

COUNCIL**Wednesday, 11th October, 2017**

Present:-

Councillor Davenport (The Mayor)

Councillors	Bagley	Councillors	Flood
	J Barr		P Gilby
	P Barr		T Gilby
	Bellamy		Hill
	Bingham		Hollingworth
	Blank		Huckle
	Borrell		J Innes
	Brady		P Innes
	Brittain		Ludlow
	Brown		Miles
	Brunt		A Murphy
	Callan		T Murphy
	Caulfield		Niblock
	D Collins		Perkins
	L Collins		Rayner
	Derbyshire		Redihough
	Dickinson		Sarvent
	A Diouf		Serjeant
	Dyke		Simmons
	Elliott		Slack
	Falconer		Wall

27 AMENDMENT OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

In accordance with Standing Order No. 4.5 at the Mayor's discretion the order of business was changed to enable the Notice of Motion submitted under Standing Order No. 19 to be considered at Minute No. 33 immediately following the Public Questions to the Council submitted under Standing Order No. 12 at Minute No. 32.

28 MINUTES**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19 July, 2017 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

29 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor referred to the following Mayoral engagements:

- Visiting a number of care homes across the borough that had recently gained their Dementia Care Framework Accreditation.
- Attending two events to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Mercian Regiment, including an excellent military display at their parade at Newstead Abbey.
- Welcoming primary school children from the borough to the town hall and giving them a tour of the Mayor's parlour during Local Democracy Week, when the children learned about what the Council does, were able to choose their own Mayor for the day and take part in a real ballot.

The Mayor invited Members to join her and the Mayoress for drinks following the next full Council meeting in December, and to come in Christmas attire to support a collection for the Mayor's Appeal.

30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bexton, Burrows, Catt and V Diouf.

31 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

No declarations of interest were received.

32 PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

Under Standing Order No. 12, the following questions were asked:

(1) by Mr Adrian Rimington:

“Cuts to benefits and services have disproportionately hit disabled people.

We are a group of disabled people called ‘Disability Campaigners’ running a campaign titled 'Give it Back!' Stop people on benefits paying council tax.

Until April 2013, people on benefits did not have to pay council tax. Since then, the disabled and/or unemployed are required to pay a measure of council Tax, typically £10 - £15 per month, money that they can ill afford to pay. Councils had some discretion about charging people on benefits, but 276 out of 326 councils in England chose to apply the levy. This takes disabled people below the basic living assessment on which benefits are based.

Local councils levy and collect the council tax, but we are aware the County Council gets the lion's share. We appreciate it is a big ask, but this levy is condemning disabled people to living below the basic living allowance and becoming more isolated, feeling persecuted, and having to cut down on food and heating, risking serious health problems.

Could we please have a statement of your support and how you would help disabled people by giving them their basic benefit entitlement back for them to at least have a chance to participate in the community and have access to basic needs? Please lobby your national parties to help change this unjust system.”

The Leader provided a verbal response to the question.

(2) by Laura Bagley:

"Will Chesterfield Borough Council follow other councils in supporting the 'votes at 16' campaign?

There are currently 1.5 million 16 and 17 year olds that are denied the vote in public elections in the UK. Lowering the voting age to 16 would empower young people to better engage in society and influence decisions that will define their future. People who can consent to medical treatment, work full time, pay taxes, get married or enter a civil partnership, and join the armed forces should also have the right to vote.

The Scottish Government took more positive steps towards a more inclusive political system when they passed the Scottish Elections (Reduction of Voting Age) Bill, which allows all 16 and 17 year olds to vote in all Scottish elections from May 2016. Young people's participation in the Scottish Referendum demonstrates that they are eager to engage. 75% of 16 and 17 year olds turned out to vote in a once in a lifetime opportunity to have their say in shaping the future of their country. Other young people across the UK should have the same democratic right.

A number of other councils have already supported this campaign and have passed motions in support. These include: Oldham, Bristol, Halton, Rotherham, Wolverhampton and Leeds City Council.

Will Chesterfield Borough council follow suit and support the campaign by passing a motion at tonight's council meeting? We must remember that democracy includes young people too."

The Deputy Leader provided a verbal response to the question.

33 NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 21

It was moved by Councillor Serjeant and seconded by Councillor Huckle that,

"Chesterfield Borough Council supports the 'votes at 16' campaign."

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried.

34 PETITIONS TO COUNCIL

In accordance with Standing Order No.13 Council debated the following petition received from Miss Anastasia Antill, National Citizen Service (NCS) on 25 September, 2017:

"Accessibility issues in Chesterfield town centre.

We are aiming to improve our community by helping people with disabilities to get around the busy town centre.

As a group, we decided to base our NCS project on tackling the disabled access into the town centre as the research we had carried out, including speaking with members of the public, had shown that many people felt

that this was an issue, particularly around the market area. Most of the people we spoke to who had disabilities admitted that they struggled on a regular basis and often avoided going into town.

To improve access, we propose introducing wheelchair ramps at the side of the market to provide better surfaces for wheelchair users and widening the gaps between market stalls to enable wheelchair users to access the market more easily especially on market days.”

The petition contained in excess of 1,000 signatures; therefore it was referred to Council to be debated in accordance with the Council's petition scheme and Standing Order No. 13.

Miss Antill presented the petition and answered Members' questions.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Council receives and notes the petition regarding matters of accessibility in the town centre.
2. That the petition and tonight's debate at Full Council be taken into account by Chesterfield Borough Council when developing the planned market reconfiguration project to improve both the accessibility and viability of the market and town centre.
3. That the Council encourages the local National Citizen Service group to continue to work with the Council and other key stakeholders to make the market and town centre more accessible to all and, in particular, to better plan and regulate the siting of street furniture, including the display of advertising ('A') boards.

35 QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER

Under Standing Order No.14 Councillor Borrell asked the Leader about the circumstances of no play having been possible in the additional Derbyshire County Cricket Club match in Queen's Park in September despite the drainage work undertaken in late 2016, and enquired what steps were being taken to ensure play would be possible in future fixtures.

The Leader provided a verbal response.

36 ELECTION TO THE BOROUGH COUNCIL - 21 SEPTEMBER, 2017

The Chief Executive and Returning Officer reported that Councillor Keith Falconer had been elected as Councillor for the Holmebrook Ward at the by-election held on 21 September, 2017.

RESOLVED –

That it be noted that Councillor Keith Falconer had been elected as Councillor for the Homebrook Ward.

37 CHANGES TO ALLOCATION OF SEATS AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2017/18

The Chief Executive reported that a review of the political balance of Committees had been undertaken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, following the election of Councillor Falconer (the Liberal Democrat Party candidate) as Councillor for the Holmebrook Ward on 21 September, 2017.

RESOLVED –

That the recent change to the political composition of the Council be noted and that the following changes to the membership of committees as proposed by the political groups be agreed:

Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum

- addition of Councillor Falconer as a Liberal Democrat member;

Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

- addition of Councillor Falconer as a Liberal Democrat member.

38 QUARTER 1 BUDGET MONITORING 2017/18 & UPDATED MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL FORECAST

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No. 45 (2017/18) the Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report to provide an update on the budget position at the end of the first quarter including the General Fund Revenue and Capital accounts, and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

RESOLVED –

1. That the financial performance in the first quarter of the financial year and the new medium term forecast, as set out in sections 4 and 6 of the report, be noted.
2. That the proposed use of reserves, as set out in section 5 of the report, be confirmed.
3. That the changes to the Housing Revenue Account budgets, as set out in section 7 of the report, be noted.

39 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17 & MONITORING REPORT 2017/18

Pursuant to Standards and Audit Committee Minute No. 17 (2017/18) the Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report for Members to consider the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2016/17 and the Treasury Management activities for the first five months of 2017/18.

RESOLVED –

1. That the outturn Prudential Indicators for 2016/17 be approved;
2. That the treasury management stewardship report for 2016/17 be approved;
3. That the treasury management position for the first five months of 2017/18 be noted.

40 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the following Committees be noted:-

Appeals and Regulatory Committee of 12 and 19 July, 9 and 16 August and 6 and 13 September, 2017.

Employment and General Committee of 24 July and 31 August, 2017.

Licensing Committee of 22 August, 2017.

Planning Committee of 17 July, 7 and 29 August and 18 September, 2017.

Standards and Audit Committee of 20 September, 2017.

41 MINUTES OF THE CABINET

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meetings of Cabinet of 11 July, 25 July and 12 September, 2017 be noted.

42 MINUTES OF THE JOINT CABINET AND EMPLOYMENT AND GENERAL COMMITTEE

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Cabinet and Employment and General Committee of 25 July, 2017 be noted.

43 MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY FORUM

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum of 27 June, 2017 be approved.

44 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY, CUSTOMER AND ORGANISATIONAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee of 11 July, 2017 be approved.

45 MINUTES OF THE ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee of 25 July, 2017 be approved.

46 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 19

No questions had been submitted.