

MINUTES COUNCIL

Wednesday 31 January 2018

Councillor Viv McCrossen (Mayor)

Present: Councillor Barbara Miller
Councillor Michael Adams
Councillor Bruce Andrews
Councillor Pauline Allan
Councillor Peter Barnes
Councillor Chris Barnfather
Councillor Denis Beeston MBE
Councillor Alan Bexon
Councillor Tammy Bisset
Councillor Nicki Brooks
Councillor Jim Creamer
Councillor Kevin Doyle
Councillor Boyd Elliott
Councillor David Ellis
Councillor Roxanne Ellis
Councillor Andrew Ellwood
Councillor Paul Feeney
Councillor Gary Gregory
Councillor Helen Greensmith
Councillor Sarah Hewson
Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth
Councillor Meredith Lawrence
Councillor Marje Paling
Councillor John Parr
Councillor Michael Payne
Councillor Stephen Poole
Councillor Colin Powell
Councillor Alex Scroggie
Councillor Paul Stirland
Councillor Jane Walker
Councillor Muriel Weisz
Councillor Henry Wheeler
Councillor Paul Wilkinson

Absent: Councillor Emily Bailey Jay, Councillor Sandra Barnes, Councillor Bob Collis, Councillor John Clarke, Councillor Kathryn Fox, Councillor Carol Pepper and Councillor John Truscott

47 OPENING PRAYERS.

A minute's silence was held following the sad passing of Alderman, and former Leader of the Council, Ivan Gollop. Members paid tribute to Alderman Gollop's strength and bravery in dealing with his illness. Members noted Alderman Gollop's passion for environmental issues, including his creation and chairmanship of the Gedling Climate Change group, and felt that it was fitting to pay tribute to Alderman Gollop and debate the issue of single use plastic on the same evening.

Councillor Lawrence also paid tribute to local activist Martin Lloyd-Penny and Pastor Barry Drake who had also recently passed.

The Mayor's Chaplain delivered opening prayers.

48 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bailey Jay, Sandra Barnes, Clarke, Collis, Fox, Pepper, Truscott and Wheeler.

49 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Mayor remarked that the Borough had looked stunning in December and congratulated everyone who had been involved in installing the Christmas decorations. The Mayor also commented that the Arnold Christmas market had been superb. Westdale Junior School had visited the Civic Centre to sing carols and had been amazing.

The Mayor noted that she was always impressed by the level of volunteering in the Borough and encouraged Councillors to submit nominations for Pride of Gedling Awards, particularly in the "Young Achiever" and "Best Neighbour" categories.

The Christmas Pantomime, in which the Mayor had starred as Dick Whittington, had been a sell out and raised £1500.

The Mayor reminded Members that the Civic Dinner would be taking place at Bestwood Lodge Hotel on the 24th of March and that it would soon be sold out.

The Mayor recognised the work of Economic Development Officer, Julie Beresford, in securing training opportunities around the Borough. The Mayor also informed Members that Lee Drury of local business Drury Joinery Services had won the European Alliance Award in the micro organisation category in Brussels for his work with apprentices. Councillors Clarke and Weisz had presented Lee with an award at the Council.

The Mayor informed Members that the motions proposed in relation to single-use plastic, would be considered at the beginning of the meeting, following declarations of interest.

50 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 NOVEMBER 2017.

RESOLVED:

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

51 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

None.

52 TO CONSIDER MOTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 12.

Councillor Greensmith entered the meeting.

The Mayor invited Amy and Ella Meeks of Kids Against Plastic to present to Council on their work to increase awareness of the environmental impact of single use plastic and reduce its use.

Upon a notice of motion received in the name of Councillor Adams, a proposition was moved by Councillor Adams and seconded by Councillor Barnfather in the following terms:

“That this Council will become a “single-use plastic free” Council by phasing out the use of “single use plastic” (SUP) products such as bottles, cups, cutlery and drinking straws in council activities, where it is reasonable to do so, by April 2018 and to encourage our facilities’ users, local businesses and other local public agencies to do the same, by championing alternatives, such as reusable water bottles”

An amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Payne and seconded by Councillor Hollingsworth in the following terms:

“Preamble to amendment

Since the beginning of the 20th century plastic has become the most commonly used material and modern life is unthinkable without it. Unfortunately, what makes it so useful, such as its durability, light weight and low cost, also makes it problematic when it comes to its end of life phase.

The world’s annual consumption of plastic materials has increased from around 5 million tonnes in the 1950s to nearly 300 million tonnes today.¹ The amount of plastic waste generated annually in the UK is estimated to be nearly 5 million tonnes.² Most families throw away about 40kg of plastic per year, which could otherwise be recycled.

According to recent scientific research, eight million metric tons of plastic waste makes its way into the world’s oceans each year.³ The same report predicts that the amount of plastic debris is likely to increase greatly over the next decade unless nations take strong measures to dispose of their litter responsibly.

The consequences of plastic pollution on the marine environment are severe. Once in the ocean, plastic waste injures and kills fish, seabirds and marine mammals. Marine plastic pollution has impacted at least 267 species worldwide, including 86% of all sea turtle species, 44% of all seabird species and 43% of all marine mammal species. The impacts include fatalities as a result of ingestion, starvation, suffocation, infection, drowning, and entanglement.⁴

Moreover, plastic is not inert and chemical additives, some of them endocrine disruptors, can migrate into body tissue and enter the food chain ultimately ending up on our plates.

The massive pollution of world oceans with plastic debris has therefore emerged as a global challenge that requires both global and local response. Gedling should be a showcase for how to build a coherent strategy to optimize plastic waste policy.

Residents, independent groups and organisations in the borough are already taking direct action to prevent existing plastic litter and use of single-use plastics. However the amount of litter is increasing and clear action is needed to stop this pollution at source.

Single-use plastics, or disposable plastics, are used only once before they are thrown away or recycled. These items are things like plastic bags, straws, coffee stirrers, soda and water bottles and most food packaging.

All Members of Council will no doubt be aware of the fantastic work that is being done by Amy and Ella Meek of Arnold, to raise awareness about the damaging global impact of plastics in our oceans. Amy, 14 and Ella, 12 founded the campaign Kids Against Plastics two years ago to promote a better understanding about the environmental effects of single-use plastics. As well as personally getting their hands dirty picking up litter from the country's coastlines, Amy and Ella have been encouraging cafes to become 'plastics clever', including in their home town of Arnold.

Proposed amendment:

Gedling Borough Council therefore:

1. Thanks and congratulates Amy and Ella Meek for their amazing efforts to date to reduce single-use plastics.
2. Supports Amy and Ella in raising awareness of this important environmental issue across the borough and in encouraging local businesses and other partners to pledge their commitment to reduce single-use plastics

This Council will:

1. Declare Gedling Borough Council will become a 'single-use plastic clever' Council taking immediate steps to phase out the use of 'single use plastics' within all of the Council's facilities where it is reasonable to do so—and develop a robust strategy that encourages and enables the borough's institutions, businesses and residents to adopt similar measures.

This will require changes in policy, strong leadership and championing from Gedling Borough Council around reducing

our reliance on and use of single-use plastics (SUPs). Specifically:

- Phase out, with a view to ending all sales of SUP bottles in Gedling Borough Council buildings and phase out their use at all events hosted in Gedling Borough Council owned buildings, both public and private.
 - Phase out the use of other SUP products in Gedling Borough Council owned buildings starting with (but not limited to) 'disposable' cups, cutlery and drinking straws.
 - Work with the Council's Community Relations team and create policy in which single-use 'disposable' plastic cups are replaced at all borough events with reusable or deposit scheme cups. This will ultimately be a condition for obtaining the Council's permission, as landowner, to hold large scale events on its land.
 - Work with tenants in Gedling Borough Council offices and commercial properties to phase out SUP bottles, cups, cutlery and straws.
 - Launch an annual plastic free challenge month in July 2018 and encourage, enable and aid all councillors, employees, residents, community groups, organisations and businesses in the borough to engage with it.
 - Introduce a number of public drinking water fountains in the borough.
2. Write to the Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council requesting the County Council's support and positive action on the issues raised in this motion.
 3. Request the Chief Executive to investigate and report back to Members on the impact on Gedling Borough Council of the Chinese Government's ban on imports of millions of tonnes of plastic waste, particularly given the fact British companies have shipped more than 1.5m tonnes of plastic waste to China since 2012.⁵

Amendment Proposed: Councillor Michael Payne

Amendment Seconded: Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth

Sources

1. *Plastic Pollution, Introduction, Claire Le Guern Lytle*
(<http://plastic-pollution.org/>)
2. *The Waste & Resources Action Programme.* (www.wrap.org.uk)
3. J. Jambeck, "Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean."
(2015)
[<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/347/6223/768>]
4. D.W. Laist, "Impacts of marine debris: entanglement of marine life in marine debris including a comprehensive list of species with entanglement and ingestion records," in Coe, J.M. Rogers, D.B. (eds), *Marine Debris: Sources, Impacts, and Solutions: Springer-Verlag, New York, (1997) 99-139.*
5. *Chinese ban on plastic waste imports could see UK pollution rise,*
[<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/dec/07/chinese-ban-on-plastic-waste-imports-could-see-uk-pollution-rise>] *The Guardian (7 December 2017)*

And it was

RESOLVED:

That the Council:

1. thank and congratulate Amy and Ella Meek for their amazing efforts to date to reduce single-use plastics.
2. Support Amy and Ella in raising awareness of this important environmental issue across the borough and in encouraging local businesses and other partners to pledge their commitment to reduce single-use plastics
3. Will declare Gedling Borough Council will become a 'single-use plastic clever' Council taking immediate steps to phase out the use of 'single use plastics' within all of the Council's facilities where it is reasonable to do so—and develop a robust strategy that encourages and enables the borough's institutions, businesses and residents to adopt similar measures.

This will require changes in policy, strong leadership and championing from Gedling Borough Council around reducing our reliance on and use of single-use plastics (SUPs). Specifically:

- Phase out, with a view to ending all sales of SUP bottles in Gedling Borough Council buildings and phase out their use at all events hosted in Gedling Borough Council owned buildings, both public and private.
- Phase out the use of other SUP products in Gedling Borough Council owned buildings starting with (but not

limited to) 'disposable' cups, cutlery and drinking straws.

- Work with the Council's Community Relations team and create policy in which single-use 'disposable' plastic cups are replaced at all borough events with reusable or deposit scheme cups. This will ultimately be a condition for obtaining the Council's permission, as landowner, to hold large scale events on its land.
 - Work with tenants in Gedling Borough Council offices and commercial properties to phase out SUP bottles, cups, cutlery and straws.
 - Launch an annual plastic free challenge month in July 2018 and encourage, enable and aid all councillors, employees, residents, community groups, organisations and businesses in the borough to engage with it.
 - Introduce a number of public drinking water fountains in the borough.
4. Will write to the Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council requesting the County Council's support and positive action on the issues raised in this motion.
 5. Will request the Chief Executive to investigate and report back to Members on the impact on Gedling Borough Council of the Chinese Government's ban on imports of millions of tonnes of plastic waste, particularly given the fact British companies have shipped more than 1.5m tonnes of plastic waste to China since 2012.⁵

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

None received.

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

None received.

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

None received.

CROSS BORDER TAXI LICENSING ENFORCEMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Service Manager, Public Protection, seeking approval to delegate taxi licensing enforcement powers to other authorities across Nottinghamshire and approval of delegations to the Director of Health and Community Wellbeing to appoint authorised Officers to undertaken enforcement activity on behalf of other authorities as set out in the report and appendices.

RESOLVED to:

1. Approve the delegation of taxi-licensing enforcement functions under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1976, as set out to those licensing authorities listed, subject to those authorities accepting the delegation;
2. Accept reciprocal delegations as set out from those licensing authorities listed once those delegations have been given;
3. Authorise the Director of Health and Community Wellbeing to appoint authorised officers to carry out enforcement functions under the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976, transferred to this authority by the authorities listed subject to those authorities delegating those functions to Gedling Borough Council;
4. Authorise the Director of Health and Community Wellbeing in consultation with the Director of Organisational Development and Democratic Services to finalise and sign the Protocol; and
5. Authorise the Director of Organisational Development and Democratic Services to make the necessary changes to the Constitution to reflect the approved delegations.

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL - REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2018/19

Councillor Bissett left the meeting.

Consideration was given to a report of the Service Manager, Democratic Services, informing Council of the latest report and recommendations from the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), relating to member remuneration for 2018/19.

RESOLVED:

1. To agree the schedule of members' allowances for 2018/19, which will be subject to the pay award applied for senior management, once agreed; and

2. To authorise the Monitoring Officer to make appropriate amendments to Part 6 of the Constitution to reflect changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme.

58 REFERRAL FROM THE APPOINTMENT AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE COMMITTEE: PAY POLICY STATEMENT

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

RESOLVED:

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

59 REFERRAL FROM CABINET: MAKE CALVERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Bissett entered the meeting.

Consideration was given to a report of the Service Manager, Planning Policy, which was referred to Council by Cabinet.

RESOLVED to:

1. Make the appended Calverton Neighbourhood Plan and associated Policies Map in accordance with the 2012 regulations;
2. Authorise the Planning Policy Service Manager to publicise the decision made by Council and the Calverton Neighbourhood Plan document in accordance with the 2012 regulations – confirming that the neighbourhood plan has been made; and
3. Delegate authority to the Planning Policy Service Manager to make any minor typographical or formatting amendments to the Calverton Neighbourhood Plan as appropriate, prior to publication.

60 REFERRAL FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE: KPMG ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2016/17

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

RESOLVED:

To note the contents of the Annual Audit Letter.

61 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.

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

None received.

63 TO CONSIDER MOTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 12.

Upon a notice of motion received in the name of Councillor Powell, a proposition was moved by Councillor Powell, seconded by Councillor Adams, in the following terms:

“In future, all meetings of the Council to which the public are entitled to attend should be recorded and provision be made for such in the Council 2018/19 budget”

An amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Payne and seconded by Councillor David Ellis in the following terms:

“That Council:

1. Notes that Cabinet has specifically asked the Scrutiny Working Group set up to explore options for promoting the openness of the Council to consider recording of meetings and as part of that work to consult all Members;
2. Requests that the Scrutiny Working Group specifically considers whether, in future, all meetings of the Council to which the public are entitled to attend should be recorded and provision be made for such in the Council 2018/19 budget; and
3. Urges all Members of council to engage in this cross-party process in order that their views can be taken into account when Scrutiny Committee makes a recommendation to Cabinet on this issue. “

Councillor Barnfather moved a motion to adjourn the meeting for a period of five minutes to allow consideration of the proposed amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Payne and upon being put to the vote was carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7.35pm and recommenced at 7.40pm.

The Mayor put the amended motion to the vote and it was carried and was

RESOLVED that Council:

1. Notes that Cabinet has specifically asked the Scrutiny Working Group set up to explore options for promoting the openness of the Council to consider recording of meetings and as part of that work to consult all Members;
2. Requests that the Scrutiny Working Group specifically considers whether, in future, all meetings of the Council to which the public are entitled to attend should be recorded and provision be made for such in the Council 2018/19 budget; and
3. Urges all Members of council to engage in this cross-party process in order that their views can be taken into account when Scrutiny Committee makes a recommendation to Cabinet on this issue. “

The meeting finished at 8.00 pm

Signed by Chair:
Date: