COUNCIL

Wednesday, 26th February, 2020

Present:-

Councillor Simmons (The Mayor)

Councillors	Barr	Councillors	Hollingworth
	Bingham		Holmes
	Blakemore		Kellman
	Blank		Kelly
	Borrell		Mannion-Brunt
	Brady		Mann
	Brittain		Marriott
	Callan		Miles
	Catt		A Murphy
	Caulfield		T Murphy
	D Collins		P Niblock
	L Collins		S Niblock
	Coy		Perkins
	Davenport		Rayner
	Dyke		Redihough
	G Falconer		Rogers
	K Falconer		Sarvent
	Flood		Serjeant
	Fordham		Snowdon
	P Gilby		Thornton
	T Gilby		

72 MINUTES OF COUNCIL

Councillor Fordham requested that his vote against approval of the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 18 December, 2019 be recorded.

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18 December, 2019 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

73 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor referred with sadness to the recent death of former Mayoress, Mrs Vera Wright. Members stood for a minute's silence in her honour.

The Mayor thanked Members for their support for the Mayor's Appeal at the December meeting which had raised £100.

The Mayor referred to the numerous festive events which he and the Mayoress had attended including carol services at St Thomas' Church and for Ashgate Hospicecare and the Carers' Celebration at the Crooked Spire.

He also referred to the following recent Mayoral engagements:

- A visit to United Cast Bar for a tour of their Chesterfield factory;
- Visits from Cavendish Junior School to the Mayor's parlour as part of the Local Democracy activities;
- Judging the North Derbyshire Young Enterprise Trade Fair entries.

The Mayor reminded Members that he and the Mayoress would be hosting a Gala Dinner at the Proact Stadium on 3 April, 2020.

74 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bagshaw, Bellamy, J Innes, P Innes, Ludlow and Perry.

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

No declarations of interest were received.

76 PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

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

(1) by Max Kerley:

“Demolition of Council Houses on Rufford Close, Chesterfield:

At the meeting of the Borough Council on 18 December 2019, I asked a question about the demolition of four newly built council houses on Rufford Close. The Council had previously announced that these houses had been demolished because of a fire underneath them and I had assumed that the fire had ignited in an unremoved coal seam under the houses. However, I was apparently in error and, in her answer to me at the time, Cllr Gilby, the Council leader informed me:

1. That all coal under the houses had been completely removed during the construction process.
2. That there was no fire under the houses.
3. That the gases that were detected and that led to the conclusion that there was a fire which in turn led to the decision to demolish the houses had been emitted from some material used by the contractor to fill the void left by the removal of the coal seam.

Cllr Gilby also informed me that this issue was now to be the subject of a technical investigation which might lead to legal proceedings.

Since I received that answer I have consulted informally with two experienced chemical engineers. They both expressed surprise at the information given by Cllr Gilby as they were unaware of any materials or processes which would spontaneously produce gases closely similar to those given off by burning fossil fuels, particularly coal. They were, therefore, very interested to know what the results of the technical investigation might show when revealed as part of legal proceedings or, if no such proceedings were to be undertaken, when the technical investigation report is made public by the Council.

Therefore, my question is a very simple one:

Has the technical investigation about which Cllr Gilby informed us on 18 December now been carried out?”

Councillor P Gilby, Leader, provided a verbal response, confirming that the Council had received the final report from a full geo-environmental investigation of the site in September, 2019.

Max Kerley asked a supplementary question as to whether the final report would lead to legal action.

Councillor P Gilby provided a verbal response, stating that the issue was subject to potential legal action.

(2) by Paul Stone:

"I wish to know as a public body, how long Chesterfield Borough Council keeps records of:

a) Contracts
b) Recording of Minutes taken at Full Council?"

Councillor Blank, Cabinet Member for Governance, provided a verbal response, referring to the Council's Records Management Policy and Corporate Record Retention and Disposal Schedule, which recommended retention of contract documents for six or 12 years, depending on their value, and retention of minutes of Council meetings permanently as a historical record.

Paul Stone asked a supplementary question regarding the retention of electronic recordings of Council meetings.

Councillor Blank provided a verbal response, confirming that electronic recordings were considered for destruction once they had become obsolete or were no longer required.

77 PETITIONS TO COUNCIL

No petitions had been received.

78 QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER

Under Standing Order No. 14 Members asked the following questions:

- Councillor Fordham asked what action the Leader had taken following his earlier question at the Council meeting held on 17 July, 2019 regarding engagement with NACRO following two recent deaths in Brockwell ward and a further death subsequently nearby.

  The Leader provided a verbal response, regretting the loss of life and referring to the active and continuing involvement of the

Council, with public sector partners, ward councillors and NACRO to address issues in the Albion Road area.

- Councillor Kellman asked about the disparity between the proportion of male and female employees of the Council receiving bonus payments and what actions were being taken to address the gender pay gap.

  The Leader provided a verbal response, referring to the actions proposed to address the gender pay gap within the People Plan for 2019 – 2023, which had been approved at the Council meeting held on 18 December, 2019.

- Councillor Collins asked whether consideration could be given to the HS2 maintenance depot proposed to be built within her ward becoming a construction depot.

  The Leader provided a verbal response, confirming that the Council had requested HS2 to consider locating a construction depot within the borough, given the additional jobs that this would bring to the area.

79 CHANGES TO CABINET APPOINTMENTS - 2019/20

The Democratic and Scrutiny Officer submitted a report requesting that Council noted the decision of the Leader of the Council to appoint an Assistant Cabinet Member in accordance with Article 7 of the Council's constitution.

RESOLVED –

That Council note the Leader of the Council's decision to appoint Councillor Dean Collins to the role of Assistant Cabinet Member for the remainder of the council year 2019/20.

80 CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP OF MEMBER LEVEL COMMITTEES - 2019/20

The Democratic and Scrutiny Officer submitted a report detailing proposed changes to the membership of Member level committees and to the appointment of chairs and vice-chairs for the remainder of the 2019/20 municipal year.

RESOLVED –

1. That the following changes to the membership of committees as proposed by the political groups be agreed:

   Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee
   - Councillor Mann to replace Councillor Bagshaw as a Community Independent group member

   Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
   - Councillor Brittain to replace Councillor Dean Collins as a Labour group member
   - Councillor Mann to replace Councillor Bagshaw as a Community Independent group member

   Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum
   - Councillor Brittain to replace Councillor Dean Collins as a Labour group member
   - Councillor Mann to replace Councillor Bagshaw as a Community Independent group member.

2. That the following change to the appointment of chairs and vice-chairs as proposed by the Leader of the majority group be agreed:

   Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
   - Councillor Brittain to replace Councillor Dean Collins as Vice-Chair of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

81 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2020/21**

Pursuant to Standards and Audit Committee Minute No. 42 the Acting Chief Finance Officer submitted a report recommending for approval the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2020/21, the Capital Strategy Report for 2020/21, the Investment Strategy Report for 2020/21 and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy for 2020/21.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2020/21 be approved.

2. That the Capital Strategy report, including the Prudential Code Indicators, for 2020/21 be approved.

3. That the Investment Strategy report for 2020/21 be approved.

4. That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy for 2020/21 be approved.

82 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) - BUDGET 2020/21 TO 2024/25

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No. 113 the Acting Chief Finance Officer and the Assistant Director - Housing submitted a report presenting the probable outturn on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2019/20 and the budget estimates for 2020/21 through to 2024/25 for approval.

RESOLVED –

1. That the probable outturn for the current financial year 2019/20 be noted.

2. That the draft budget estimates for 2020/21 and future financial years be approved.

83 HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME: 2020/21 TO 2024/25

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No. 114 the Assistant Director – Housing submitted the Housing (Public Sector) Capital Programme for 2019/20 and 2020/21 and the provisional Capital Programmes for 2021/22 to 2024/25 for approval.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Housing (Public Sector) revised Capital Programme for 2019/20 be approved.

2. That the Housing (Public Sector) Capital Programmes for 2020/21 be approved and its procurement, as necessary, be authorised.

3. That the Housing (Public Sector) Capital programmes for 2021/22 to 2024/25 be provisionally approved.

4. That the commercial services share of the 2020/21 programme be approved.

5. That delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director - Housing and/or the Acting Chief Finance Officer to transfer funds between programme heads and budgets in order to manage the Capital Programme as set out in the officers' report.

84 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020/21

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No. 110 the Acting Chief Finance Officer submitted a report recommending for approval the updated General Fund Capital Programme for the financial year 2020/21.

RESOLVED –

That the updated General Fund Capital Programme expenditure and financing, as detailed in Appendix A of the officer's report, be approved.

85 2020/21 BUDGET & MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No. 107 the Acting Chief Finance Officer submitted a report seeking Council approval for the General Fund Budget for 2020/21, including recommendations on the budget allocations and Council Tax level for 2020/21.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote was taken for this item as follows:

FOR –

Councillors:	Councillors:
Blakemore	T Gilby
Blank	Kelly
Brady	Mannion-Brunt
Brittain	Marriott
Callan	Miles
Catt	A Murphy
Caulfield	T Murphy
D Collins	Perkins

L Collins	Rayner
Dyke	Sarvent
Flood	Serjeant
P Gilby	Simmons

AGAINST –

Councillors:	Councillors:
P Barr	Hollingworth
Bingham	Holmes
Borrell	Kellman
Coy	P Niblock
Davenport	S Niblock
G Falconer	Redihough
K Falconer	Rogers
Fordham	Snowdon

ABSTENTIONS –

Mann

RESOLVED –

1. That the revised budget for 2019/20, as detailed in section 5 of the officer's report, be approved.

2. That the requests for funding from the budget risk reserve, as detailed in paragraphs 5.3 to 5.6 of the officer's report, be approved.

3. That the overall revenue budget summary for 2020/21, as detailed in section 7 and Appendix A of the officer's report, be approved.

4. That the Collection Fund and Tax Base forecasts, as detailed in section 8 of the officer's report, be noted.

5. That the use of the capital receipts flexibility to fund the revenue costs of the ICT programme which will lead to budget

savings, as detailed in section 9 of the officer's report, be approved.

6. That the budget forecasts for 2020/21 and the medium term and the action plan for addressing the projected deficits, as detailed in section 10 of the officer's report, be noted.

7. That the estimates of reserves including maintaining the General Working Balance at £1.5m, as detailed in section 11 and Appendix D of the officer's report, be approved.

8. That the budget risks and sensitivity analysis, as detailed in Appendix E of the officer's report, be noted.

9. That the recommended £5 increase in the Council's share of Council Tax for a Band 'D' property in 2020/21 be approved.

10. That the 2020/21 Council Tax Requirement and financing, as detailed in Appendix F of the officer's report, be approved.

11. That the Acting Chief Finance Officer's assurances, as detailed in section 16 of the officer's report, be noted.

86 **COUNCIL TAX 2020/21**

The Acting Chief Finance Officer submitted a report, the purpose of which was to enable the Borough Council, as Tax Collecting Authority, to set the Council Tax for its area for 2020/21 as required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote was taken for this item as follows:

FOR –

Councillors:	Councillors:
Blakemore	T Gilby
Blank	Kelly
Brady	Mannion-Brunt
Brittain	Marriott

Callan	Miles
Catt	A Murphy
Caulfield	T Murphy
D Collins	Perkins
L Collins	Rayner
Dyke	Sarvent
Flood	Serjeant
P Gilby	Simmons

AGAINST –

Councillors:	Councillors:
P Barr	Hollingworth
Bingham	Holmes
Borrell	Kellman
Coy	P Niblock
Davenport	S Niblock
G Falconer	Redihough
K Falconer	Rogers
Fordham	Snowdon

ABSTENTIONS –

Mann

RESOLVED –

1. That it be noted that at its meeting on 27th January 2020 the Employment and General Committee calculated the following tax base amounts for the year 2020/21 in accordance with regulation made under Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as:

   (a) 29,181.08 being the tax base calculated for the whole Council area.

   (b) For those areas to which a parish precept applies:

Staveley Town Council	4,215.27
Brimington Parish Council	2,322.81

2. That the Council approves the calculation of the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2020/21 (excluding parish precepts) as **£4,957,574**.

3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2020/21 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

   (a) **£110,978,267** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act (gross expenditure) taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils;

   (b) **£105,022,669** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act (gross income including grants and the use of reserves);

   (c) **£94,470** being the surplus on the Council tax elements of the Collection Fund and **£440,085** being the surplus on the Business Rate elements;

   (d) **£5,421,043** being the amount by which the aggregate at 3.3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3.3(b) above plus 3.3(c), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year. Please note that this is the total of the Borough's requirement of **£4,957,574** plus the total parish precepts of **£463,469**.

   (e) **£185.77** being the amount at 3.3(d) above divided by 3.1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).

   (f) **£463,469** being the aggregate amount of all special items (parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.

   (g) **£169.89** (Band 'D' Council Tax) being the amount at 3(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(f) above by the amount at 3.1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates. The tax does not exceed the principles set by the Secretary of

State for determining excessive tax increases and triggering a referendum.

Parts of the Council's area:

(h) The following being the amounts calculated by adding the amount at 3.3(g) to the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned in 3.3(f) divided in each case by the amount at 3.1(b), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more items relate.

Parish	**Band 'D' Tax £**
Staveley	267.48
Brimington	192.32

(i) The amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3.3(g) and 3.3(h) by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands:

Part of the Council's area	**Valuation Band**							
	A	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**	**H**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Staveley Town Council	178.32	208.04	237.76	267.48	326.92	386.36	445.80	534.96
Brimington Parish Council	128.21	149.58	170.95	192.32	235.06	277.80	320.53	384.64
All other parts of the Borough	113.26	132.14	151.01	169.89	207.64	245.40	283.15	339.78

4. That it be noted that for the year 2020/21 the Derbyshire County Council, the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Derbyshire Police & Crime Commissioner have stated the following amounts in

precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Precepting Authority	**Valuation Band**							
	A	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**	**H**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Derbyshire County Council	899.56	1,049.49	1,199.41	1,349.34*	1,649.19	1,949.05	2,248.90	2,698.68
Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service	51.82	60.46	69.09	77.73	95.00	112.28	129.55	155.46
Derbyshire Police & Crime Commissioner	151.07	176.24	201.42	226.60	276.96	327.31	377.67	453.20

*The Derbyshire County Council Tax increase of 2.00% is to support the delivery of adult social care duties and responsibilities in 2020/21, equivalent to an additional £26.46 for dwellings in Council Tax Valuation Band 'D', which is included in the £1,349.34 in the table above.

5. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3.3(i) and 3.4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2020/21 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

	Valuation Band							
Part of the Council's area	**A 6/9**	**B 7/9**	**C 8/9**	**D 9/9**	**E 11/9**	**F 13/9**	**G 15/9**	**H 18/9**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Staveley Town Council	1,280.77	1,494.23	1,707.68	1,921.15	2,348.07	2,775.00	3,201.92	3,842.30
Brimington Parish Council	1,230.66	1,435.77	1,640.87	1,845.99	2,256.21	2,666.44	3,076.65	3,691.98
All other parts of the Borough	1,215.71	1,418.33	1,620.93	1,823.56	2,228.79	2,634.04	3,039.27	3,647.12

87 APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL PLAN 2019 - 2023 DELIVERY PLAN FOR 2020/21

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No. 106 the Assistant Director - Policy and Communications submitted a report recommending the Council Plan Delivery Plan for 2020/21 for approval.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Council Plan Delivery Plan for 2020/21 be approved.

2. That the Deputy Leader be granted delegated authority to approve any minor drafting changes to the delivery plan in order to improve the readability and accessibility of the plan.

88 CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

Pursuant to Joint Cabinet and Employment and General Committee Minute No. 40 the Assistant Director – Health and Wellbeing submitted a report advising Members of the progress made in relation to development of the Council's Climate Change action plan and of the dates for the Council and the borough to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions and seeking approval for the adoption and implementation of the Council's Climate Change action plan.

89 STANDING ORDER NO. 33 - SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED –

That, in accordance with Standing Order No. 33, Standing Order No. 4 paragraph 4.3 be waived to enable the meeting to continue beyond the three hours time limit.

90 CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

Pursuant to Minute No. 88 –

RESOLVED –

1. That the proposed Climate Change action plan, as detailed in Appendix A of the officer's report, to support the Council to achieve

net zero carbon emissions by 2030 and Chesterfield borough by 2050 be approved.

2. That a new post of Climate Change / Sustainability Officer be established.

3. That the Council allocates a sum of £100,000 per annum in each of the next three financial years to support the Council's work on Climate Change.

4. That the proposal for the Council to collaborate with the other district / borough councils in Derbyshire and Derbyshire County Council as part of a county-wide approach to tackling Climate Change and, in parallel, further work with Nottingham City Council to better understand the carbon footprint of the Council and Chesterfield borough be supported.

5. That the Deputy Leader be granted delegated authority in consultation with the Cabinet Member – Health and Wellbeing to approve action plan updates to ensure the plan remains current and relevant.

91 **CIVIC ARRANGEMENTS 2020/21**

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No. 112 the Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer submitted a report to confirm arrangements for the civic year 2020/21 in respect of the following:

a) Election of Mayor 2020/21
b) Election of Deputy Mayor 2020/21
c) Annual Council Meeting 2020
d) Mayoral Dinner 2020
e) Annual Civic Service and Parade 2020

RESOLVED –

1. That Councillor Glenys Falconer be invited to become Mayor of the Borough for 2020/21.

2. That Councillor Tony Rogers be invited to become Deputy Mayor of the Borough for 2020/21.

3. That it be noted that the Annual Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 13 May 2020, followed by a drinks reception at the Town Hall.

4. That it be noted that the Annual Civic Service and Procession will be held on Saturday 16 May 2020.

5. That it be noted that the Mayoral Dinner will take place at The Winding Wheel Theatre on the evening of Saturday 16 May 2020 to coincide with a visit of the Oberbürgermeister of Darmstadt to mark the 60th anniversary of Chesterfield's twinning friendship with Darmstadt.

92 ELECTED MEMBERS PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No. 111 the Assistant Director – Policy and Communications submitted a report recommending for approval the Parental Leave Policy for Elected Members.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Parental Leave Policy for Elected Members be approved and implemented.

2. That the Cabinet Member for Governance be granted delegated authority to approve minor amendments to the Parental Leave Policy for Elected Members between the formal review periods.

3. That the Parental Leave Policy for Elected Members be reviewed every three years.

93 APPROVAL OF SENIOR PAY POLICY STATEMENT - 2020/21

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No. 109 the Human Resources and Support Services Manager submitted a report seeking approval for the Senior Pay Policy Statement for 2020/21, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Local Government (Transparency Requirements) (England) Regulations 2014.

RESOLVED –

That the revised Senior Pay Policy Statement for 2020/21, attached at Appendix 1 of the officer's report, be approved.

94 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the following Committees be noted:

- Appeals and Regulatory Committee of 11 December (two meetings), 2019 and 15 January and 5 February, 2020;
- Employment and General Committee of 27 January, 2020;
- Licensing Committee of 3, 8 and 29 January and 5 February, 2020;
- Planning Committee of 6 and 27 January, 2020;
- Standards and Audit Committee of 27 November, 2020.

95 MINUTES OF CABINET

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meetings of Cabinet of 17 December, 2019 and 14 January and 4 February, 2020 be noted.

96 MINUTES OF THE JOINT CABINET AND EMPLOYMENT AND GENERAL COMMITTEE

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Joint Cabinet and Employment and General Committee of 17 December, 2019 and 14 January, 2020 be noted.

97 MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY FORUM

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum of 21 November, 2019 be approved.

98 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY, CUSTOMER AND ORGANISATIONAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee of 28 November, 2019 be approved.

99 MINUTES OF THE ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee of 5 December, 2019 be approved.

100 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 19

Under Standing Order No. 19 Councillor Fordham asked the following question:

“How many residents of the Borough have, over the last five years, been disposed of under the Prevention of Diseases Act, i.e. with no personal ceremony, with no active next of kin and no recognition of their life other than to dispose of their body safely?”

Councillor Mannion-Brunt, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, provided a verbal response, confirming that 59 funerals had been arranged by the Council over the last five years under the provisions of the Public Health (Control of Diseases) Act 1984, in each case appointing funeral directors and holding a simple but dignified service.