

**COUNCIL****Wednesday, 28th April, 2021**

Present:-

Councillor G Falconer (The Mayor)

Councillors	Barr	Councillors	J Innes
	Bellamy		P Innes
	Bingham		Kellman
	Blakemore		Kelly
	Blank		Ludlow
	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		Perry
	Dyke		Rayner
	K Falconer		Redihough
	Flood		Rogers
	Fordham		Sarvent
	P Gilby		Serjeant
	T Gilby		Snowdon
	Hollingworth		Thornton
	Holmes		

52 **TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 24 FEBRUARY, 2021**

**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 24 February, 2021 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

53 **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor referred with sadness to the recent death of His Royal Highness Prince Phillip, The Duke of Edinburgh. The Council took appropriate steps to mark The Duke of Edinburgh's death, including flying the Town Hall's union flag at half-mast, sending a letter of condolence to the Queen and holding a minute's silence before all council meetings during the period of national mourning. The Mayor represented the Borough of Chesterfield at two memorial services held in honour of The Duke of Edinburgh.

The Mayor summarised recent events which she and the consort had attended including:

- Opening a footpath in Hollingwood dedicated to the late Mr Jack Reynolds, who died last year. Mr Reynolds was a prominent figure in the local community and raised large amounts of money for charity by achieving four Guinness World Records.
- Virtually attending the annual Destination Chesterfield Celebrate Chesterfield event about the latest regeneration projects taking place across the borough.

The Mayor thanked participants of their virtual poetry evening for their support of the Mayor's Appeal which had raised £240.

#### **54 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bagshaw and Simmons.

#### **55 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.**

No declarations of interest were received.

#### **56 PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL**

No questions had been received.

#### **57 PETITIONS TO COUNCIL**

No petitions had been received.

58 **DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CABINET APPOINTMENTS 2021/22**

**RESOLVED –**

1. That the appointment by the Leader of Councillor Amanda Serjeant as the Deputy Leader of the Council for the municipal year 2021/22 be noted.
2. That the appointment by the Leader of the following Members of the Cabinet for the municipal year 2021/22 be noted:

<b>Cabinet Member for Business Transformation &amp; Customers</b>	Councillor Jean Innes
<b>Cabinet Member for Economic Growth</b>	Councillor Dean Collins
<b>Cabinet Member for Governance</b>	Councillor Sharon Blank
<b>Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing</b>	Councillor Jill Mannion-Brunt
<b>Cabinet Member for Housing</b>	Councillor Chris Ludlow
<b>Cabinet Member for Town Centres and Visitor Economy</b>	Councillor Kate Sarvent
<b>Minority Member without Portfolio</b>	Councillor Paul Holmes
<b>Assistant Cabinet Member(s) (Special Projects)</b>	Councillor Peter Innes

59 **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2021/22**

**RESOLVED –**

1. That the Member-level bodies of the Council for 2021/22, and the number of Members on each be as follows:-

<b>Planning Committee</b>	15
<b>Planning Sub Committee</b>	3
<b>Appeals and Regulatory Committee</b>	14
<b>Licensing Committee</b>	14
<b>Employment and General Committee</b>	6
<b>Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum</b>	16
<b>Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee</b>	8
<b>Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee</b>	8
<b>Standards and Audit Committee</b> (Borough Council representatives only)	6

2. That the following named Members be appointed to the Council's Member-level bodies for 2021/22:

### **Planning Committee**

Councillors: Barr, Bingham, Borrell, Brady, Callan, Catt, Caulfield, D Collins, Davenport, G Falconer, T Gilby, Mann, Marriott, Miles and Simmons.

### **Planning Sub-Committee**

Councillors: Barr, Callan and D Collins.

### **Appeals and Regulatory Committee**

Councillors: Bellamy, Bingham, G Falconer, Flood, P Innes, Marriott, Miles, A Murphy, S Niblock, Perkins, Perry, Rayner, Redihough and Rogers.

### **Licensing Committee**

Councillors: Bagshaw, Bellamy, Blakemore, Brittain, Flood, A Murphy, T Murphy, P Niblock, S Niblock, Perkins, Rayner, Redihough, Rogers and Thornton.

### **Employment and General Committee**

Councillors: Blank, Brittain, Davenport, K Falconer, T Murphy and Simmons.

### **Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum**

Councillors: Blakemore, Borrell, Brittain, Catt, Caulfield, L Collins, Coy, Dyke, Flood, Fordham, T Gilby, Hollingworth, Kellman, Kelly, Mann and Snowdon.

### **Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee**

Councillors: Bagshaw, Blakemore, Borrell, L Collins, Dyke, Fordham, Kellman and Kelly.

### **Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee**

Councillors: Brittain, Caulfield, Coy, Dyke, Flood, Hollingworth, Mann and Snowdon.

3. That the following named Members be appointed to the Standards and Audit Committee (Borough Council representatives only) for 2021/22:

Councillors: Brady, Caulfield, Kellman, T Murphy, Rayner and Snowdon.

4. That the following named Members be appointed to the roles of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees for 2021/22:

#### **Planning Committee**

Chair: Councillor Callan  
Vice-Chair: Councillor Simmons

#### **Planning Sub Committee**

Chair: Councillor D Collins

	Vice-Chair: Councillor Callan
<b>Appeals and Regulatory Committee</b>	Chair: Councillor A Murphy Vice-Chair: Councillor Perkins
<b>Licensing Committee</b>	Chair: Councillor A Murphy Vice-Chair: Councillor Perkins
<b>Employment and General Committee</b>	Chair: Councillor T Murphy
<b>Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum</b>	Councillors L Collins and Flood to be alternating Chairs
<b>Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee</b>	Chair: Councillor L Collins Vice-Chair: Councillor Borrell
<b>Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee</b>	Chair: Councillor Flood Vice-Chair: Councillor Dyke
<b>Standards and Audit Committee</b>	Chair: Councillor Rayner Vice-Chair: Councillor Kellman

## 60 **COUNCIL'S DELEGATION SCHEME**

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report seeking confirmation of the current scheme of delegation.

The constitution sets out the principal powers, duties and procedures of the Council, including, in Part 3, to whom decision making over the Council's various functions was delegated.

The delegation scheme had been confirmed at the Council's Annual Business Meeting in October 2020, with subsequent changes having been agreed by the Standards and Audit Committee, as summarised in Appendix 1.

**RESOLVED –**

That the Constitution, including the scheme of delegation in Part 3, be confirmed.

## 61 **QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER**

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

- Councillor Borrell had read in a news article that household recycling rates had increased during lockdown but were expected to fall after lockdown had ended and the weather improved. The Councillor noted that most public locations only offered general waste bins and asked if the Council would consider introducing more widely available separate recycling bins to keep recycling rates high.

The Leader provided a verbal response, referring to the Council's strong commitment to recycling and advised that systems were being reviewed to ensure they complied with the Covid-19 requirements. The Leader also detailed the efforts taking place to encourage recycling in the Borough.

- Councillor Lisa Collins asked for an update about the Staveley Town Deal Accelerator Project and shared the successes of the King George V Park for service user's mental health and physical wellbeing.

The Leader provided a verbal response, referring to the aims of the accelerator projects and advising the Council that all of the projects within the Staveley Town Deal had been completed. One of the projects entailed further work to bring the DRIIVe (Derbyshire Rail Industry Innovation Vehicle), Innovation and Training Centre forward which would benefit young people aspiring to join the rail industry.

- Councillor Miles asked the Leader what she thought had been the key success since the Labour Group had gained overall control of Chesterfield Borough Council in 2011.

The Leader provided a verbal response, referring to the key successes in three sections: health and wellbeing, homes and investment in jobs.

- Councillor Mann asked if the Leader would like to thank all of the participants in the Staveley Town Deal Board.

The Leader provided a verbal response congratulating all of the other projects in the scheme and noted the large amounts of publicity that Chesterfield Borough Council had issued applauding the work of the other projects.

- Councillor Hollingworth asked whether there were any plans for Tapton House which currently stood empty.

The Leader provided a verbal response, referring to the activity which had been taking place to find an occupant and the challenges that had been faced. Knight Frank, specialists in the field, had been contracted and were actively marketing the facility.

62 **CONSIDERATION OF BUSINESS OUTSTANDING FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24 FEBRUARY, 2021 (SEE ITEMS MARKED '\*\*' BELOW)**

Items of business outstanding from the Council Meeting held on 24 February, 2021 to be considered were marked with an '\*\*'.

Councillor Fordham enquired about the reasons for scheduling the business outstanding from the Council Meeting held on 24 February, 2021 and the Chief Executive explained that an appropriate pragmatic approach had been agreed with the Mayor and the Monitoring Officer.

63 **ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND PROGRAMME**

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No. 71, the Executive Director submitted a report seeking approval for the adoption of a new Organisational Development Strategy and Programme.

**RESOLVED –**

1. That the proposed Organisational Development Strategy, as attached at Appendix A of the officer's report, be approved.
2. That funding be allocated from the Service Improvement Reserve to support the establishment of two fixed term posts, for a two-year period, to support delivery of the Organisational Development Strategy and its associated Delivery Plan.

64 **MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**



**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the following Committees be noted:

- Appeals and Regulatory Committee of 16 December, 2020 and 19 January, 24 February, 17 March, 24 March and 14 April, 2021.
- Employment and General Committee of 28 January and 15 March, 2021.
- Licensing Committee of 6 January, 27 January, 10 February and 31 March, 2021.
- Planning Committee of 7 December, 2020, 4 January, 15 February, 8 March and 29 March, 2021.
- Standards and Audit Committee of 25 November, 2020 and 3 February, 2021.

**65** **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE CABINET OF \*15 DECEMBER, 2020, \*12 JANUARY, 2021, \*2 FEBRUARY, 2021, \*9 FEBRUARY, 2021, 23 FEBRUARY, 2021 AND 16 MARCH, 2021**

**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meetings of Cabinet of \*15 December, 2020, \*12 January, \*2 February, \*9 February, 23 February and 16 March, 2021 be noted.

**66** **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT CABINET AND EMPLOYMENT AND GENERAL COMMITTEE OF \*12 JANUARY, 2021**

**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Joint Cabinet and Employment and General Committee of \*12 January, 2021 be noted.

**67** **TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE OVERVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY FORUM OF \*19**

**NOVEMBER, 2020, \*17 DECEMBER, 2020 AND 21 JANUARY, 2021****RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum of \*19 November, \*17 December, 2020 and 21 January, 2021 be approved.

**68 TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE COMMUNITY, CUSTOMER AND ORGANISATIONAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF \*26 NOVEMBER, 2020 AND 25 MARCH, 2021****RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee of \*26 November, 2020 and 25 March, 2021 be approved.

**69 TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF \*3 DECEMBER, 2020, 4 FEBRUARY, 2021 AND 1 APRIL, 2021****RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee of \*3 December, 2020, 4 February and 1 April, 2021 be approved.

**70 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 19**

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

- \*"To ask if the Council has plans regarding its links and relationship with the city of Yangquan in Shanxi Province, China, in the light of the planned review of the friendship cooperation between us (signed 2016 to last from 2017-2021). And to ask that this review takes into consideration the issue of human rights abuse and in particular the treatment of the Uyghur which includes forced re-education, forced labour, forced sterilisation and imprisonment. And to ask that this also includes consideration of the authoritarian

repression of democracy in Hong Kong with the arrest of activists, secret trials, and crushing of political dissent?”

Councillor Blank provided a verbal response, referring to the four formal Twinning Agreements that the Council had in place and advised that regular review periods for Twinning Agreements were not planned in, however, should there be a key anniversary or a formal delegation visit, the original Twinning Agreement would be reaffirmed as appropriate. Active Twinning activities had been temporarily ceased due to Covid-19 pandemic and the consequential need to prioritise Council resources on delivering essential services. The issues raised regarding human rights and democracy were issues for the United Kingdom Government to raise directly with China through the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

- \*‘‘To ask if representations could be made to the Polish Embassy regretting the creation of LGBT-free zones and towns in Poland and to make clear our support for inclusion and diversity of all communities, and to share with the Chesterfield Polish Society?’’

Councillor Blank provided a verbal response, noting that Chesterfield Borough Council did not have a formal link with the Polish Government and the diplomatic response required for this issue was in the remit of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office within Central Government. However, Chesterfield Borough Council supported and facilitated the Chesterfield Diversity and Equality Forum which aimed to bring together local community groups, partners and individuals to promote equality and diversity. Councillor Blank noted that she had raised Councillor Fordham’s question at a meeting of the Forum and it was agreed to ask the Chesterfield Polish Society to support the writing of a joint letter to the Polish Embassy.

- ‘‘In the light of growing concerns over hate crime, over the Police handling of women, and over the total silence of the Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner on LGBT+ issues during LGBT+ History Month, will the Borough Council book a stall at Chesterfield Pride 2021?’’

Councillor Blank provided a verbal response, referring to Chesterfield Borough Council’s support of the Chesterfield Pride event and the significant work of the Chesterfield Pride organisers and volunteers. Cautious steps were being taken to emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic

and Chesterfield Borough Council had provisionally booked a stall and would attend, Covid-19 restrictions allowing, to showcase the wide-range of Council services and enhance the LGBT+ research project underway. The project aimed to learn more about the Chesterfield LGBT+ community's experiences of using key Council services, improvements that could be made to the services and broader community issues. Councillor Blank read out a statement from the Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner's office responding to Councillor Fordham's question.

- "Given the Climate Change commitment to planting trees and the scale of opportunity with both Poolsbrook Country Park and Holmebrook Valley Park within the Borough, and noting that in excess of 3,000 trees are being planted this year - how many of those are or will be fruit trees?"

Councillor Serjeant provided a verbal response, referring to the Chesterfield Borough Council Climate Action Plan's commitment to planting 1,000 new trees each year of the plan. This target was exceeded in 2021 with over 3,000 trees planted. The trees would help to improve the biodiversity of the borough and over time absorb carbon to help mitigate the impact of harmful emissions. A diverse mixture of species had been planted which would create a habitat for wildlife. Plans for 2021/22 involved working with community groups to increase tree planting, including fruit trees, and work was underway with the Forestry Commission and Tree Council to apply for funding for a number of schemes.