

# **MINUTES COUNCIL**

**Friday 26 July 2024**

Councillor Ron McCrossen (Mayor)

Present: Councillor Roy Allan  
Councillor Sandra Barnes  
Councillor David Brocklebank  
Councillor John Clarke  
Councillor Jim Creamer  
Councillor Andrew Dunkin  
Councillor David Ellis  
Councillor Rachael Ellis  
Councillor Roxanne Ellis  
Councillor Andrew Ellwood  
Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth  
Councillor Paul Hughes  
Councillor Alison Hunt  
Councillor Viv McCrossen  
Councillor Julie Najuk  
Councillor Marje Paling  
Councillor Lynda Pearson  
Councillor Catherine Pope  
Councillor Grahame Pope  
Councillor Ruth Strong  
Councillor Clive Towsey-Hinton  
Councillor Michelle Welsh  
Councillor Henry Wheeler  
Councillor Russell Whiting  
Councillor Paul Wilkinson

Absent: Councillor Kyle Robinson-Payne, Councillor Michael Adams, Councillor Stuart Bestwick, Councillor Lorraine Brown, Councillor Boyd Elliott, Councillor Paul Feeney, Councillor Kathryn Fox, Des Gibbons, Councillor Helen Greensmith, Councillor Michael Payne, Councillor Sue Pickering, Councillor Alex Scroggie, Councillor Martin Smith, Councillor Sam Smith and Councillor Jane Walker

## **1 THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

A minute's silence was held in remembrance of ex councillor Bob Tate who had recently passed away.

The Mayor's Chaplain, Father Philipp Ziomek, addressed council and gave a reading.

## **2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adams, Bestwick, Brown, Elliott, Feeney, Fox, Greensmith, Payne, Pickering, Robinson-Payne, Scroggie, M Smith, S Smith and Walker.

## **3 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor noted he had attended several community events over the last few months, the first being the Foxhill Community Centre tea and cake afternoon, which had raised £500 for his charity, Parkinsons UK.

He thanked the Good Shepperd Church for hosting his civic service where he also raised £500 for his charity.

**4 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 17 APRIL AND 22 MAY 2024**

**RESOLVED:**

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

**5 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None.

**6 TO DEAL WITH ANY PETITIONS RECEIVED UNDER PROCEDURAL RULE 7.8**

None.

**7 TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ASKED BY THE PUBLIC UNDER PROCEDURAL RULE 7.7**

Two questions were received, and one questioner was in attendance to ask their question. The questions and answers are as follows:

Question 1 – Asked by Matthew Francis

At the budget meeting of full council on 6 March 2024, the deputy leader of the council, Councillor Micheal Payne, stated clearly that the administration at Nottinghamshire County Council had increased council tax by the maximum level permitted every year, since 2017. He was given the opportunity to provide clarification and/or correction, numerous times by Councillor Adams and also on one occasion by Councillor Sam Smith, but it would appear he failed to do so. Contrary to Councillor Payne's assertions, it has subsequently been ascertained by myself, through an information request to Nottinghamshire County Council and a full review of the budget reports, which are all a matter of public record, that the conservative leadership at Nottinghamshire County Council have for almost every financial year since 2017/2018, increased the main council tax precept levy by less than the maximum permitted amount, saving the residents of Nottinghamshire in that period, millions of pounds in council tax charges. When challenged on his assertion, Councillor Payne stated in writing that, and I quote: 'There is an element of subjectivity to the word maximum.'

Based on this information, and in the interests of honesty, integrity and accountability, does the Deputy Leader of the Council and the Member of Parliament for Gedling, wish to correct the record so that the residents of Gedling Borough, are in full possession of the facts?

Answer 1 – Given by the Mayor, Councillor Ron McCrossen

Councillor Payne has considered the question and has decided there is nothing further to add from what he said at the meeting.

Question 2 – Read by the Chief Executive on behalf of the questioner

Does the Council think the symbolism of spending large sums of money at Gedling Country Park while letting parks in Carlton and the Carlton Valley decay show that this council prioritises what looks good in political leaflets and in their connect magazine rather than providing some of our most deprived communities with the services and respect they deserve?

Answer 2 – Given by Councillor Clarke

Gedling Country Park was developed on the former Gedling colliery site. It is our flagship visitor attraction and a significant “green lung” in the borough of Gedling.

The topography of the park offers considerable views over Nottinghamshire, and has established itself as a wildlife haven, having been granted Local Nature Reserve status in 2018.

In terms of the park’s development, we have a children’s playground, café 1899, and two viewing platforms, some of which were funded through external grants. For anyone listening who hasn’t been to the site, I would certainly recommend a visit.

In terms of Carlton, you will be aware of our two most recent announcements.

Firstly, our proposal for a multi-million pound investment into a new Carlton Leisure and Community Wellbeing Centre with state-of-the-art facilities. This will benefit all residents of the borough, and particularly those residing in Carlton and the Carlton Valley area, and

Secondly, we have launched a consultation on how to spend the £20 million awarded through the Long Term Plan For Towns government funding for the Greater Carlton area. I do hope you and others will respond to this consultation, as it provides a real opportunity to directly influence investment in assets such as parks and open spaces in the Carlton and Carlton Valley area.

Thank you.

**8**

**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 Whiting as follows:

“Will Gedling Borough Council consider allowing the generation of electricity through onshore wind on land owned by the Council, in light of the lifting of the de facto ban by the government?”

Response from Councillor Hollingworth:

Thank you, Mr Mayor, and thank you Councillor Whiting for the question.

I am sure like me you will welcome the new Labour governments launch of “Great British Energy” this week which puts renewable energy, carbon reduction and energy security at the heart of government. Gedling Borough Council is committed to finding opportunities for renewable energy including wind and utilizing our assets. We have an excellent track record for doing so and in the first term of this labour administration solar panels were installed at the civic centre and other council buildings. The solar panel installation at our green flag award winning county park, which produces energy for around 1500 homes is another key example.

Future projects would align with our carbon management strategy and the emerging Greater Nottingham strategic plan which will promote and encourage low energy. Proposals for onshore wind and other forms of renewable energy generation will still be subject to planning permission to carefully consider the impacts unless they are small scale and benefit from permitted development.

Finally, Mr Mayor, I would direct Councillor Whiting to the council’s carbon management strategy and in particular section 4.3 which looks at expanding local low carbon energy generation in the borough including the investigation of wind generated energy.

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

“There have been a number of reports of anti-social on and around Colwick Rec over a long period of time, including suspected drug dealing, anti-social car cruising amongst other activities. Can we please have CCTV installed to cover the car park of the Rec and deter such behaviour?”

Response by Councillor David Ellis:

Thank you, Mr Mayor.

Before I reply can I just say that I’m pleased that Cllr Whiting’s son has been discharged from hospital this week and is back to his normal self.

Turning to the question.

Members will recall that a Public Space Protection Order has been in place since June 2023 to address nuisance car cruising in Trent Valley. The area covered by the order includes Colwick Recreation Ground and the roads nearby. The PSPO prohibits a range of anti-social behaviours and includes penalties for breaches. Operation Triplefin is the police operation to enforce the PSPO and tackle anti-social behaviour. Since the order was introduced a variety of offences have been prosecuted and everything I have said suggests that it has been a successful initiative.

On CCTV. Last week Cabinet received the report on the annual review of CCTV and approved changes to the CCTV policy. The Council has to have regard to the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice published by the Surveillance Camera Commissioner. Recognising that overt surveillance systems can be intrusive to the privacy of individuals, our policy states that the use of CCTV “must be necessary, proportionate and adequate for the specified purpose they are there to address”. The Council has a robust system for considering the introduction of new CCTV cameras in the Borough to ensure good governance and solid justification for the introduction of new cameras. Any proposals need to be evidence-based and justified.

Until this question, Colwick Recreation Ground has not been identified as a possible site for CCTV. Officers in partnership with the neighbourhood policing team are reviewing the current picture on crime and ASB in Colwick Rec and surrounding areas. If the level of crime and ASB are sufficiently serious a problem-solving approach will be adopted. CCTV could be part of the response but is not necessarily the first action that would or should be taken.

The question refers to suspected drug dealing. The advice on this remains the same – anyone who has suspicions of drug dealing anywhere in the Borough should report this to the Police using 101 or online. I am told that the police take all such reports seriously and even if there is insufficient evidence in one report, it can contribute to the overall intelligence picture.

The Council has an extensive CCTV system which is invaluable for preventing and detecting crime and ASB. Our system is well managed and operated and meets the tests of proportionality and security of data. We intend to keep it this way.

Thank you.

(a) **FLEXIBLE USE OF CAPITAL RECEIPTS STRATEGY 2024/25**  
**RESOLVED** that:

Council approves and adopts the flexible use of capital receipts strategy 2024/25

(b) **BUDGET OUTTURN AND BUDGET CARRY FORWARDS 2023/24**

Councillor Clarke confirmed there was an amendment on page 57 at paragraph 2.5.1, as follows:

The wording currently states:

The Council also made provision to alleviate the impact of some of the pressures for the most financially vulnerable residents and delivered £107,400 of Hardship relief to council taxpayers who are in receipt of Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) support and an additional £214,700 to care leavers.

The wording should state

The Council also made provision to alleviate the impact of some of the pressures for the most financially vulnerable residents and delivered support of £107,400 to care leavers, and £214,700 of Hardship relief to council taxpayers who are in receipt of Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS).

**RESOLVED** that:

Council approves the method of financing the 2023/24 capital expenditure which includes making the determinations required for the minimum revenue provision

(c) **ANNUAL TREASURY ACTIVITY REPORT 2023/24**  
**RESOLVED** that:

Council approves the annual treasury activity report for 2023/24

(d) **COUNCIL PRODUCTIVITY PLAN**  
**RESOLVED** that:

Council notes the Council's productivity plan

(e) **APPOINTMENT OF A CO-OPTED MEMBER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED** that Council:

- 1) Agrees that Jonathan Causton be co-opted onto the Audit Committee as an Independent Member; and
- 2) Authorises the Monitoring Officer to make the relevant changes to the constitution to reflect the co-option

**(f) RECRUITMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON AND RESERVE INDEPENDENT PERSON**

**RESOLVED** that Council:

- 1) Agrees that David Walsh be appointed as Independent Person under the Localism Act 2011 for two years; and
- 2) Agrees that John Baggaley be appointed as reserve Independent Person under the Localism Act 2011 for two years

**10 APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL MEMBER**

Consideration was given to a report of the Democratic Services Manager which sought approval of the appointment of Mark Chowdhury as a member of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

**RESOLVED** that:

Council approves the appointment of Mark Chowdhury as a member of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

**11 CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer which sought approval to amend the constitution to reflect the new management arrangements following the senior management restructure.

**RESOLVED** that:

- 1) Council approves the amendments to the Constitution and any policy or procedure approved by Council as set out in this report to reflect new management arrangements following the restructure; and

- 2) Council authorises the Monitoring Officer to amend any policy or procedures approved by Council to reflect changes brought about by the restructure

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

No comments were made.

**13 TO CONSIDER MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURAL RULE 7.12**

Councillor Whiting, seconded by Councillor Hughes, proposed a motion in the following terms:

That this Council notes:

- Since the conflict started more than 37,000 people have been killed – with more than 50% estimated to be women and children. With thousands more buried under the rubble.
- A letter in The Lancet Journal estimates that the true death toll may be as high as 186,000.
- The words of Foreign Secretary David Lammy MP on July 7 2024 when talking about Gaza: “We want to see a cease-fire. We want to see those hostages out”
- That then Foreign Secretary Lord Cameron on Thursday 11 January in describing the situation in Gaza as ‘heartbreaking’ ‘desperate’ and how ‘death and despair haunt’ the lives of Gaza’s children and his statement on March 25 that The UK has long been calling for an immediate humanitarian pause leading to a sustainable ceasefire without a return to destruction, fighting and loss of life, as the fastest way to get hostages out and aid in.
- That on 2 April Sir Ed Davey MP said “This violence has to stop. Now. We need an immediate bilateral ceasefire – a real ceasefire that finally sets us on the path to a lasting peace.
- In February 2024 the UK Parliament voted unanimously in favour of an immediate ceasefire in Gaza

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- Record its deep concern for the severe reverberations of this crisis felt within Gedling borough and across the UK, with Jewish, Muslim, and Palestinian communities all fearing and grieving;
- Thank community leaders in this borough for the role they are playing in reducing tensions at this sensitive and difficult time;
- Thank members of the public throughout the Borough who have donated or provided assistance to the humanitarian response to the crisis in Gaza;
- Support any forthcoming Government proposals for resettlement support for Palestinians seeking sanctuary here in the UK, as with the war in Ukraine;



- Commit to identify ways in which the events can be remembered in the future, in this borough;
- Offer appropriate support and assistance to the diverse communities within Gedling who have been impacted by, or who face emerging issues as a result of this crisis.
- Request that the Chief executive write to the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs affirming the support of Gedling Borough Council for any and all efforts to bring about a bilateral cessation of hostilities leading to a lasting peace arrangement

Proposer: Councillor Russell Whiting

Seconded: Councillor Paul Hughes

An amended motion was proposed by Councillor Roxanne Ellis and seconded by Councillor Wilkinson, in the following terms:

That this Council notes:

- The thousands of people killed and displaced since the Israel-Hamas conflict started on the 7th of October 2023
- The commitment of the new Labour government towards playing “its full diplomatic role in securing a ceasefire deal and creating the space for a credible and irreversible pathway towards a two-state solution. The world needs a safe and secure Israel alongside a viable and sovereign Palestinian state.”
- The words of Foreign Secretary David Lammy MP on July 7 2024 when talking about Gaza: “We want to see a cease-fire. We want to see those hostages out”
- Foreign Secretary David Lammy’s announcement on 19th July to restore UK funding to UNRWA and to provide 21 million pounds.
- In February 2024 the UK Parliament voted in favour of an immediate ceasefire in Gaza

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- Record its deep concern for the severe reverberations of this crisis felt within Gedling borough and across the UK, with Jewish, Muslim, and Palestinian communities all fearing and grieving;
- Thank community leaders in this borough for the role they are playing in reducing tensions at this sensitive and difficult time;
- Thank members of the public throughout the Borough who have donated or provided assistance to the humanitarian response to the crisis in Gaza;
- Support any forthcoming Government proposals for resettlement support for Refugees from the conflict seeking sanctuary here in the UK.
- Consider ways in which the events can be remembered in the future

- Offer appropriate support and assistance to the diverse communities within Gedling who have been impacted by, or who face emerging issues as a result of this crisis.
- Forward this motion to the Foreign Secretary David Lammy, affirming this Council's support of the government's commitment to playing "its full diplomatic role in securing a ceasefire deal and creating the space for a credible and irreversible pathway towards a two-state solution."

Proposer: Roxanne Ellis  
 Secunder: Paul Wilkinson

An adjournment was proposed, seconded, and agreed to allow members time to review the amendment. Upon return, the proposer and secunder of the original motion indicated their support and acceptance of the amendment. As such, it was deemed to be the substantive motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:**

That this Council notes:

- The thousands of people killed and displaced since the Israel-Hamas conflict started on the 7th of October 2023
- The commitment of the new Labour government towards playing "its full diplomatic role in securing a ceasefire deal and creating the space for a credible and irreversible pathway towards a two-state solution. The world needs a safe and secure Israel alongside a viable and sovereign Palestinian state."
- The words of Foreign Secretary David Lammy MP on July 7 2024 when talking about Gaza: "We want to see a cease-fire. We want to see those hostages out"
- Foreign Secretary David Lammy's announcement on 19th July to restore UK funding to UNRWA and to provide 21 million pounds.
- In February 2024 the UK Parliament voted in favour of an immediate ceasefire in Gaza

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- Record its deep concern for the severe reverberations of this crisis felt within Gedling borough and across the UK, with Jewish, Muslim, and Palestinian communities all fearing and grieving;
- Thank community leaders in this borough for the role they are playing in reducing tensions at this sensitive and difficult time;
- Thank members of the public throughout the Borough who have donated or provided assistance to the humanitarian response to the crisis in Gaza;
- Support any forthcoming Government proposals for resettlement support for Refugees from the conflict seeking sanctuary here in the UK.

- Consider ways in which the events can be remembered in the future
- Offer appropriate support and assistance to the diverse communities within Gedling who have been impacted by, or who face emerging issues as a result of this crisis.
- Forward this motion to the Foreign Secretary David Lammy, affirming this Council's support of the government's commitment to playing "its full diplomatic role in securing a ceasefire deal and creating the space for a credible and irreversible pathway towards a two-state solution."

Proposer: Councillor Russell Whiting

Seconder: Councillor Paul Hughes

The meeting finished at 7.12 pm

Signed by Chair:

Date: