

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2016**

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# **NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**HELD ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2016**

### **Present:**

Councillor S Peters ..... Chair

Councillor R Smith ..... Vice Chair

Councillor Mrs P Antcliff

“ Mrs J Austen

“ N Barker

“ B Barnes

“ G Baxter MBE

“ Mrs L Blanshard

“ S Boyle

“ G Butler

“ A Cooper

“ Ms S Cornwell

“ Miss C Cupit

“ A Dale

“ S Ellis

“ Miss M Emmens

“ Mrs A Foster

“ M Foster

“ M Gordon

“ R Hall

“ Mrs E A Hill

Councillor Mrs P A Holmes

“ Mrs C D Huckerby

“ C Hunt

“ P R Kerry

“ H Laws

“ J Lilley

“ T Mansbridge

“ A Powell

“ Mrs T Reader

“ B Rice

“ B Ridgway

“ Mrs J Ridgway

“ Ms K Rouse

“ D Skinner

“ L Stone

“ M Thacker

“ Miss C Tite

“ R Welton

“ J Windle

### **249 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors W Armitage, Mrs J Barry, P Elliott, A Garrett, Mrs J Hill, G Hopkinson, B Lewis, Mrs L Robinson, Mrs C A Smith, K Tait and B Wright.

### **250 Declarations of Interest**

Members were requested to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interest and/or other interest, not already on their register of interests, in any item on the agenda and withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

Councillors N Barker, G Butler, Mrs E A Hill and R Welton all declared disclosable pecuniary interests in item 10 - Treasury Management Strategy - arising from their membership of the Rykneld Homes Board. They did not take part in the discussion on this item and did not take part in the vote.

**251 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11 July 2016**

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11 July 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**252 Chair's Announcements**

The Chair advised the Council of the recent events he had attended and the fundraising activities he had been carrying out. He thanked all those who had taken part in the Bake Off Competition immediately before the Council meeting and also advised Members that the Calendar including photographs from across the District was now on sale.

The Chair reported that the current total that had been raised so far towards his chosen charity, Weston Park Hospital, was £2,029.56.

Finally, the Chair reminded Members that there would be a Member Involvement Half Day on 6 September 2016.

**253 Public Participation**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 8 members of the public were allowed to ask questions about the Council's activities for a period of up to 15 minutes.

No questions from the public had been submitted.

**254 Minutes of Meetings held between 28 June and 3 August 2016**

Council considered the following Minutes of meetings held between 28 June and 3 August 2016:-

	<b>MEETING</b>	<b>DATE</b>
(a)	Planning Committee	28 June 2016
(b)	Growth Scrutiny Committee	7 July 2016
(c)	Audit & Corporate Governance Scrutiny Committee	14 July 2016
(d)	Strategic Alliance Joint Committee – Special	18 July 2016
(e)	Organisation Scrutiny Committee	27 July 2016
(f)	Licensing Sub-Committee (Taxis)	28 July 2016
(g)	Communities Scrutiny Committee	29 July 2016
(h)	Cabinet	3 August 2016

Councillors Mrs A Foster questioned whether the notes of the Local Plan Steering Group meetings could be included within the Council Minute Book, in order to Members to be kept informed about the progress of the work on the Local Plan. Council were advised that the Local Plan Steering Group is an internal working group and the notes are not public documents, however all Members have access to them on the Member's extranet. Councillor M Gordon also advised Council that as the Local Plan Steering Group is a cross-party group, Members from both parties can be updated by their Members who sit on the Group.

Further to this discussion, Councillor M Thacker MBE requested that Council be provided with regular reports providing updates on the progress of work on the Local Plan. There had been no notice given of this motion. Councillor M Thacker MBE then moved that the Council procedure rules requiring notice of the motion be suspended. This motion was not seconded.

Considering the above, the Chair determined that the meeting would move to the vote on the noting of the Minute Book.

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meetings held between 28 June and 3 August 2016 as set out above be noted.

**255 Questions from Members under Procedure Rule No 9.2**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 9.2 Members were permitted to ask the Chair of the Council or relevant Committee or the appropriate Cabinet Member questions about Council activities.

No questions had been submitted under Procedure Rule No 9.2 for this meeting.

**256 Motions from Members under Procedure Rule No 10**

No motions had been submitted under Procedure Rule No 10 for this meeting.

**257 Review of Electoral Arrangements – Council Size Submission**

Council considered a report of Councillor G Baxter MBE, Leader of the Council, which sought delegation to the Chief Executive to submit the formal council size submission as part of the electoral review being carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

The Local Government Boundary Commission were carrying out a review of the electoral arrangements for North East Derbyshire District Council due to an electoral variance, with one ward representing in excess of 30% of the average number of electors in the wards across the District. The Council had received a presentation from the Commission on the review at its meeting in March 2016.

As part of the process for the review the Commission invited the Council to submit a case for the size of the Council. The issue of council size was a key factor in determining the scale of the further electoral review.

In accordance with the Commission's timetable a draft submission on the Council size needed to be submitted to the Commission by 2 September 2016. The submission of a draft document provides the Council with an opportunity to address any issues upon which the Commission may request further information before the deadline for the final Council size submission on 7 October 2016. The draft submission had been sent to the Commission and a response was awaited.

The draft submission prepared by the Council concluded that the existing Council size at 53 Members should be maintained. This number enables the Council to ensure it has effective decision making processes and to support the continued delivery, improvement and transformation of services, including through the support of non Executive Councillors.

Members discussed how the number of 53 members was reached and were referred to the evidence in support of this position and a justification for the conclusion which were summarised in the report, with the full draft submission attached to the report at Appendix 1.

**RESOLVED** – That Council:-

- (1) Approves the draft council size submission proposing the retention of 53 Councillors.
- (2) Delegates to the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, authority to submit the final council size submission by 7 October 2015 and, in doing so, to respond to any issues or comments made on the draft submission by the Boundary Commission.

(Chief Executive)

## **258 Treasury Management Strategy**

Council considered a report of Councillor P R Kerry, Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for Economy, Finance and Regeneration, which sought approval for the undertaking of General Fund Borrowing to progress housing regeneration work at Stonebroom and Dronfield. On the basis of this approval it was also sought that the Treasury Management Strategy be updated.

The report outlined the housing schemes at Stonebroom and Dronfield that were proposed and detailed the level of Prudential Borrowing that would be required on the General Fund to progress the schemes.

In agreeing to enter into the General Fund Prudential Borrowing as set out within the report, the borrowing limit previously agreed within the Treasury Management Strategy needed to be amended to reflect this proposed new borrowing. By revising the Capital Financing Requirement, Council would in

effect be approving that officers enter into further borrowing on behalf of the Council.

Council were advised that the proposed schemes were supported by robust business plans and that both would meet the requirements of the Prudential Code that Council borrowing be prudent, sustainable and affordable.

It was also necessary that the schemes be included in the Council's Approved Capital Programme.

**RESOLVED** – That Council:-

- (1) Approves the undertaking of Prudential Borrowing of £1.771m to progress the scheme at Manor Farm, Dronfield, with a further amount of £0.650m to progress the scheme off Carlyle Road, Stonebroom.
- (2) Approves both the schemes as outlined within the report for inclusion into the Approved Capital Programme.
- (3) Approves the new Capital Financing Requirement, Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit as set out in section 1.9 of the report.

(Executive Director – Operations)

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