

COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 19 MAY 2025

Present:

Councillor Christine Smith (Chair) (in the Chair)
Councillor Graham Baxter MBE (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Frank Adlington-Stringer	Councillor Pat Antcliff
Councillor Neil Baker	Councillor Nigel Barker
Councillor Jayne Barry	Councillor Richard Beech
Councillor David Cheetham	Councillor Kathy Clegg
Councillor Stephen Clough	Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Suzy Cornwell	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 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 Carolyn Renwick
Councillor Kathy Rouse	Councillor Ross Shipman
Councillor Derrick Skinner	Councillor Caroline Smith
Councillor Richard Spooner	Councillor Jessica Stokes
Councillor Lee Stone	Councillor Martin E Thacker MBE JP
Councillor Richard Welton	Councillor Helen Wetherall

Also Present:

L Hickin	Managing Director - Head of Paid Service
M Broughton	Director of Growth and Assets
J Dethick	Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer)
S Sternberg	Assistant Director of Governance (Monitoring Officer)
A Smith	Legal Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer
A Bryan	Governance Manager
M E Derbyshire	Members ICT & Training Officer
T Bamford	Civic Administration Assistant

Chair of the Council, Councillor Christine Smith, stated that it had been a roller-coaster of a year. Councillor Smith stated that Councillor G Morley had been elected Chair of the Council on 20 May 2024, but sadly within two weeks he had been taken poorly and he died on 13 July 2024. Councillor Smith, as Vice Chair of the Council had stood in for Councillor Morley almost from the start of last year and formally took the office of Chair on 23 September 2024. Councillor Smith said that it had been a great privilege to represent North East Derbyshire and she had tried to get to as many local groups as possible to represent the Council and let them know that the Council was there for them. She gave her heartfelt thanks for the many volunteers who gave their time to help others. Councillor Smith thanked the Governance Team and the Senior Leadership Team, for their help

during her time as Chair of the Council. She also wished to thank Councillor G Baxter MBE for his support as Vice Chair of the Council, and the caretakers for all their work. Councillor Smith reported that she had raised £1,600 which would be distributed to local groups, as was the wish of Councillor G Morley.

COU Election of the Chair of the Council

/1/25

-26 The retiring Chair of the Council, Councillor Christine Smith, sought nominations for the election of a new Chair of the Council for the 2025/26 Municipal Year. Councillor T Lacey and Councillor N Barker moved and seconded a Motion that Councillor L Hartshorne be elected as Chair of the Council.

RESOLVED – That Councillor L Hartshorne be elected Chair of the Council for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

Councillor Lee Hartshorne (Chair) (in the Chair)

COU Address of Gratitude to Members by the Newly Elected Chair of the Council

/2/25

-26 Councillor L Hartshorne, Chair of the Council, stated that he had never expected to ascend to the role of Chair, and noted that this was due to the untimely passing of Councillor G Morley. He thanked Councillor Christine Smith for stepping into the role of Chair and rising to the task.

Councillor Hartshorne stated that he took the responsibility of being Chair of the Council seriously and would represent the Council positively and with fairness.

COU Address of Gratitude to the Outgoing Chair of the Council

/3/25

-26 Councillor A Dale noted the significant loss to Council following Councillor G Morley's death, and that Councillor Christine Smith had stepped up very ably to the role and attended lots of events and supported lots of community groups and championed the district well during her time as Chair. He also noted that she had chaired Council meetings fairly and congratulated her on the funds raised for local groups.

Councillor N Barker noted that Councillor Christine Smith had done very well as Chair, starting in difficult circumstances, and thanked her for all her hard work.

Councillor C Lacey stated that Councillor Christine Smith had been a role model to her as a new Councillor and thanked her for her support.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Christine Smith be thanked for carrying out the office of Chair of the Council during the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

COU Apologies for Absence

/4/25

-26 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Birkin, C Cupit, M Emmens, S Fawcett, D Higgon, M Roe, M Smith, K Tait and P Windley.

COU Declarations of Interest

/5/25

-26 There were no declarations of interest.

COU Minutes of Last Meeting

/6/25

-26 RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2025 were approved as a true and accurate record.

COU Appointment of the Vice-Chair of the Council

/7/25

-26 Councillor T Lacey and Councillor N Barker moved and seconded a Motion that Councillor G Baxter MBE be appointed as Vice Chair of the Council for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED – that Councillor G Baxter MBE be appointed Vice Chair of the Council for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

COU Composition of the Cabinet

/8/25

-26 The Leader of the Council, Councillor N Barker, informed Council of the Cabinet Members and their Portfolios, appointed for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

Councillor N Barker

Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership and Finance

Councillor P Kerry

Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership and Finance

Councillor J Birkin

Portfolio Holder for Council Services

Councillor J Barry

Portfolio Holder for Growth and Assets

Councillor S Pickering

Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place

Councillor K Rouse

Portfolio Holder for Health and Leisure

COU Proportionality of the Council and Appointments to Committees

/9/25

-26 Council considered a report that set out the proposed Committees for the forthcoming year, including their size and terms of reference, and the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the Political Balance rules.

Councillors A Dale and N Barker proposed that where substitutes were permitted, and had not already been nominated, that all other group members be listed as the substitutes.

RESOLVED – that:

- (1) the Committees of the Council as set out in the report be retained for the 2025-26 Municipal Year.
- (2) the size of the Committees as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be agreed for the 2025/26 Municipal Year, in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules.
- (3) the proposed appointments to Committees as set out in Appendix 1 to the report and updated at the meeting be agreed.

COU Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees

/10/2

5-26

Council considered a report on the appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Council's Committees for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED – that the following be appointed to serve as Chair and Vice chairs of the following Committees:

Audit Committee

Chair: Christine Smith

Vice Chair: David Cheetham

Business Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Suzy Cornwell

Vice Chair: Richard Welton

Communities Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Michael Durrant

Vice Chair: Graham Baxter

Environment Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Caroline Smith

Vice Chair: Frank Adlington-Stringer

Services Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Mick Smith

Vice Chair: Richard Spooner

General Licensing Committee

Chair: Carol Lacey

Vice Chair: Clive Fletcher

Licensing & Gambling Acts Committee

Chair: Carol Lacey

Vice Chair: Clive Fletcher

Planning Committee

Chair: Lee Hartshorne

Vice Chair: Tony Lacey

Standards Committee

Chair: Kevin Gillott

Vice Chair: Helen Wetherall

COU Schedule of Meetings for the 2025-26 Municipal Year

/11/2

5-26

Council was asked to agree the schedule of meetings for the 2025/26 Municipal Year. The proposed meeting schedule was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

RESOLVED – that the schedule of meetings for 2025/26 be approved.

COU Appointment of the Council's Representatives to serve on other **/12/2 organisations (Outside Bodies)**

5-26

Council considered a report which set out proposed appointments to serve on other organisations (Outside Bodies) for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

Councillor N Barker reported there was one change to the proposed nominations and that was for Councillor Jayne Barry to replace Councillor Kevin Gillott as the representative on the Derbyshire Police and Crime Panel. Councillor N Barker would be the substitute.

RESOLVED – that Council appoint the nominated elected Members to serve as its representatives on other organisations for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

COU Review of the Council's Constitution

/13/2

5-26

Council considered a report which set out the proposed Constitution of the Council for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

The report explained that the Constitution had been revised to both reflect the views of the Standards Committee and to ensure its accuracy. The main changes agreed by the Standards Committee were set out in Appendix 1 to the report. A link to the revised draft Constitution had been included in the report.

Councillor K Gillott, Chair of Standards Committee, stated that most of the changes were statutory and set out three of the other recommended changes, which were extending the provision of substitutes to other committees, changes regarding planning, and focusing Motions submitted to Council to one topic and 300 words.

Councillor K Gillott and N Barker moved and seconded the recommendations in the report.

Councillors A Dale and R Shipman raised concerns regarding the proposed change to Motions.

Councillor R Shipman and D Hancock moved and seconded an amendment to remove the changes to section 10(2) of the Council Procedure Rules.

Councillors H Wetherall and M Thacker MBE spoke regarding the Motion and Amendment.

Councillor K Gillott stated that Motions to Council had consequences, and it was important it was clear what action was being proposed. He also added that if any changes caused problems then they could be reconsidered but he did not see the harm in asking for Motions to be clearly worded.

The Amendment was put to the vote and was lost.

The original Motion was put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED – that:

- (1) following the review carried out by Standards Committee, the proposed Constitution for the 2025/26 Municipal Year be approved.
- (2) Standards Committee be asked to undertake a further review of the Constitution as necessary, as part of its annual work programme for the 2025/26 Municipal Year and to make any recommendations for change to Council, as appropriate.
- (3) the Monitoring Officer exercises their delegated powers to make changes to the Constitution arising from any new legislation, administrative errors or conflicts of interpretation during the course of the Municipal Year, in consultation with the Chair of Standards Committee, as appropriate.

COU Scheme of Delegation

/14/2

5-26

Council considered a report which proposed the Scheme of Delegation for approval. The proposed Scheme of Delegation for the 2025/26 Municipal Year was set out at Appendices 1, 2 and 3 to the report. It comprised the following extracts from the Constitution:

- Section 15 – Delegation of Council Functions
- Section 18 – Proper Officer Provisions – Statutory Functions
- Section 19 – Specific Delegations to Officers

Councillors N Barker and J Barry moved and seconded a Motion to approve the recommendations as set out in the report.

RESOLVED – that the Scheme of Delegation be approved.

COU Operation of Urgency Rules and Thresholds for Key Decisions

/15/2

5-26

Council considered a report on the operation of Urgency Rules and the thresholds for Key Decisions. The report stated that no Key Decisions had been taken using Special Urgency Rules, and it was proposed to keep the financial thresholds for Key Decisions at the same level.

Councillors N Barker and J Barry moved and seconded a Motion to approve the recommendations as set out in the report.

RESOLVED – that:

- (1) it be noted that no decisions had been taken over the past 12 months under Special Urgency rules in the Council's Access to Information Rules.
- (2) it be noted that no decision taken on the past 12 months under the urgency provisions (called General Exception) in the Council's Access to Information Rules.
- (3) the financial thresholds for Key Decisions be kept at £125,000 (Revenue) and £310,000 (Capital).

COU Chair's Urgent Business

/16/2

5-26 There was no urgent business.