

MINUTES COUNCIL

Wednesday 12 November 2025

Councillor Kyle Robinson-Payne (Mayor)

Present:	Councillor Pauline Allan	Councillor Darren Maltby
	Councillor Roy Allan	Councillor Ron McCrossen
	Councillor Jane Allen	Councillor Viv McCrossen
	Councillor Stuart Bestwick	Councillor Andrew Meads
	Councillor David Brocklebank	Councillor Julie Najuk
	Councillor John Clarke	Councillor Marje Paling
	Councillor Jim Creamer	Councillor Lynda Pearson
	Councillor Andrew Dunkin	Councillor Sue Pickering
	Councillor Boyd Elliott	Councillor Catherine Pope
	Councillor David Ellis	Councillor Grahame Pope
	Councillor Rachael Ellis	Councillor Alex Scroggie
	Councillor Roxanne Ellis	Councillor Martin Smith
	Councillor Andrew Ellwood	Councillor Sam Smith
	Councillor Paul Feeney	Councillor Ruth Strong
	Councillor Kathryn Fox	Councillor Clive Towsey-Hinton
	Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth	Councillor Henry Wheeler
	Councillor Paul Hughes	Councillor Russell Whiting
	Councillor Alison Hunt	Councillor Paul Wilkinson

Absent: Councillor Sandra Barnes, Councillor Michael Adams, Councillor Helen Greensmith and Councillor Michael Payne

58 THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The Mayor's chaplain read an extract from the ancient book of Ecclesiastes, which centred the idea of giving to those less fortunate.

59 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adams, Barnes, Greensmith and Payne.

60 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor spoke about the recent community events he had attended across the borough, noting his particular pleasure to have hosted a quiz night for his charity which had raised over £4,000. He gave several thanks to those who had helped to make the event such a success.

He also noted that he had recently joined the UK delegation visit to Auschwitz to commentate the anniversary of Kristallnacht, the night of broken glass.

61 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2025

RESOLVED:

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

62 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Maltby declared as interest in relation to a member question at item 9 as he was a veteran that could potentially receive support from the council.

63 YOUTH COUNCIL WHITE RIBBON PRESENTATION

Representatives of the Youth Council gave a presentation to members about domestic abuse from a youth perspective, how members could help and what White Ribbon Day was.

They explained that White Ribbon Day was an international day of action to end violence against women and girls, with a particular focus on men and boys to be allies by making the 'White Ribbon promise'. It was noted that 25 November began the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence.

64 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 1021 residents of the borough and related to the leisure transformation programme and how this impacted the indoor bowls facility at the Richard Herrod Centre.

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

"This petition is submitted with a request that the Council reconsider its plans as part of their Leisure Transformation Programme impacting the Indoor Bowls facility at the Richard Herrod Centre. The signatories to the petition call on Gedling Borough Council to:

- 1. Reinstate, retain and protect indoor bowling as part of its facility mix within the proposed redevelopment of the Richard Herrod Centre*
- 2. Recognise that by working with the Directors of Gedling Indoor Bowls Centre Limited and the English Indoor Bowls Association a financially viable and sustainable model with the inclusion of indoor bowls can be achieved*
- 3. Pro-actively recognise and promote the proven mental and physical wellbeing benefits of indoor bowling"*

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.

65

TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ASKED BY THE PUBLIC UNDER PROCEDURAL RULE 7.7

One question was received from a member of the public, who was unable to attend to ask their question.

The question and answer were as follows:

1) Question to the Leader of the Council

Greater Carlton Neighbourhood Board is overseeing the delivery of £20 million in government funding to improve Carlton and surrounding areas. It goes without saying this a huge opportunity for Gedling - local involvement and insights from local residents will be crucial to make it a success.

At the June meeting of the Board, it was discussed that there will be some promotion done in the summer (2025) to raise the Board's profile.

Given the next meeting minutes mention their engagement had 'not had a significant response rate' is the Leader worried on behalf of Gedling residents that the board is failing to engage residents well?

Response from Councillor Clarke:

Thank you for your question.

The Greater Carlton Town Neighbourhood Board is community led and comprises of 16 Members including Michael Payne MP and David Stewart, who is the Chairperson. I also sit on the Board and I'm grateful for the temporary cover provided by Cllr Creamer. The other Board Members include of a range of key stakeholders and volunteer representatives from the local community and business.

The Regeneration Plan and 4 Year Investment Plan was approved at the last Board meeting, and our Cabinet will be asked to do the same next week, as the Council is the accountable body. The Board under the leadership of David Stewart has listened closely to the voices of our communities and businesses. I have no concern about engagement - through extensive consultation, including surveys, workshops with young people, and direct engagement with local organisations, the Board has gained a deep understanding of both the barriers and the aspirations that shape the Greater Carlton area.

I know that each member of the Board feels a profound responsibility to create the conditions which enable Greater Carlton to thrive. The 10-year vision is clear: to make Greater Carlton a place where everyone can live well, dream big, and shape their own future.

Communication and promotion will be an ongoing priority for the Board as it prepares to delivery from April 2026. The Board are excited about working with partners to ensure that residents and stakeholders have opportunities to hear about progress. The Board has plans to continually review our engagement with the community and explore ways to extend the reach of the programme.

66

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 Cllr Stuart Bestwick, as follows:

Further to the Cabinet's report regarding the implementation of Article 4 on HMO conversions in December 2022 which stated, '*There is still currently insufficient evidence to demonstrate an Article 4 direction is necessary to protect local amenities or the wellbeing of the Netherfield ward.*' And '*The situation should, however, be monitored to ensure that a proliferation of HMOs does not emerge. [This is] in any particular locality or the Netherfield ward as a whole, which might then justify further that consideration of an Article 4 direction is required.*' Could the Cabinet Member advise what monitoring has been undertook and do they agree with me that, as a result of a large increase in HMOs across our Borough, now is the time to introduce Article 4 to provide this Council, its Planning Committee and our residents with greater control over decisions relating to HMO conversions?

Response by Cllr Hollingsworth:

Following the report to Cabinet in December 2022 a further report setting out an updated position was presented to Cabinet on 4 September 2025. The assessment of the composition of the housing stock in Netherfield undertaken at that time identified that only 0.44%, a total of 14 properties out of 3120, are HMOs. The report therefore concluded that there was insufficient evidence to demonstrate that an Article 4 direction or any other measure is necessary to protect local amenity or the well-being of the Netherfield Ward.

It was resolved that Cabinet:

(1) Agreed that there was insufficient evidence to demonstrate that an Article 4 direction or any other measure be necessary to protect local amenity or the well-being of the Netherfield Ward.

(2) Agreed that the overall number of HMOs in the Netherfield Ward should be monitored.

(3) Agreed that a new boroughwide report for HMOs be brought before the committee within the next three months.

The Boroughwide report is currently being progressed by officers and is on the Forward Plan for consideration by Cabinet in January 2026.

A question was asked of the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Natural Habitat by Cllr Sam Smith, as follows:

Further to our Overview & Scrutiny meeting in October, could you please update council on the results of the audit and implementation of measures, such as bunds, to help mitigate vehicle and caravan access to the play parks and fields across Gedling Borough, particularly at Burton Road's Jubilee Park and Carlton's Richard Herrod Centre field?

Response by Cllr Viv McCrossen:

It goes without saying that we take this very seriously in terms of our open spaces and our parks. We know that our open spaces are open for everybody, and we know how worrying and how disruptive the devastation that's often left if we do get an encampment. We are blessed in the borough because we have 52 open spaces, 32 parks, and that equates to 708 hectares of land. We are very vigilant around trying to secure them.

So, to secure private land in the UK from unauthorized traveling encampments, landlords are allowed to implement physical preventative measures. These measures can include gating, which is installing strong robust metal gates at all authorized access points using toughened steel padlocks, which are preferably boxed in to prevent them from being easily forced open with angle grinders.

We can heighten barriers, combining gates with heightened barriers to deter caravans and large vehicles from entering. We can use natural obstacles using natural resources such as trees, water features, ditches, and ponds to make access difficult. We can use bollards and heavy blocks - install bollards that are very heavy concrete blocks at vulnerable entrance points to ensure that they are heavy enough that they cannot be moved easily off or towed away.

We can use fencing, installing appropriate fencing around perimeters. While costly, it acts as an efficient visible deterrent and physical barrier. And we can use of course security cameras. Although potentially very costly, security cameras and guards can be effective.

In terms of our parks and open spaces specifically, like I say, the council has responsibility for 708 hectares of open space. The council has been

highly successful in implementing traveller hardened measures in the past and these have been introduced in many of our areas. Although we have seen recently new ways to gain access, we will always sadly be found. A recent audit of these sites identified that many of these measures are already in place but that we that we will always do more, funding permitted. The audit showed a number of areas that may be worth further consideration. Please be assured that the council will continue to do all we can to ensure these resources are used to the maximum effect, using the resources that are available to us.

Regarding the specific sites of Burton Road, Jubilee Park and Richard Herrod Centre Field, the park's operation manager has visited these to reassess opportunities for further mitigation. We have swiftly actioned these and work today includes an additional post has been installed at the Richard Herrod site to close off a gap. New bollards have been installed at the Carlton Forum site, and we have engaged with Severn Trent to ensure that a separate access point to Jubilee Park is secured.

Unfortunately, in the most recent case, access is being gained through existing gates and barriers which are routinely locked and secured by our parks team. This makes measures for target hardening these sites more difficult as more expensive solutions would not have prevented access on these occasions. Instead, the team remained vigilant in checking for any damage to locks and gates to ensure they remain secure and in situ to restrict any further unauthorized accessed attempts.

A question was asked of the Leader of the Council by Cllr Darren Maltby, as follows:

Following a recent motion submitted by the Conservative Group and given that there are approximately 832 veterans residing in Gedling who could benefit from the Council's recent update to exclude Armed Forces Disability Payments, including Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support, Discretionary Housing Payments and Disabled Facilities Grants, from income assessments for local welfare benefits, can the Leader of the Council confirm how many veterans have actually benefited from this policy change to date and outline what steps are being taken to ensure that all eligible veterans and their families are made aware of, and able to access, the additional support now available to them?

Response by Cllr Clarke:

I am happy to confirm that Gedling Borough Council automatically disregards Armed Forces Disability Payments of all types when assessing entitlement to Council Tax Support, Housing Benefit and Disabled Facilities Grants.

We currently have ten veterans who are receiving Council Tax Support through a disregard of their Armed Forces Disability Payment under our local scheme. Of these ten veterans, two were also receiving Housing Benefit but have since migrated across to Universal Credit managed by the Department for Work and Pensions, ending the Council's involvement. However, I am pleased to say that the DWP also disregards their Armed Forces Disability Payment from their Universal Credit calculations.

The Discretionary Armed Forces Personnel, Veterans and Immediate Family Disabled Facilities Grant policy was formally adopted by the Council on 24 September 2025, alongside the revised Private Sector Housing Grants and Assistance Policy 2025. So far, we are working with one ex-armed forces applicant for a Disabled Facilities Grant, and we are considering the best option for them to achieve the maximum grant assistance from us.

In terms of Discretionary Housing Payments, these are different as they are designed to sit on top of benefit and be a short term resolution for households in financial hardship. By their very nature they are a discretionary allowance assessed on both household income and expenditure. The Council allows for an individual in receipt of Armed Forces Disability Payment to receive a Discretionary Housing Payment if financial hardship is demonstrated. Unfortunately, our system does not have the facility to report on individual claims, so it has not been possible to provide statistics on the number of veterans currently in receipt of such a payment.

It is clear that out of approximately 832 veterans residing in Gedling very few are currently receiving entitlement to Council support. This does not mean they have been turned down as our policies are designed to facilitate support. However, we can always do more, and we are currently reviewing our website and processes for further promotion of support to veterans. More generally, Disabled Facilities Grants will be promoted in the Christmas edition of Contacts which will soon be circulated to all households in the Borough.

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

None.

68 UPDATE TO THE CONTRACT AND PROCUREMENT RULES

RESOLVED that:

The updates to the Contract and Procurement Rules for implementation into the Constitution, be approved.

69 CHANGES TO COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS

RESOLVED that:

The following changes to representation on committees, be approved:

- 1) Remove Councillor Roxanne Ellis from Environment & Licensing Committee
- 2) Remove Councillor Roxanne Ellis from Licensing Act Committee
- 3) Remove Councillor Roxanne Ellis from Joint Consultative & Safety Committee
- 4) Remove Councillor Roxanne Ellis from Appeals & Retirement Committee
- 5) Add Councillor Rachael Ellis to Joint Consultative & Safety Committee
- 6) Add Councillor Creamer to Environment & Licensing Committee
- 7) Add Councillor Creamer to Licensing Act Panel
- 8) Add Councillor Sam Smith to Appeals & Retirement Committee

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

Members raised a question about the link to see details of delegated decisions – it was noted this would be resolved shortly.

71 TO CONSIDER MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURAL RULE 7.12

None.

The meeting finished at 7.33 pm

Signed by Chair:

Date: