get the Tram link to town. Tram would help people of Arnold from all ages, connected areas and will also increase businesses opportunities means more jobs. What is your thought about this?

Response from Councillor Clarke:

Thank you for your question.

This Council has always supported the extension of the tram into Gedling, but unfortunately it is not within our control to do so.

The tram system is owned by Nottingham City Council and is operated and maintained by Nottingham Trams Ltd. In March of this year there was an announcement that the new East Midlands Mayor has provided £300,000 to commission a study into extending the NET network, with one option to extend into Gedling.

We very much support this, but realistically this could take many more years before we see anything on the ground. I will add that I am part of the NET board, as is Cllr Hollingsworth, and neither of us have been notified of the meetings that have taken place despite several requests to do so. I have also challenged this at county hall, as a county councillor, to try get and get us there as we know this would be a tremendous support to the people of Gedling and would boost our local economy.

2) Question to the Portfolio Holder for Health, Lifestyles and Wellbeing
– Asked by John Allen

Why are you considering spending vast sums of ratepayers' money moving leisure facilities to The Richard Herod Centre when it's such a difficult place to get to from Arnold by Public Transport?

Response from Councillor Clarke:

Our Leisure Strategy, the Strategic Outcomes Planning Model, has recommended the Council should consider two new sites when planning its leisure provision for years to come. This has been based on an analysis of current site age and maintenance liabilities, the performance of existing sites, and local population and market analysis. The Cabinet has agreed to consider feasibility work for both a new site in Carlton and a new site in Arnold.

The current priority for investment is a new Carlton site at the Richard Herrod Centre. This is based on the following:

- the current Carlton Forum Leisure Centre is 55 years old and has the more significant building maintenance challenges,
- we do not own Carlton Forum so investment in that site is restricted,
- the high community need in Carlton reflected in the high usage of the current Carlton Forum site.

Carlton Forum is our biggest leisure centre site supporting the wellbeing of residents across the wider area. In 2024/25 it had:

- over 550,000 visits, almost half the footfall across all our sites,
- 2,500 individual DNA members registered,
- almost 2,000 children on the swim scheme,
- income was £1.8m.

The risk of potential closure due to the age of the building would have a significant impact on Council finances, and the health and wellbeing of thousands of residents, so we have made the decision to prioritise our plans for developing new provision in the Carlton area.

As we consider our plans for a new Carlton site, we will use the development as an opportunity to advocate for better public transport options from across the Borough to the site. This will involve promoting the need for improved transport to the south of the Borough with our partners such as the East Midlands Combined County Authority Mayor.

We are still developing longer-term plans for leisure provision in Arnold through the Ambition Arnold regeneration programme. And of course, our sites at Arnold Leisure Centre and Redhill Leisure Centre remain open to the public.

3) Question to the Leader of the Council – Read by Mike Hill on behalf of Ronald Maddison

Why does Gedling council constantly only consider what is good for Arnold and the other areas under the councils' umbrella are the poor neighbours?

Response from Councillor Clarke:

Thank you for your question.

This Council is proud of all towns and villages within the Gedling boundary. The Council provides a wide array of services that impact on daily life for all its residents. These include waste management, street cleaning, planning, environmental protection, licensing, parks and open spaces, and so much more.

In terms of major investment, the Council does what it can to invest in the borough. Recent examples include:

- Calverton, where we have spent £1.5 million to provide further business start-up units at Hill Crest Business Park.
- Carlton, where plans have been launched to provide a new multi-million-pound leisure and wellbeing facility.
- Lambley Lane changing room and pitch renovation.
- Conway Road Tennis Court refurbishment.
- Play area investment across the borough.
- the Shared Prosperity Fund, where £2.8 million has been spent widely across the borough, including a £100,000 contribution to

Calverton Miners Welfare to facilitate the construction of a new 3G pitch.

- Shared Prosperity Funding has also provided targeted expenditure in the parished areas of Bestwood, Burton Joyce, Colwick, Newstead, Ravenshead, and St Albans, on top of borough-wide grants to support Local Business and further investment in People and Skills.
- A Government grant award of £20 million for the Greater Carlton Plan for Neighbourhoods which will be spent in the southern area of the borough over the next 10 years.
- All of this builds on the success of our award-winning Gedling Country Park which we are immensely proud of as a Council.

So, in answer to your question, I believe that this Council tries its best to support all areas of the borough equally.

4) Question to the Portfolio Holder for Health, Lifestyles and Wellbeing
– Asked by Jim Vernon

In light of the significant public concern, packed community protest meetings, and growing confusion surrounding the future of the Richard Herrod Centre site, the public require information on the following concerns:

1. Discussions or decisions which may have, or have not taken place – formally or informally – about ending or not renewing the Richard Herrod Bowling Club's lease
2. Steps the Council has taken to honour its own transparency commitments during the Max Associates consultation and any emerging redevelopment plans
3. Whether the Council is prepared to pause any decisions relating to the site or the bowling club until full public scrutiny, including site-specific proposals and leaseholder impacts, have been debated openly

The bowling club is a well-established community institution, run by volunteers, with deep roots in the borough. Many residents – including vulnerable pensioners – are now fearful they are being pushed out to make way for something they have never been properly consulted on.

Will the Council finally acknowledge this and commit to a fair, inclusive process before taking any irrevocable steps — or must concerned residents now begin preparing a formal call for an official investigation into the consultation process and treatment of leaseholders?

Response from Councillor Clarke:

Thank you for your question.

As regards what discussions have taken place:

The Council has been in dialogue with Gedling Indoor Bowls Club Committee for the past year and the lease arrangements have been discussed. The Bowls Club's current lease with the Council runs until 26 April 2026. A request from the Bowls Club Committee has been made to the Council for a new lease beyond April 2026, however the Club has been informed that this is currently not possible, while the Council considers its pre-construction feasibility planning for a new leisure and wellbeing facility on the Richard Herrod site.

Plans are being developed, and this will include a business case for the new development. This work should be completed by January 2026. It is imperative that a robust business case is established before Cabinet makes a decision to proceed with the development. Should that business case be agreed early next year, construction preparation work could commence on site from Spring 2026.

Therefore, the Council cannot currently commit to a lease beyond April 2026.

It is acknowledged that this may cause uncertainty for the Bowls Club and its members. The Council is committed to give clarity to the Bowls Club on the future direction of the site as early as it can do, during 2025. After which it will continue to work alongside the Bowls Club to consider future options.

As regards the consultation:

Max Associates are consultants that compiled the Council's Strategic Outcomes Planning Model during 2023, and the findings of this work was reported publicly to Cabinet in November 2023 and July 2024.

Consultation informed this work, which comprised of a public survey with over 600 responses, as well as 27 stakeholder consultations and 4 specific focus groups. There was additional engagement with local stakeholders, partners, sports clubs and National Governing Bodies for Sport. Both Gedling Indoor Bowls Club and England Indoor Bowls Association were consulted at that time and their feedback considered by the consultants.

The consultants recommended as part of the Strategy that the Council should consult further with Gedling Indoor Bowls Club to discuss a possible reduction in number of rinks at Richard Herrod Centre from 6 to 3.

In July 2024 Cabinet agreed to undertake pre-construction feasibility planning for a new Carlton Leisure and Community Wellbeing Centre and consult further with the public and stakeholders regarding its leisure transformation plans.

Since April 2025, the Council has been working with consultants Alliance Leisure to move forward with its feasibility planning. The Council does

not have the internal expertise or capacity to undertake this work alone. This involves:

- Reviewing the Strategic Outcomes Planning Model to ensure its evidence base is up to date - Max Associates will again be undertaking this.
- Public survey to which over 1,500 responses have been received.
- 20 separate stakeholder and community meetings seeking the views of local people and partners on a new leisure and wellbeing facility at Richard Herrod Centre.
- This has included two consultation meetings specifically for members of Gedling Indoor Bowls Club in June, at which attendees made it clear their preference was 6 rinks not 3.
- Consulting with National Governing Bodies for Sport and other strategic partners.

The insight gathered by both the Strategy review and the widespread community and stakeholder engagement would be used to inform a revised proposed layout for the new centre. It is expected that Cabinet will consider these plans in the Autumn.

As regards the bowls club:

The Council recognises the role Gedling Indoor Bowls Club has played over many years and the work it continues to do to offer indoor bowls to its users. This recognition has been influential in the support the Council has offered the Bowls Club since the Covid-19 pandemic.

This has included Covid-19 business support and re-start grants totalling £34,600 and Cabinet decisions agreeing to offer a significantly reduced rent to support the Club's finances during 2021 to 2024. This follows requests during that time from the Bowls Club for additional support to help manage their finances. The Club also benefits from 100% business case relief, agreed by the Council.

As part of the current consultation process, 2 focus groups were organised by the Council at Richard Herrod Centre specifically for Gedling Indoor Bowls Club members to attend on 23 June.

Over 200 people attended the 2 focus groups at which the context and proposals for the feasibility work planned for a new site were presented and an opportunity given for participants to share their thoughts, ideas and concerns with the Council about what facilities a new centre at Richard Herrod centre site might have.

The notes were recorded by Council officers and the Bowls Club Committee has also submitted to the Council a list of questions and comments raised at the focus groups, and afterwards, by its members and supporters. This feedback will be considered as we move forward with our proposals, alongside our wider engagement across the

community. The Council continues to meet regularly with the Bowls Club Committee and will share proposals with them as they are developed further. The Council is also engaging with England Indoor Bowls Association to understand the future business case for indoor bowls in Gedling.

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TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ASKED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER PROCEDURAL RULE 7.9

A question was asked of the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Growth and Economy by Councillor M Smith, as follows:

“Members have been repeatedly told in this chamber that there is a housing crisis in this country. This, along with all the problems that the country and the world are facing have previously been blamed on the Conservative government. However, Gedling Borough Council has the means to assist with alleviating some of the housing problems within the Borough, by using S106 contributions from housebuilders.

£560,567 was allocated by the developer of the Strata Homes site in Linby nine years ago, application 2014/0959. This money needs spending by 2026, otherwise the money will be returned to the developer. Whilst I am aware that officers know there is a time limit on this money, why has this not been spent before and used to alleviate some of the acute housing needs faced by those in this Borough? We either have a housing crisis, or we don't. This council's own website shows that in total there is £1,451,019 in the pot for affordable housing.

Officers have informed me that they are working on delivering affordable housing on sites in Netherfield and are looking to acquire properties for the same purpose. Those who purchased their home in Linby, nine years ago, would prefer to have seen this money spent locally to them, and certainly by now. Why the nine year delay and still nothing to show for the S106 contribution?”

Response from Councillor R Allan:

The council's new local plan will meet government housing targets, delivering more homes, including affordable ones, faster.

When approving planning applications, the council requires developers to provide affordable housing on site. Only in rare cases where on site provision isn't possible does the council negotiate a financial contribution instead following its affordable housing supplementary planning document.

The strata homes section 106 agreement allows funds to be spent boroughwide. The delay in using strata homes contribution is because the council doesn't manage its own housing stock. While developers have paid sums instead of providing affordable homes, buying and

managing just a few properties isn't practical or affordable without knowing future contributions.

With more funds now available, the council is exploring options to buy properties across the borough for social housing as allowed by section 106 agreements. This aligns with the upcoming housing strategy which will be consulted on after approval by the portfolio holder. All contributions will be spent by their deadlines. Thank you.

A question was asked of the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services (operations) by Councillor Bestwick, as follows:

“What is the current number of pavement sweepers deployable across the Borough, are they all currently operational and does the Cabinet Member feel certain this will be adequate during the autumn?”

Response from Councillor Paling:

At the current time the Council has 4 mechanical sweepers as part of the Council fleet. There are 2 large sweepers for roads, and 2 smaller sweepers for pavements. All four are operational at the current time. The two smaller sweepers have recently been procured as part of the fleet replacement programme, and as such there should be less maintenance issues and off-road time with these vehicles this year. In terms of vehicles, we have better, maybe not adequate, but better capacity for leaf drop season.

However, we need to note that all schedules are subject to change, especially in emergency situations such as flooding where the street care team's response is about deploying sandbags, clearing drainage grids and post event cleanups, which was an area of strength in the recent BDO internal audit report presented to the audit committee on the 24th of June. I'm sorry that we can't do both, but hopefully we will not have the same flooding this year and our vehicles may be adequate for leaf drop.

In addition to the new vehicles, the new Assistant Director of Environment (Operations) joined the Council this week. As part of the roll out of the Council's new in-cab/hand-held software system for frontline services, work is being undertaken in the Autumn to review street cleansing rounds and ensure they are accurately mapped as part of the implementation of the system which should improve efficiency of street cleansing. The system will enable us to identify and monitor hot spot areas which will need greater maintenance including heavy leaf fall areas to ensure adequate maintenance. This programme of work will be ongoing through the Autumn.

Finally, whilst we have the vehicles and equipment to deliver street cleansing, we need to ensure officer capacity so that all vehicles can be utilised appropriately. We have separated Street Care from Parks; to

instead combine with our Waste team so we can ensure effective management across the two areas with stronger focus on absence management, use of agency and performance.

A question was asked of the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection by Councillor Maltby, as follows:

“In a bid to help reduce ASB, CCTV was promised to be installed in Muirfield Park, Bestwood, but then installation plans were cancelled. Can you advise why and how we can work together and with the residents to get it installed?”

Response from Councillor D Ellis:

I assume that Councillor Maltby has read the annual CCTV monitoring report that cabinet considered on the 10th of July. But just to remind members, CCTV is regulated by the surveillance commissioner through the national statutory code of practice and locally is developed in compliance with the council's policy which was adopted in March 2020. This policy is designed to ensure that council's operation of CCTV in all its forms complies with the law and the principles of good governance.

As part of this, the policy requires that any operational changes to the systems are approved by the senior responsible officer. This includes any additional CCTV cameras or removal of cameras. These decisions should be evidence-based and balance the needs of crime prevention and detection with amongst others; the protection of freedoms act 2012. CCTV is one of a range of approaches to crime and social behaviour and surveillance needs to be considered in that wider context.

A surveillance camera was initially proposed by the council for Muirfield Recreation Ground in May 2022. At that time, the number and type of instances on the site indicated that one may be justified and relevant permissions were sought. However, there are a number of technical complexities with this proposed installation which delayed work on it and during this time officers observed a reduction in the number of reported incidents. As a result of these changed circumstances, the project was deferred.

It was kept on the agenda and the incidents of crime, both on and around recreation ground, were regularly reviewed. These reviews concluded that installing a camera would be disproportionate and not in line with the Protection of Freedom Act 2012 and its associated codes of practice.

This code of practice places a duty on systems owners to ensure that when cameras are deployed, officers carefully consider the balance between carrying out surveillance and safeguarding individual privacy and rights. And as such, officers were satisfied that that a camera would not be justified.

Officers also consulted with the local police inspector in April 2024, March 2025, and recently in July 2025 on the need for a camera. On all occasions, the local police agreed with the council officers that, taken into consideration the nature and incidents, that a permanent CCTV camera would be seen as an unreasonable and disproportionate intervention. The site will however be kept under review.

As members and residents would expect Mr Mayor you can be assured that the local labour member for Bestwood St Alban's ward actively engages with local residents and the parish council and very much ensures I'm personally aware of local concerns that come to her attention. The message has to be that the decision to introduce a new CCTV camera has to be evidence-based and that at present the evidence is not sufficient just to justify it. Residents should ensure that any antisocial behaviour, crimes, or similar incidents they're aware of are reported to provide the evidence base.

A question was asked of the Portfolio Holder for Lifestyles, Health and Wellbeing by Councillor Walker, as follows:

“Can the Cabinet Member for Public Health assure me that Calverton Leisure Centre will remain open under Labour's 'Leisure Transformation' plans?”

Response from Councillor Clarke:

As part of the leisure transformation programme, we will be looking at the ongoing business case for all our leisure sites, and this includes those governed under joint use agreements at Carlton Academy, Redhill Academy and Colonel Frank Seeley Academy. These are sites the Council does not own, so our ability to ensure ongoing maintenance and options for future development are very limited as a result.

All our sites are ageing in their nature, so ensuring a sustainable model for future delivery to safeguard leisure services across the borough for years to come is essential. We are therefore updating our Strategic Outcomes Planning Model Strategy with the most up to date community, financial, market and business data to understand the future business case for each of our leisure sites as we plan for the future. Once this review is complete, we will consider options for future provision, balancing business and community need.

At this stage Calverton Leisure Centre remains open for business as usual, and Council has agreed the operational budget to do this for 2025/26. Any future change to joint use agreements with Nottinghamshire County Council and Redhill Academy Trust will require consultation with the public.

A question was asked of the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Growth and Economy by Councillor Adams, as follows:

“Can the cabinet member for Sustainable Growth and Economy please direct us to the planning application number, decision notice or if not available, the authoriser for the June 4th raising of the Pride Progress flag at Gedling Borough Council?”

Response from Councillor Robinson-Payne:

To answer your question Councillor Adams, the application number is 2025/0458, which I now believe has been approved by Gedling Borough Council.

A supplementary question was asked by Councillor Adams to ascertain whether the Cabinet member would confirm if they would be referring themselves to standards following a breach of planning regulations.

Response from Councillor Robinson-Payne:

As mayor, I made it clear at annual council in May that the theme of my year would be inclusivity. That means making a conscious effort to represent all the people who live in our borough, not just those who share our own personal views, but everyone. It includes standing up for residents who are too often marginalized or made to feel unwelcome, including members of the LGBTQ plus community.

Flying the Progress Pride flag at the Civic Centre was a deliberate and symbolic act as part of that commitment. The progress pride flag is an evolution of the original rainbow flag designed specifically to better reflect the full diversity of the LGBTQ plus community including trans people and people of colour and to acknowledge the ongoing struggle for equality. It ensures that all members of the community are recognized and included.

As someone who's been on the receiving end of homophobia throughout my life, and yes, even now while serving as your mayor of this borough, I can tell you that visible support from those in positions of responsibility matters. It sends a powerful message of solidarity and reassurance, especially to those who may not always feel safe or accepted. That said, I do recognize the technical requirement for planning permission to fly certain flags. To that end, I asked our officers to put in place the necessary permissions to fly the progress pride flag in future years.

This is about more than what's on a flag pole. It's about who we are as a community. One that chooses kindness, inclusion, and respect for all. That's a message I will always be proud to stand behind as the mayor of Gedling borough and an ordinary citizen just like everyone else. Thank you.

A question was asked of the Portfolio Holder for Environment Services (Operations) by Councillor S Smith, as follows:

“Fly-tipping on Catts Lane, Stoke Bardolph, is a far too regular occurrence. Will the Cabinet Member finally commit her department to working alongside Cllr Adams, the Parish Council and me in ensuring Gedling Borough Council fund and install CCTV on Catts Lane to prosecute and deter those fly-tipping at this hotspot?”

Response from Councillor D Ellis:

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I'll answer this question as it relates more to my portfolio.

Councillor Smith will remember our previous discussions about this problem. We all recognize that fly tipping is a particular problem on the Stoke Lane/Cats Lane area of Stoke Bardolph and something which residents are rightly concerned about.

However, that doesn't mean that CCTV is the answer or is appropriate. I'm advised that a fixed camera would have a limited coverage and is unlikely to view specific areas where offenses occur. Such a camera would need to be visible and consequently risk displacing officers to monitor nearby locations and a single fixed camera will be of limited value. The topography of the area also means that the transmission pathways will be a challenge and incur additional cost.

The council responds to reports of fly tipping in the area and, as well as removing them, monitors the level and type of incident. Officers consider that the incidence of fly tipping in the area does not meet the test of significant harm, vulnerability or community impact that would warrant this level of intervention. Most CCTV cameras across the borough have multiple functions such as detecting antisocial behaviour and crime, whereas a camera in this location would serve a single environmental purpose which further reduces the justification for an installation.

Following years of austerity and cut to our resources, we are no longer able to sustain the neighbourhood warden service. With the larger budget that was there previously, the council was able to be more active, including using mobile covert cameras. This was used extensively around Cats Lane with a significant number of fixed penalty notices being issued. We are currently in the process of commissioning a private provider to act as enforcement partners on environmental crime, including fly tipping. Residents can be assured that the area is a known hotspot and will be on the agenda for enforcement activity in the future. Thank you.

A question was asked of the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Growth and Economy by Councillor Whiting, as follows:

“The Public Space Protection Order aimed at anti-social car cruisers has improved the situation over the past two years, but there are still incidents of car meets and breaches of the Order. Will Gedling support the extension of the PSPO and ensure that everything is in place before the current Order expires in 2026?”

Response by Councillor D Ellis:

Thank you, Mr Mayor. Members will recall that the council introduced a PSPO to address nuisance from vehicles and people engaged in car cruising activities. The order was made after consideration of the evidence and consultation and lasts for 3 years until the 22nd of June 2026. There is scope within the order for an extension of a further three years if the circumstances at the time justify it.

Both the police and officers from the team believe that the PSPO has been an effective tool in combating the problem of car related ASB, although there are still incidents reported. Consequently, officers from the council's public protection and legal teams have already met to discuss the extension to PSPO and begun the review process and will report to cabinet in the coming months with proposals relating to the extension. Thank you.

A question was asked of the Leader of the Council by Councillor Whiting, as follows:

“Is Gedling Borough Council currently using Artificial Intelligence for any functions of the Council, and what plans are there to use AI in the future?”

Response by Councillor Clarke:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is currently utilised in a limited capacity within Gedling Borough Council. The primary application of AI thus far has been in assisting with content creation for officers, such as summarising meetings and generating documents. It is important to note that AI is not used for any decision-making processes, and no personally identifiable or sensitive information is exposed to AI tools.

The council are currently working on an AI policy that is underpinned by guiding principles to ensure officers are using tools appropriately and compliantly.

Looking ahead, the Council intends to harness AI's potential to enhance efficiency and customer service where appropriate. Some anticipated applications include:

- Optimising Customer Access channels
- Summarising large amounts of data
- Document and content creation
- Automating repetitive tasks

- Monitoring trends to provide meaningful data for decision-making
- Research applications

As software suppliers integrate AI functionalities into their products, the Council will evaluate these enhancements on a case-by-case basis. This evaluation will be conducted by the Business and Technical Design Authority board to ensure any AI adoption aligns with the Council's strategic goals and complies with our governance.

While the Council recognises the significant opportunities presented by AI, the safety and security of our data remain our top priorities. Any implementation of AI will be carefully considered to uphold these principles.

A question was asked of the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Growth and Economy by Councillors Meads, as follows:

“The CIL public consultation was conducted in February this year, when will we be presented with the results and why has it taken so long?”

Response from Councillor R Allan:

Thank you. A report with feedback and recommendations for updating the community infrastructure levy project list will be reviewed by the cabinet member later this year as planned in the consultation documents. Officers are targeting the September meeting, and the forward plan has been updated to reflect this.

35

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE OR A COMMITTEE (PROCEDURAL RULE 7.10)

(a) ANNUAL TREASURY ACTIVITY REPORT 2024/25

RESOLVED that:

Members approve the Annual Treasury Activity Report for 2024/25, as required by the regulations.

(b) BUDGET OUTTURN AND BUDGET CARRY FORWARDS 2024/25

RESOLVED that:

Members approve:

- i. The overall method of financing of the 2024/25 capital expenditure; and
- ii. The determination of the minimum revenue provision for the repayment of debt

(c) EXTERNAL AUDIT FEES FOR THE 2024/25 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that:

Members:

- i. Approve the additional budget required of £88,549 for the 2024/25 External Audit Scale fees; and
- ii. Note the grants received from MHCLG in response to the Redmond review and rebuilding assurance

36 UPDATING PARKS AND OPEN SPACES BYELAWS

RESOLVED that:

Council:

- i. Notes the content of the Regulatory Assessment at Appendix 4 and the Consultation Report at Appendix 5; and
- ii. Approves the publishing of the statement of regulatory assessment at Appendix 6 in line with the 2016 Regulations; and
- iii. Delegates authority to the Director of Operations to make any minor amendments to any documents prior to advertising; and
- iv. Approves that the proposed Scheme be sent to the SoS for approval with the supporting documentation in line with the 2016 Regulations; and
- v. Authorises officers to undertake the necessary publication requirements (publication for a period of at least 28 days) in line with the 2016 Regulations should approval be granted by the SoS

37 CHANGES TO POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

RESOLVED that:

The following changes to representation on committees, be approved:

- i. Remove Councillor Elliot from Environment & Licensing Committee
- ii. Remove Councillor Elliott from Licensing Act Committee
- iii. Add Councillor Meads to Environment & Licensing Committee
- iv. Add Councillor Meads to Licensing Act Panel
- v. Add Councillors Whiting and Meads to Standards Committee
- vi. Remove Councillor Catherine Pope from Joint Consultative & Safety Committee
- vii. Add Councillor Elliott to Joint Consultative & Safety Committee
- ix. Remove Councillor Elliott from Standards Committee
- x. Add Councillor Adams to Standards Committee

- xi. Remove Councillor Adams from Appeals & Retirement Committee
- xii. Add Councillor Maltby to Appeals & Retirement Committee

38 APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED that:

The updated appointment of representatives to Outside Bodies be approved.

39 NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE TO POLICY ADVISORS

RESOLVED that:

The changes to Policy Holders be noted.

40 TO CONSIDER COMMENTS, OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN, UNDER PROCEDURAL RULE 7.11

No comments or issues were raised.

41 TO CONSIDER MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURAL RULE 7.12

None.

The meeting finished at 7.47 pm

Signed by Chair:
Date: