

## **MINUTES COUNCIL**

**Wednesday 15 September 2021**

Councillor Meredith Lawrence (Mayor)

Present: Councillor Sandra Barnes  
Councillor Michael Adams  
Councillor Peter Barnes  
Councillor Chris Barnfather  
Councillor Nicki Brooks  
Councillor John Clarke  
Councillor Liz Clunie  
Councillor Bob Collis  
Councillor Jim Creamer  
Councillor Boyd Elliott  
Councillor David Ellis  
Councillor Rachael Ellis  
Councillor Roxanne Ellis  
Councillor Andrew Ellwood  
Councillor Kathryn Fox  
Councillor Des Gibbons  
Councillor Helen Greensmith  
Councillor Gary Gregory  
Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth  
Councillor Mike Hope  
Councillor Rosa Keneally  
Councillor Ron McCrossen  
Councillor Viv McCrossen  
Councillor Barbara Miller  
Councillor Julie Najuk  
Councillor Marje Paling  
Councillor John Parr  
Councillor Michael Payne  
Councillor Alex Scroggie  
Councillor Martin Smith  
Councillor Sam Smith  
Councillor Clive Towsey-Hinton  
Councillor John Truscott  
Councillor Henry Wheeler  
Councillor Paul Wilkinson

Absent: Councillor Pat Bosworth, Councillor Michael Boyle,  
Councillor Paul Feeney, Councillor Jennifer  
Hemingway and Councillor Simon Murray

### **28 THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

The Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Mick Johnson, delivered a thought for the day.

### **29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bosworth, Boyle, Feeney, Hemingway and Murray.

### **30 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

The Mayor informed Council of his attendance at a number of engagements, including the judging of a gardening competition at Netherfield and a prize giving event in Newstead, both of which were very enjoyable occasions and a credit to the locality co-ordinators who had organised the events.

The Mayor had also attended the opening of the refurbished plane at St John's School in Colwick, a fun day in aid of McMillan Cancer support and memorial services in respect of those who had lost their lives to Covid-19, which were held at Gedling Crematorium and at Coppice Lodge Care Home.

**31 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 JULY 2021**

**RESOLVED:**

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

**32 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

None.

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

None received.

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

None received.

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

Question from Councillor Adams

“Can the Council please advise on its commitment to tree planting across the Borough, during the remainder of this Council?”

Response from Councillor Clarke, Leader of the Council

“This administration is committed to planting trees, and the Gedling Plan sets out our ambition to plant 500 UK native trees across the Borough each year to mark the lead up to the 50th Anniversary of the creation of Gedling Borough.

In 2019/20 a total of 660 new trees were planted, and in 2020/21 a further 1,040 trees were planted. These were in various sites including Arnot Hill Park, King George V, Burton Road Jubilee Park, Willow Park, Thackeray's Lane, Arno Vale Recreation Ground, Carlton Hill Recreation Ground, and Gedling Country Park.

This year we have already created a Community Orchard at Gedling Country Park, and we have committed to:

- a 2-3 year 'Green Lung' project that will see further proposed tree planting at Digby Park [4 acres] along a green corridor footpath route to Arnold Lane and beyond
- planting a Memorial Woodland in Gedling Country Park. [6 acres]"

In response to a supplementary question about the lack of trees in the area between Front Street and Arnold Leisure Centre, Councillor Clarke advised that trees had been planted at Arnold Market and it was envisaged that there would be more around the new market once building works were completed. He added that if there were any suggestions for suitable sites these would be forwarded to officers. We have planted more trees near the Gedling Access Road as so many trees were removed for the construction.

#### Question from Councillor Sam Smith

"Can the council please confirm its commitment to becoming carbon net zero?"

#### Response from Councillor Payne Deputy Leader

"In November 2019, Gedling Borough Council (GBC) declared a climate emergency, alongside which a pledge to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030 was made.

To mitigate carbon emissions and improve the borough's resilience to a changing climate, a new Carbon Management Strategy and Action Plan has been created, which is being presented to Cabinet tomorrow for approval to go to public consultation.

This strategy outlines GBC's commitment and ambition to show leadership in becoming carbon net zero.

To further support this we are currently recruiting a Climate Change Officer who will take up post shortly and help deliver the action plan.

We are under no assumption and realise that everyone is involved in this ambition, the Council, local businesses, the third sector and our residents, everyone has a part to play in this."

In response to a supplementary question on whether the forthcoming carbon strategy covered council operations or the Borough as a whole, Councillor Payne replied that in November 2019 Gedling Borough Council declared a climate emergency alongside which pledged to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030 was also made. The plan recognises that this is not just down to Council, it is about local businesses, the third sector, our residents, community groups such as the fantastic Gedling Climate Group.

Question from Councillor Martin Smith

“Can the council confirm its progress on moving its fleet to zero carbon vehicles?”

Response from Councillor Payne, Deputy Leader

“Fleet vehicle technology is moving forward rapidly. As a Council we have adopted the eco-stars scheme for our fleet, which aims on using cleaner fuels and technologies by embedding green criteria in the fleet procurement process to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants. It rates the performance of individual vehicles and a fleet’s overall operation using star ratings, and each member receives a tailored ‘road map’ to ensure their vehicles are running as efficiently and economically as possible. We scored the top rating of 5 stars when last assessed.

We are currently trialling ultra and low emission vehicles such as electric (EVs) pavement sweepers, and hybrid vehicles as an alternative to diesel and petrol.

When the time is right and funding is made available, we will look to convert our current vehicle fleet to electric or another green fuel type such as hydrogen. The Nottinghamshire Waste Partner Group has set up a ‘Fleet Procurement Internal Group’ to look at this issue and they are meeting at regional and local level to discuss Green Fleet procurement steps across the whole of Nottinghamshire to ensure we are prepared in time for the 2030 deadline.”

In response to a supplementary question about whether the council intended to take steps to improve the green credentials of the vehicles it licenses Councillor Payne replied that it was essential to look at the private sector including working with our licensed vehicles through our licensing role. We all have to play our part in this because we as Gedling Borough Council are unable to achieve that commitment on our own.

Question from Councillor Elliott

“What determines the size of a bin a resident/household gets?”

Response from Councillor Clarke, Leader of the Council

“Gedling Borough Council has a legal duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to collect household waste. Section 46 of the Act relates to what local authorities can require in terms of receptacles for household waste including bin size and access to bins. Local Authorities are required to meet higher recycling and composting targets under UK laws and can be penalised if they fail to meet these targets. These changes are designed to increase the level of household recycling and

composting, thereby reducing the amount of waste incinerated or thrown into landfills.

To support the achievement of these targets Gedling Borough Council are replacing the generic 240L that were previously provided to properties with bins that are size appropriate to each household. Households with up to three residents are entitled to a 180L size bin which equates to 60L per person, a capacity which has been calculated as adequate in accordance with research undertaken by industry organisations such as WRAP. [Waste and Resources Action Programme Charity]

To achieve this we are gradually replacing bins with the appropriate sizes as and when bins need replacing, as rolling this out in one go is a resource and budget demand that cannot be managed whilst still delivering current service levels. Therefore when a resident requires a bin replacement due to damage for example they will receive a replacement bin that is relevant to their capacity needs.

The number of residents residing in a given property determine the bin size:

Households with 1 - 3 people get a 180ltr bin as standard.

Households with 4 - 5 people get a 240ltr bin as standard.

Households with 6 - 7 people get 2 x 180ltr bins as standard

Households with 8 or more get 2 x 240ltr bins as standard.

The residual bin requirement will change in line with family size, and residents are able to make requests for an extra or larger bin through both the website and our Customer Services team.

Requests for additional recycling or glass bins can also be made via the website or customer services team.”

#### Question from Councillor Helen Greensmith

“Can the Portfolio Holder for Finance confirm what percentage of the whole UK Pet Cremation market the Cabinet expected to acquire in the first year when launching the service?”

#### Response from the Deputy Leader, Michael Payne

“Thank you for this question, which was previously answered at the Overview and Scrutiny committee.

The Pet cremation service was never intended to operate as a UK ‘National Service’. Instead it was aimed at the local Nottinghamshire market with an ambition to achieve 8.5% market share by engaging with local veterinary services, who euthanize pets on a daily basis. This equated to 34 pets per week, which is not an unrealistic figure

considering we were also targeting the border overlaps into Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire.

This is also set in the context of published data that suggests 90% of pets nationally are cremated, and there are 9.0m dogs and 10.9m cats in the UK.

The original market plan identified that there were 9 veterinary practices listed on the vet directory within Gedling, and around 40 in the wider Nottingham area, many with more than one branch.

Research identified that approximately 50 pet cadavers were sent for cremation per week by veterinary services in the borough. One veterinary practice alone reported sending 25 – 30 cadavers for cremation per week across its Nottinghamshire branches.”

Councillor Greensmith asked a supplementary question asking about how unrealistic forecasting could have been misleading for Members. Councillor Payne replied that he had not mislead the Council. He added that he had already answered the question at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that the issue with setting up the pet cremation service was difficult, that it hadn't been perfect from the outset, but that it was the right ambition of the council to try and intervene to prevent residents paying high costs for pet cremation services.

**36**

## **CHANGES TO REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES**

Consideration was given to a report of the Democratic Services Manager, seeking approval to change committee memberships and outside body representation as set out in the report.

### **RESOLVED:**

To approve the following changes to representation on committees and outside bodies:

- 1) Councillor Scroggie is replaced by Councillor Rachael Ellis on the Planning Committee;
- 2) Councillor Truscott is replaced by Councillor Scroggie on the Environment and Licensing and Licensing Act Committees;
- 3) Councillor Wilkinson is replaced by Councillor Rachael Ellis on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and
- 4) Councillor Payne is replaced by Councillor Rachael Ellis as one of the Council's appointed representatives to the Warren Hill Action Group.

**37 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.

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

None received.

**39 TO CONSIDER MOTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 12.**

Motion One

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

This Council notes:

The Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust has brought an important paper forward in their homes for people and wildlife document. This document creates the environment for a more harmonised living world for both people, animals and plants. In line with this document I wish to table the following motion:

This council supports the adoption of a supplementary planning document in line with the "Homes for People and Wildlife" document as soon as is practicable. If approved, the supplementary planning document would be a material consideration in relation to the determination of planning applications. All future planning applicants would have this additional document made available to them with their application, and the points included from the applicant relevant to the supplementary planning document would need to be considered by the Council when determining the application.

This policy would fill a large void in the councils existing decision making process with regards to the impact of development on wildlife. It would help councillors, residents and applicants better understand the environmental credentials of new build developments and help them make their decisions in line with our challenges around habitat loss and bio diversity decline.

Some of the measures which could be considered for inclusion in the supplementary planning document and proposed in the Homes for People and Wildlife document include:

- Permeable driveways to help reduce flood risk
- Trees, hedgerows, water and other habitats integrated with development
- Wildflower verges along roads and formal open spaces
- Lighting designed to avoid disturbing wildlife
- Sustainable urban drainage, swales and raingardens for wildlife and flood relief.
- Bat roosts, bird boxes and other wildlife features designed into buildings
- Renewable energy and water efficiency built in from the outset
- Safe, attractive, connected pedestrian and cycle routes
- Features and corridors to help invertebrates, reptiles, hedgehogs and other mammals
- Wildlife-friendly green roofs and walls
- Native, wildlife-friendly plants of local origin used in gardens and landscaping
- Wildlife-permeable boundaries between gardens and open space
- Allotments and community orchards for local food
- Street trees for wildlife, shade and improved air quality
- Interpretation panels to help people understand the needs of wildlife and the environment.

I would encourage all members to support this urgent motion to protect our bio diversity and enhance the quality of our buildings across the Borough.

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

Building with wildlife in mind

~~This~~ ~~Council welcomes~~ ~~The Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust's~~ ~~has~~ ~~brought an important paper~~ ~~vision put~~ forward in their 'Homes for People and Wildlife' document. This document ~~seeks to~~ creates the environment for a more harmonised living world for both people, animals and plants. ~~In line with this document I wish to table the following motion:~~

This ~~Council supports~~ ~~commits to formally consulting Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust on all major residential~~ ~~the adoption of a supplementary~~ ~~planning applications,~~ document in line with ~~to ensure~~ the Wildlife Trust's 'Homes for People and Wildlife' ~~vision is considered as an integral part of each major residential planning application (above ten dwellings)~~ document as soon as is practicable. If approved, the supplementary planning document would be a material consideration in relation to the determination of planning applications. All future ~~major residential~~ planning applications ~~nts~~ would have this additional ~~formal consultation~~ document made available to them with their application, and

~~the points included from the applicant relevant to the supplementary planning document would need to be considered by to assist the Council's Planning Committee when determining such the applications.~~

This ~~commitment to formally consulting Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust~~ policy would fill a large void in ~~further add to~~ the Council's existing decision making process with regards to the impact of residential development on wildlife. It would help councillors, residents and applicants better understand the environmental credentials of new build developments and help them make their decisions in line with our challenges around habitat loss and bio-diversity decline.

~~This Council notes the features of development (listed below) Some of the measures which could be considered for inclusion in the supplementary planning document and proposed included in Tthe Wildlife Trust's 'Homes for People and Wildlife' document are already contained in the Council's Local Planning Document and the Aligned Core Strategy, as well as the Council's recently adopted Low Carbon Planning Guidance for Gedling Borough and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPF), all of which are material considerations for the Planning Committee when determining all planning applications.~~include:

- Permeable driveways to help reduce flood risk
- Trees, hedgerows, water and other habitats integrated with development
- Wildflower verges along roads and formal open spaces
- Lighting designed to avoid disturbing wildlife
- Sustainable urban drainage, swales and raingardens for wildlife and flood relief.
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- Interpretation panels to help people understand the needs of wildlife and the environment.

~~This Council notes the Wildlife Trust is opposed to the Government's proposed changes to the planning system set out in the Planning for the Future White Paper, which they consider will harm efforts to protect~~

wildlife. Nature does not fit neatly into the Government's three proposed planning zones.

This Council shares the Wildlife Trust's concerns that the Government's proposed 'developers' charter' planning reforms risk creating *'a disconnected landscape, one in which wildlife continues to decline because nature doesn't slot into neat little boxes.'*

This Council agrees with one of the Wildlife Trust's 'key concerns' regarding the Government's proposed planning reforms – namely that they risk *'undermining the democratic process by reducing people's opportunity to influence the planning process'*, which would undermine attempts to create the more harmonious world for people and wildlife to which we aspire.

This Council therefore resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the borough's two local Members of Parliament setting out our shared concerns with the Wildlife Trust about the negative impact on wildlife arising from proposals in the Government's Planning for the Future White Paper.

~~I would encourage all members to support this urgent motion to protect our bio diversity and enhance the quality of our buildings across the Borough.~~

The Mayor, seconded by Councillor Sam Smith, proposed a motion to briefly adjourn the meeting to allow Members to consider the amendment put before them. The motion was supported and the Mayor declared it carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6.51 pm.

The meeting resumed at 7.01 pm.

Councillors Adams, Barnfather, Elliott, Greensmith, Parr, Sam Smith and Martin Smith re-joined the meeting at 7:03pm.

Following debate, the amendment was put to a vote and the Mayor declared that the amendment was carried so the amendment became the substantive motion.

In accordance with Standing Order 17.03, the proposition as amended was put to a named vote as follows:

**For the Substantive Motion with the amendment**

Councillor P Barnes

Councillor Hope

Councillor S Barnes

Councillor Keneally

Councillor Brooks  
Councillor Clarke  
Councillor Clunie  
Councillor Collis  
Councillor Creamer  
Councillor David Ellis  
Councillor Rachael Ellis  
Councillor Roxanne Ellis  
Councillor Ellwood  
Councillor Fox  
Councillor Gibbons  
Councillor Gregory  
Councillor Hollingsworth

Councillor Lawrence  
Councillor Ron McCrossen  
Councillor Viv McCrossen  
Councillor Miller  
Councillor Najuk  
Councillor Paling  
Councillor Payne  
Councillor Scroggie  
Councillor Towsey-Hinton  
Councillor Truscott  
Councillor Wheeler  
Councillor Wilkinson

**Against the Substantive Motion with the amendment**

None

**Abstentions:**

Councillor Adams  
Councillor Barnfather  
Councillor Elliott  
Councillor Greensmith

Councillor Parr  
Councillor Martin Smith  
Councillor Sam Smith

It was therefore

**RESOLVED that:**

This Council welcomes The Wildlife Trust's vision put forward in their 'Homes for People and Wildlife' document. This document seeks to create the environment for a more harmonised living world for both people, animals and plants.

This Council commits to formally consulting Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust on all major residential planning applications, to ensure the Wildlife Trust's 'Homes for People and Wildlife' vision is considered as an integral part of each major residential planning application (above ten dwellings). All future major residential planning applications would have this additional formal consultation to assist the Council's Planning Committee when determining such applications.

This commitment to formally consulting Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust would further add to the Council's existing decision making process with regards to the impact of residential development on wildlife. It would help councillors, residents and applicants better understand the environmental credentials of new build developments and help them make their decisions in line with our challenges around habitat loss and bio-diversity decline.

This Council notes the features of development (listed below) included in The Wildlife Trust's 'Homes for People and Wildlife' document are already contained in the Council's Local Planning Document and the Aligned Core Strategy, as well as the Council's recently adopted Low Carbon Planning Guidance for Gedling Borough and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), all of which are material considerations for the Planning Committee when determining all planning applications.

- Permeable driveways to help reduce flood risk
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- Street trees for wildlife, shade and improved air quality
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This Council notes the Wildlife Trust is opposed to the Government's proposed changes to the planning system set out in the Planning for the Future White Paper, which they consider will harm efforts to protect wildlife. Nature does not fit neatly into the Government's three proposed planning zones.

This Council shares the Wildlife Trust's concerns that the Government's proposed 'developers' charter' planning reforms risk creating *'a disconnected landscape, one in which wildlife continues to decline because nature doesn't slot into neat little boxes.'*

This Council agrees with one of the Wildlife Trust's 'key concerns' regarding the Government's proposed planning reforms – namely that they risk *'undermining the democratic process by reducing people's opportunity to influence the planning process'*, which would undermine attempts to create the more harmonious world for people and wildlife to which we aspire.

This Council therefore resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the borough's two local Members of Parliament setting out our shared concerns with the Wildlife Trust about the negative impact on wildlife arising from proposals in the Government's Planning for the Future White Paper.

Councillors Clarke, Hollingsworth and Payne left the meeting.

The meeting finished at 7.43 pm

Signed by Chair:

Date: