

## COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 31 JULY 2023

#### **Present:**

Councillor Martin E Thacker MBE JP (Chair) (in the Chair)  
Councillor Gerry Morley (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Frank Adlington-Stringer	Councillor Pat Antcliff
Councillor Neil Baker	Councillor Nigel Barker
Councillor Jayne Barry	Councillor Graham Baxter MBE
Councillor Richard Beech	Councillor Joseph Birkin
Councillor David Cheetham	Councillor Kathy Clegg
Councillor Stephen Clough	Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Suzy Cornwell	Councillor Charlotte Cupit
Councillor Alex Dale	Councillor Lilian Deighton
Councillor Michael Durrant	Councillor Peter Elliott
Councillor Clive Fletcher	Councillor Mark Foster
Councillor Christine Gare	Councillor Kevin Gillott
Councillor David Hancock	Councillor Lee Hartshorne
Councillor Daniel Higgon	Councillor Pam Jones
Councillor William Jones	Councillor Pat Kerry
Councillor Carol Lacey	Councillor Tony Lacey
Councillor Heather Liggett	Councillor Nicki Morley
Councillor Fran Petersen	Councillor Stephen Pickering
Councillor Stephen Reed	Councillor Michael Roe
Councillor Kathy Rouse	Councillor Ross Shipman
Councillor Derrick Skinner	Councillor Caroline Smith
Councillor Christine Smith	Councillor Richard Spooner
Councillor Lee Stone	Councillor Richard Welton
Councillor Helen Wetherall	Councillor Pam Windley

#### **Also Present:**

L Hickin	Managing Director – Head of Paid Service
M Broughton	Director of Growth & Assets
J Dethick	Director of Finance & Resources (Section 151 Officer)
S Sternberg	Assistant Director of Governance & Monitoring Officer
A Maher	Governance Manager
A Bond	Governance Officer
T Scott	Governance & Scrutiny Officer
M E Derbyshire	Members ICT & Training Officer

#### **COU Apologies for Absence**

**/21/2**

**3-24** Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Smith, C Renwick, S Fawcett, K Tait, and M Emmens.

Apologies were also received from Councillor P Antcliff and Councillor K Gillott, who would be required to leave before the end of the meeting.

**COU**     **Declarations of Interest**

**/22/2**

**3-24**

Councillor M E Thacker MBE declared an interest in Item 11 – Stonebroom Community Governance Review, as a member of the Rykneld Board. The company was undertaking a re-development project in the area covered by the review. He indicated that he would remain in the meeting and participate in Council’s deliberations and determination on the Item.

Councillor M Roe also declared an interest in Item 11 - Stonebroom Community Governance Review, as a local resident and Member of Stretton Parish Council. He indicated that he would remain in the meeting and participate in Council’s deliberations and determination on the Item.

**COU**     **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

**/23/2**

**3-24**

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 22 May 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record.

**COU**     **Chairman of the Council's Announcements**

**/24/2**

**3-24**

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor M E Thacker MBE, paid tribute to former District Councillor, Clive Hunt, following the sad news of his death. The Chairman of the Council praised former Councillor Hunt’s kindness and consideration and offered his condolences to his family on their loss. He asked Members to observe a moment of personal reflection.

Councillor M E Thacker MBE explained that he had taken part in events to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Council’s partnership with the Landkreis of Darmstadt-Dieburg in Germany. The Chairman of the Council indicated that he had met the costs of this visit personally.

The Chairman of the Council informed Members he had attended the Annual Pilgrimage to the Crich War Memorial, to honour those soldiers of the Mercian Regiment and its predecessors who had died in conflict; many of whom were from or had close links to the District.

Councillor M E Thacker MBE reiterated his support for Ashgate Hospice as his Charitable Appeal for the year. He highlighted several events, which he hoped Members would support. In this context, he thanked Councillor N Barker and Councillor P Elliot for agreeing to participate in his planned Canal Barge-pulling event.

**RESOLVED** – That Council noted the announcements of the Chairman of the Council, Councillor M E Thacker MBE (by acclamation).

**COU**     **Leader of the Council's Announcements**

**/25/2**

**3-24**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor N Barker, paid tribute to former Councillor Clive Hunt. He praised former Councillor Hunt’s contribution to the local community, as both a Parish and District Councillor and how he would be missed by family and friends.

Members were informed that the Leader of the Council had attended the Local Government Association (LGA) Annual Conference. He had also attended the Annual General Meeting of East Midlands Councils. The Leader of the Council explained the issues covered at these events and the opportunity which they had provided to represent the views of the Council and the interests of the District.

Councillor N Barker explained that he had also met with Cllr B Lewis, Leader of Derbyshire County Council to discuss the Vision Derbyshire initiative.

Councillor N Barker reminded Members that an 'Introduction to Housing' training session had been arranged as part of the on-going programme of development events for Members, that had been organised by the Council.

RESOLVED – That Council noted the announcements of the Leader of the Council, Councillor N Barker (by acclamation).

**COU Public Participation**

**/26/2**

**3-24** There were no questions from the public.

**COU The Council Plan - 2023 to 2027**

**/27/2**

**3-24** The report to Council set out the draft Council Plan for 2023 to 2027.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor N Barker and Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor P Kerry, moved and seconded a Motion that the draft Council Plan be approved. Councillor N Barker explained how the Plan would build on the new Administration's vision, that by putting Strong Community Leadership at the heart of everything which the Council does, we would create a Great Place. In particular, he explained that the Council would aim to create a place where people could earn a decent living, have a comfortable home, live long, happy and healthy lives, feel safe in their communities and be conscious of and care for their environment.

Councillor N Barker made clear that the Plan was intended to evolve and grow over the four-year term of the Council, and that it would be delivered in an inclusive and transparent way. The Council would do this in collaboration with other public sector organisations, businesses, voluntary organisations and the District's communities as a whole.

Prior to speaking on the Motion, Councillor A Dale, expressed his sorrow at the death of former Councillor Clive Hunt and offered his condolences to his family.

Councillor A Dale then spoke on the Motion. He welcomed its continuity with many of the goals of the previous Council Plan but expressed concerns about the draft Plan. He indicated that the Conservative Group would abstain on the Motion.

Councillor C Cupit contended that there had been insufficient consultation on the Plan. She also thought that it lacked detail, especially on key issues such as growth and town centres.

Councillor R Shipman and Councillor D Hancock expressed concerns that Council was being asked to agree general aims rather than a plan for how these would be achieved.

Cllr N Barker responded by reiterating that the Council Plan was intended to be an evolving document and that the specific targets, goals and objectives, along with an appropriate suite of performance measures, were now being developed, which Members would be able to consider. In particular, specific aspects of the Plan would be referred to the relevant Scrutiny Committees, who would be asked to consider how the Plan was being delivered as part of their ongoing work programmes.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Motion was put to the vote and was approved.

RESOLVED – That the draft Council Plan for 2023 to 2027 is approved.

**COU**     **The Council's Scrutiny Committees - Terms of Reference**

**/28/2**

**3-24**

The report to Council set out the proposed Terms of Reference of the Council's Scrutiny Committees. Members were reminded that the structure of the Scrutiny Committees had been reviewed, and that new Scrutiny Committees were established by Council at its Annual Meeting, on 22 May 2023. It was also agreed that the Terms of Reference for the new Committees should be developed and then submitted to Council for approval.

It was explained that the four Scrutiny Committees had been briefed on the emerging Council Plan and in particular, how their proposed Terms of Reference would focus on the relevant parts of the Plan, monitoring how specific initiatives were being implemented and assessing what results had been achieved.

Following on from this, Standards Committee considered the proposed new Terms of Reference and the Scrutiny Protocol for the four new Scrutiny Committees. Standards Committee endorsed the proposed Terms of Reference and recommended them to Council for approval.

Councillor K Gillott, Chair of the Standards Committee, and Councillor J Birkin moved and seconded a motion to approve the proposed Terms of Reference and Scrutiny Protocol for the Scrutiny Committees. Councillor K Gillott reserved his right to speak.

Cllr A Dale expressed concern that focusing the Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference on the Council Plan might prevent them from addressing other important issues that emerge, but which are not covered by the Plan. He also asked for and received clarification of the role of the Joint Scrutiny Committee and the technical reasons why it was required.

Cllr K Gillott made clear that the Terms of Reference of the Scrutiny Committees would be assessed by Standards Committee as part of its ongoing annual review of the Constitution. If any changes to the Scrutiny Committees Terms of Reference proved to be necessary, then these could be determined as part of that process.

The Motion was put to the vote and approved (by acclamation).

RESOLVED – That the attached Terms of Reference and the Scrutiny Protocol for the Scrutiny Committees were approved.

**COU** **Values in the Constitution**

**/29/2**

**3-24**

The report to Council sought agreement to incorporate an additional ‘Value’ into the Constitution. Members were reminded that the Constitution currently sets out four Values for the Council. *To be honest, open and accountable, To treat everyone fairly and with respect, To listen, involve and respond, and To embrace change and innovation.*

The proposed additional Value was intended to represent the view of the new Administration that the Council’s business should be dealt with as openly and as transparently as possible by: *Being collaborative, open and transparent.*

Councillor N Barker and Councillor J Birkin proposed and seconded a Motion that the proposed additional Value be included in the Constitution.

The Leader, Councillor N Barker, informed Members of the Administration’s genuine desire to be as open and transparent as possible in line with the proposed Value.

Councillor A Dale and Councillor R Shipman emphasised that it would be important for this new Value to be seen consistently in the actions of the new Administration.

Upon the conclusion of the discussion the Motion was put to a vote and approved (by acclamation).

RESOLVED – That Council approved the addition of the fifth Value to the Constitution.

**COU** **Schedule of Meetings 2023-24**

**/30/2**

**3-24**

Council was presented with the proposed schedule of Meetings for the remainder of the 2023-24 Municipal Year.

Councillor J Birkin and Councillor N Barker moved and seconded a motion to approve the proposed schedule of meetings.

The motion was put to the vote and approved (by acclamation).

RESOLVED – That Council approved the proposed Schedule of Meetings for the 2023-24 Municipal Year.

**COU** **Stonebroom Community Governance Review**

**/31/2**

**3-24**

Members were reminded that on 12 September 2022 Council had considered the arrangements for a Community Governance Review for Stonebroom. A

Working Group was subsequently established to carry out the required consultation and following on from this the Group recommended to Council that a separate Parish Council for Stonebroom be not established and to keep the existing arrangements/boundaries at the current time.

The Working Group's recommendations were submitted to Council at its meeting on 28 November 2022. It agreed at that meeting to ask the Working Group to carry out further, more extensive consultation into the possibility of a separate Parish Council for Stonebroom. This can be seen at Minute Number COU/55/22-23 of the 28 November 2022 meeting of Council.

The report to Council explained that this further consultation had been carried out and following on from this the issue was now being brought to Council for a decision. Council was asked to consider several possible recommendations. The Monitoring Officer informed Council that recommendation 2, as contained within the report, was outdated and would not be voted on.

Cllr J Birkin thanked the previous Working Group and the elections staff for their work on the Review. He suggested that following on from the additional Consultation Option 1b – Not to establish a separate Stonebroom Parish Council – be adopted, but with an additional provision that the wards be established for the Shirland and Higham Parish.

Councillor J Birkin and Cllr N Barker moved and seconded a motion that recommendation 1b as contained within the report, with the additional provision that parish wards be put in place for the Shirland and Higham Parish Council prior to its next full elections, be approved.

Councillor C Cupit, Councillor D Hancock and Councillor M Foster indicated their support for the Motion.

Councillors C Cupit and D Hancock signalled their disappointment that the review could not remain open while the warding was trialled.

The Monitoring Officer reminded Members that although the Review could not remain open while the warding arrangements developed, another Review could be carried out, if this was requested.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Motion, was put to the vote and agreed (by acclamation).

**RESOLVED** – That:

1. That a separate Stonebroom Parish Council is not established.
2. That warding arrangements for the existing Shirland and Higham Parish Council be considered in advance of the May 2027 Parish Elections.
3. This decision having been made, further consultation is carried out in accordance with the legislation and guidance and reported back to Council.

4. The following delegation Council previously gave to the Managing Director is reconfirmed – That the Managing Director and Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Returning Officer/Electoral Registration Officer, be authorised to put in place the arrangements and timetable for undertaking the Community Governance Review.

**COU** To answer any questions from Members asked under Procedure Rule No 9.2

**/32/2**

**3-24**

The Chairman of the Council confirmed that five questions have been received.

Question 'A' from Councillor H Liggett to Councillor S Pickering, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place

A question had been submitted by Councillor H Liggett to Councillor S Pickering, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place on whether the Council would empty green waste bins throughout the winter period. The full text of the question from Councillor H Liggett, marked as Question 'A', was set out in the Agenda for the meeting.

The Portfolio Holder thanked Cllr H Liggett for her question. He questioned whether the previous administration had fully thought through or understood the implications of the issues involved. He informed her that residents had been consulted through the Citizens Panel and that following on from this the period when Green Bin Collections were suspended had been reduced by three weeks. Councillor S Pickering stressed that the Council was committed to providing an effective and efficient green waste collection service and that an investigation would be undertaken to determine whether the amount of green waste collected from a further reduction in the suspension period could be justified in terms of the additional Carbon emissions that would be generated in order to collect it.

Councillor H Liggett expressed her disappointment with the response, given the impact which Climate Change has had on growing seasons during the winter months.

Question 'B' from Councillor C Cupit to Councillor N Barker, Leader of the Council

A question had been submitted by Councillor C Cupit to Councillor N Barker, the Leader of the Council on whether the Council would commit to continuing to replace the Bungalows in Stonebroom with new bungalows in line with agreed timeframes and plans. The full text of the question from Cllr C Cupit, marked as question 'B', was set out in the Agenda for the meeting.

The Leader of the Council responded by confirming the Administration's commitment to this and that the project would form part of the Council's plans for increasing affordable housing in the District.

Cllr C Cupit asked a supplementary question about whether the Leader would commit to working with herself, Cllr H Liggett and Cllr M Roe on the replacement scheme.

Cllr N Barker responded that he would commit to do so.

Question 'C' from Councillor M Foster to Councillor J Barry, Portfolio Holder for Growth & Assets

A question had been submitted by Councillor M Foster to Councillor J Barry, the Portfolio Holder for Growth & Assets on whether the Council would honour its financial commitments in relation to its allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Investment Plan. The full text of the question from Cllr M Foster, marked as question 'C', was set out in the Agenda for the meeting.

The Portfolio Holder for Growth and Assets responded that the Council would be honouring and delivering the NEDDC Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan.

Cllr M Foster asked a supplementary question asking for assurance that the town centre and landscape improvements for Eckington, Lansbury Park and Dronfield Town Centre would continue to be supported as part of the Investment Plan.

The Portfolio Holder confirmed this.

Question 'D' from Councillor A Dale to Councillor N Barker, the Leader of the Council

A question had been submitted by Councillor A Dale to Councillor N Barker, the Leader of the Council on what steps had been taken to assist residents with the cost of living challenges. The full text of the question from Cllr A Dale, marked as question 'D', was set out in the Agenda for the meeting.

The Leader of the Council explained that the grant to the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre had been reinstated, that new and existing businesses would be supported to maintain new and existing jobs, that the Council would look at further community led support through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which would focus on financial inclusion. Members also heard that Rykneld Homes Limited were working with tenants to help with any cost of living issues experienced.

Cllr A Dale asked a supplementary question on what additional action would be taken in order to support residents through the cost of living crisis.

Cllr N Barker explained that the Council was committed to helping as many people as possible and would continue to action the points already mentioned as well as signpost residents to the appropriate organisations and services. He also highlighted the limitations on what could be done as a District Council.

Question 'E' from Councillor W Jones to Councillor S Pickering, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place

A question had been submitted by Cllr W Jones to Cllr S Pickering, the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Place on what steps would be taken to ensure that all new build homes were environmentally sustainable and how this would be satisfactorily demonstrated to residents. The full text of the question from Cllr W Jones, marked as question 'E', was set out in the Agenda for the meeting.

The Portfolio Holder responded that the Local Development Scheme would be updated later this year and would outline the timetable for the review process of



updating the Local Plan. He explained that the new Council Plan included commitments to encouraging sustainable places, as well as to build and acquire sustainable and affordable homes. He also notified Members that the Council's Climate Change Strategy would be reviewed.

Cllr W Jones asked a supplementary question around whether the Council would insist on developers to future proof their new build constructions.

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place, Councillor S Pickering, explained that the commitment within the Council Plan would ensure that climate change adaptation was a key consideration in the design process.

**COU** **To consider any Motions from Members under Procedure Rule No 10**

**/33/2**

**3-24** **MOTION 'A'**

Members considered a motion submitted by Cllr R Shipman, which called on the Council to explore further ways that empty homes could be brought back into use, and in particular by using new powers when they are introduced to charge an increasing Council Tax premium on Long Term Empty Properties and Second Homes. The full text of Cllr R Shipman's Motion, set out as Motion 'A', was included on the agenda for the meeting.

Councillor D Hancock seconded the motion but reserved his right to speak.

The Leader of the Council responded to the Motion. He explained that it was unnecessary to support it as the Council had recognised this challenge and had agreed to review the Council Tax discretionary policy. The relevant Scrutiny Committee would be asked to review this in the autumn.

Cllr A Dale signalled broad support for the Motion but argued that it was important to be mindful of any potential impact on tourism across the District.

Cllrs R Shipman and D Hancock replied that if the Council was already committed to the steps outlined by the Leader of the Council, then there would be no reason not to support the Motion.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Motion was put to the vote and defeated.

**MOTION 'B'**

Members considered a motion submitted by Cllr D Hancock, which called on the Council to write to the Prime Minister about the need for further support for leisure centres across the District, such as access to the higher level of energy price discount and setting out a plan for growth for the sector. The full text of Cllr D Hancock's motion, set out as Motion 'B', was included on the agenda for the meeting.

Cllr R Shipman seconded the motion but reserved his right to speak.

Cllr A Dale spoke against the motion. He argued that the motion was scaremongering as it did not reflect the investment into the leisure centre and the

support received from Government in recent years.

Cllr N Barker indicated his support for the motion. He recognised that the leisure centres within the District were performing well but that the Motion sought the additional funding required for the Council's leisure centres and placed an emphasis on lobbying central government for increased funds.

Cllr R Shipman emphasised that the motion was not based around Capital Investment but on the day to day running costs of the centres and so should be supported.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Motion was put to the vote and agreed.

RESOLVED – That Council Instructs the Leader to write to the Prime Minister, copied to Lee Rowley MP and Mark Fletcher MP urging the Government to act swiftly with three key measures:

1. Reclassify pools and leisure centres as an energy and trade intensive industry in the Energy Bills Discount Scheme so they can access the higher level of energy price discount.
2. Set out what tangible support it will provide to the wider sector – including gyms and sports facilities – to help navigate the energy crisis across 2023 so that service restrictions and facility closures can be minimised.
3. Set out a “plan for the growth” for the sector by aligning the proposed new Sports Strategy with the Autumn Budget to unlock the potential of the sector to support.

### MOTION 'C'

Members considered a motion submitted by Cllr P Windley, which called on the Council's Services Scrutiny Committee to review the authority's response to tackling Damp and Mould and for a report to be presented back to Council outlining the action to be taken to reduce Damp and Mould in properties across the district. The full text of Cllr P Windley's motion, set out as Motion 'C', was included on the agenda for the meeting.

Councillor D Hancock seconded the motion. He explained that due to the cost-of-living crisis residents might not be able to afford to take certain measures to prevent damp and mould.

Cllr M Durrant signified his support for the motion but suggested that the report be brought to the Communities Scrutiny Committee and not the Services Scrutiny Committee for review. Cllrs P Windley and D Hancock accepted this.

Cllr N Barker, the Leader of the Council, informed Members that the Council and Ryknled Homes Limited were committed to tackling this issue. He drew Members attention to the Council Plan which stated that the Council would deliver social housing that meets the Consumer Standards. He also updated Council that he would work to monitor the situation within the private rented sector.

Cllr N Barker proposed an amendment to the motion so that the report would be

brought back to Cabinet and not Council for consideration.

Councillors C Cupit and Councillor D Hancock argued that damp and mould was a serious issue and should be debated at Council once the issue had been discussed by the relevant Scrutiny Committees and by Cabinet.

Councillor N Barker agreed that a presentation could be given to Council after the report had been delivered to Cabinet.

Cllrs P Windley and D Hancock accepted this amendment to the motion.

After the discussion the motion, as amended, was put to the vote and agreed.

#### RESOLVED – That Council:

1. Calls for Communities Scrutiny Committee to review the authority's response to tackling damp, and in doing so consider aspects such as:
  - a) The Council's ability to resource its Environmental Health services in light of continued cuts to local government funding.
  - b) The information provided to tenants and landlords on the best approaches to preventing and tackling damp.
  - c) The response of social housing providers in preventing damp in their properties and investing in capital projects to improve the stock of social housing within the Council area.
  - d) The Council's use of enforcement powers under the Housing Act 2004 to take action against Category 1 hazards including damp, mould and excessive cold.
2. Calls for a report to be presented to Cabinet outlining the action to be taken to reduce damp in properties across North East Derbyshire
3. Calls for a presentation to be displayed to Council outlining the action to be taken to reduce damp in properties across North East Derbyshire following the information being presented to Cabinet.

#### MOTION 'D'

Members considered a motion submitted by Cllr C Cupit, which called on the Council to condemn the disruptive actions of organisations like Extinction Rebellion and Just Stop Oil, and to continue to recognise that car usage will be a key mode of transport within a rural District and to continue to support car parking and avoid anti-car policies. The full text of Cllr C Cupit's motion, set out as Motion 'D', was included on the agenda for the meeting.

Councillor A Dale seconded the motion but reserved his right to speak.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor N Barker, responded that the Council recognised the climate emergency and understood the importance of car parking and electric vehicle charging points. He informed Members that the car parking policy was under review. However, he argued that the motion covered a range of distinct issues and it was inappropriate to link the issues of car parking to the right to protest and demonstrate about the Climate Emergency and the failings of the

Government's response to this Crisis. The Leader of the Council stressed that these rights should be protected.

Councillor S Reed spoke in favour of the motion. He argued that it would reassure residents that they would be supported throughout the cost of living crisis.

Councillor S Pickering, the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place, criticised the unconstructive and confusing nature of the motion. He criticised the response of the Government and its local supporters to the Climate Emergency.

Councillor F Adlington-Stringer stressed the importance of the Climate Emergency and his support for the right of protest to help ensure that more effective action is taken to help combat it. He made clear that he would not support the Motion.

Councillor D Hancock explained his own experience of public transport and how improvements would be required in order to help reduce car use. Councillor R Shipman reiterated this point.

Councillor J Birkin and Councillor M Durrant spoke against the motion. They argued that the right to protest should be protected and that public transport should be improved. They also felt that the motion did not address the Cost of Living Crisis.

Councillor A Dale responded that there was no intention within the motion to limit the right to lawful protest.

Cllr C Cupit used her right of reply to echo the comments made by Cllr A Dale. She expressed her disappointment around the language that had been used throughout the debate and argued that the debate should have been centred around town centres, car usage and the parking strategy.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Cllr C Cupit, Councillor A Dale and Councillor M Foster asked for the motion to be taken as a recorded vote. The motion was then put to the vote and was defeated.

For: 14

Councillors R Welton, M E Thacker MBE, R Spooner, M Roe, S Reed, W Jones, P Jones, M Foster, P Elliott, L Deighton, A Dale, C Cupit, S Clough, N Baker

Against: 32

Councillors P Windley, H Wetherall, L Stone, Christine Smith, Caroline Smith, D Skinner, R Shipman, K Rouse, S Pickering, F Petersen, N Morley, G Morley, H Liggett, T Lacey, C Lacey, P Kerry, D Higgon, L Hartshorne, D Hancock, C Gare, C Fletcher, M Durrant, S Cornwell, A Cooper, K Clegg, D Cheetham, J Birkin, R Beech, G Baxter MBE, J Barry, N Barker, F Adlington-Stringer

Abstentions: 0

MOTION 'E'

Members considered a motion submitted by Councillor A Dale, which called on

Council to oppose any attempts by the National Labour Party leadership to relax planning restrictions and to resolve to protect the green belt and green fields in any future local plan review. The full text of Councillor A Dale's motion, set out as Motion 'E', was included on the agenda for the meeting.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor N Barker felt that the Motion was not accurate. He explained that the Labour Party Leader, Sir Keir Starmer and the Labour Party Deputy Leader, Angela Rayner, had made clear that it was brownfield sites within the greenbelt that should be considered for development, which would be appropriate. Councillor N Barker confirmed that the new Administration intended to review the Local Plan and to ensure that local communities would have the opportunity to get involved and to have their say about where new development should be.

Councillor D Hancock and Councillor F Adlington-Stringer argued that they were supportive of putting decision making power into the hands of local communities but that this motion was too speculative to support.

Cllr M Foster spoke in favour of the motion. He argued that it simply resolved to protect the green belt and green fields in any local plan and asked that residents be kept fully informed.

Councillor R Shipman spoke against the motion. He argued that the previous administration had removed parts of the green belt which allowed them to built on. He suggested to Council that more houses were required and that most people were willing to accept development on new settlements away from existing ones.

Councillor S Pickering argued against the motion. He drew attention to the Council's five year housing land supply settlement and informed Members that they were in the process of updating their statement of consultation on planning. He also referred to a large development which had been approved on appeal in Killamarsh under the previous administration.

Councillor C Clough made clear that he had supported residents throughout the appeal process on this.

Councillor H Wetherall informed Members that none of her ward was within the green belt and that she would seek to address this in the future.

Councillor C Cupit argued this was a simple motion designed to protect the green belt and green fields in future local plans. She informed Members that the Council's five year housing land supply settlement had been completed prior to the election as had the beginning of the process of updating the statement of consultation on planning.

Councillor A Dale used his right of reply to explain that the Local Plan was completed as early as possible and criticised the failure to adopt a new local plan after the previous one expired in 2011, which had lead to speculative development throughout the District.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Councillor A Dale, Councillor C Cupit and Councillor M Foster asked for the motion to be taken as a recorded vote. The

motion was defeated.

For: 15

Councillors R Welton, M E Thacker MBE, R Spooner, M Roe, S Reed, H Liggett, W Jones, P Jones, M Foster, P Elliott, L Deighton, A Dale, C Cupit, S Clough, N Baker

Against: 30

Councillors P Windley, L Stone, Christine Smith, Caroline Smith, D Skinner, R Shipman, K Rouse, S Pickering, F Petersen, N Morley, G Morley, T Lacey, C Lacey, P Kerry, D Higgon, L Hartshone, D Hancock, C Gare, C Fletcher, M Durrant, C Cornwell, A Cooper, K Clegg, D Cheetham, J Birkin, R Beech, G Baxter MBE, J Barry, N Barker, F Adlington-Stringer

Abstentions: 1

Councillor H Wetherall

**COU Chairman's Urgent Business**

**/34/2**

**3-24** There was no urgent business.