

**MINUTES  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Monday 26 April 2021**

Councillor Liz Clunie (Chair)

Councillor Paul Feeney	Councillor Jennifer Hemingway
Councillor Sandra Barnes	Councillor Mike Hope
Councillor Michael Boyle	Councillor Simon Murray
Councillor Jim Creamer	Councillor Marje Paling
Councillor Rachael Ellis	Councillor Martin Smith
Councillor Andrew Ellwood	

Apologies for absence: Councillor Sam Smith

Officers in Attendance: H Lee, A Dubberley, M Cryer, L Juby and F Whyley

Guests in Attendance Councillor P Barnes and G Gregory

**46 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS.**

Apologies were received from Councillor Sam Smith.

**47 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 APRIL 2021.**

**RESOLVED:**

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

**48 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

None.

**49 PROGRAMME OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE**

The committee welcomed Councillors Peter Barnes, Portfolio Holder for the Environment, and Gregory Portfolio Holder for Community Development to the meeting to discuss a number of questions that had been sent to them in advance.

Councillor Barnes addressed a number of issues and described a range of initiatives being used to take forward the ambition of the authority to become plastic free. He explained how the appointment of a Climate Change Officer would lead the authority's aspiration to promote and

protect the environment by minimising pollution and waste, and would be working with the community on a number of schemes to improve levels and quality of recycling in addition to promoting the carbon reduction agenda.

During discussion a number of points were raised:

- It was explained that glyphosphate herbicide is no longer used on land owned by Gedling Borough but that it is still available to buy and that the County Council Highways department still uses it.
- The use of wild flower planting schemes are contentious as grassed areas are no longer being cut. However, the benefits of increasing the biodiversity of areas where wild flowers have been planted had to be taken into consideration.
- Discussions are underway to reintroduce the recycling of tetrapaks.
- The authority does not currently fund play areas in parished areas. It was agreed that Parish Councils would like a contribution towards upkeep and this should be considered. Councillor Barnes acknowledged this and agreed to see what could be done.
- The funding from FCC Communities Foundation for play areas will not disappear with the closure of land fill sites as is linked to Veolia who operate the Mansfield Materials Recovery Facility and Eastcroft Incinerator.

Councillor Gregory explained that the organisation of activities was currently restricted due to the pandemic but plans were being made for when constraints were loosened.

He informed members that:

- Virtual activities for children and young people were available in the Easter holidays and the Youth and Seniors Council had been meeting virtually.
- Work is being undertaken with grassroots organisations regarding funding to enable them provide activities to re-engage with community.
- Concerns about how the pandemic may have affected volunteers are being addressed with proactive work to increase confidence for people once again to get involved in community activities.

- Work is currently being undertaken with the Youth Service and Seniors Council to identify suitable accessible activities that will promote mental and physical wellbeing.

**RESOLVED** to:

- Thank Councillor Barnes and Gregory for their attendance.
- Note the report.

**50 REVIEW OF COMPLIMENTS AND COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE COUNCIL, AND THE ANNUAL REVIEW LETTER 2020 FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN.**

Francesca Whyley, Head of Governance and Customer Services attended the committee to discuss the Council's complaints process, analysis of complaints received and dealt with by the Council's internal complaints procedure, and the Annual Complaints Review letter from the Office of Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.

**RESOLVED** to:

- Note the report.

**51 CORPORATE MANAGEMENT RISK SCORECARD QUARTER 3**

Members considered a report that had been circulated in advance of the meeting relating to the Corporate Risk Management Scorecard Quarter 3 advising members of the current level of assurance that can be provided against corporate risk.

**RESOLVED** to:

- Note the report.

**52 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

**Information updates from earlier committees**

- ABL (A Better Life) – Your Health Your Way. Nottinghamshire Integrated Wellbeing Service
- One Step at a Time

Members noted the information.

**Scrutiny Working Groups**

## **Flooding**

Members approved the report and recommendations arising from the working group and agreed that it would be submitted to the next available Cabinet meeting.

## **Domestic Abuse**

Members were updated on the progress of this working group and informed that the final, evidence gathering meeting would be held shortly after which a report and recommendations would be developed.

## **Scrutiny in Committee**

The programme of Portfolio Holder attendance was discussed and members agreed that they would like to continue with this mechanism for holding the Executive account during the upcoming municipal year. It was agreed that members would consider areas for working group review at the next committee.

### **RESOLVED to:**

- Note the information update requested at a previous committee
- Agree the flooding working group report and recommendations should be submitted to Cabinet for a response.
- Note the information regarding the Domestic Abuse working group
- Continue with the programme of Portfolio Holder Attendance
- Agree an issue for review at the July committee.

**53**

### **ANY OTHER ITEM WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT.**

None.

The meeting finished at 7.20 pm

Signed by Chair:  
Date: