

COUNCIL**Wednesday, 27th April, 2022**

Present:-

Councillor G Falconer (Chair)

Councillors	Bagshaw	Councillors	P Innes
	Barr		Kelly
	Bellamy		Mannion-Brunt
	Bingham		Mann
	Blakemore		Marriott
	Blank		Miles
	Borrell		A Murphy
	Brady		T Murphy
	Brittain		P Niblock
	D Collins		S Niblock
	L Collins		Perkins
	Coy		Perry
	Davenport		Rayner
	K Falconer		Redihough
	Fordham		Rogers
	P Gilby		Sarvent
	T Gilby		Serjeant
	Hollingworth		Simmons
	Holmes		Thornton
	J Innes		

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

92 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY, 2022**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 23 February, 2022 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

93 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reflected on her extended term of office. The Mayor and her consort had attended 170 engagements to date and she was pleased to be back in the Council Chamber for the Annual Business Meeting.

The Mayor had observed Chesterfield's recovery from the pandemic through her term of office and noted that despite the difficult start she and her consort had been warmly welcomed at all their events and they had relished the opportunity to engage with the borough's many and varied communities.

The Mayor's Appeal fundraising total had reached £13,073.88. The Mayor thanked everyone for their support and concluded by saying that it had been an honour to serve as the 380th Mayor of Chesterfield.

94 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Callan, Catt, Caulfield, Flood, Kellman, Ludlow and Snowdon.

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

No declarations of interest were received.

96 VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR AND CONSORT

It was moved by Councillor Shirley Niblock, seconded by Councillor Tom Murphy and resolved:-

(a) That the best thanks of the Council be accorded to Councillor Glenys Falconer for her services as Mayor of the Borough for the past year, for the able manner in which she has directed the affairs of the town and for the deep interest which she has shown in all matters relating to the welfare of the Borough;

(b) That the best thanks of the Council be accorded to Councillor Keith Falconer for the enthusiasm, charm and dignity with which he has undertaken his duties as Consort.

97 PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

Under Standing Order No. 12, the following question was asked by Mr Paul Stone:

In an emergency situation of widespread food shortages, what contingency plans are in place to help Chesterfield people?

Councillor Amanda Serjeant provided a verbal response explaining that Chesterfield Borough Council was an active member of the Derbyshire Local Resilience Forum which worked with partner agencies to provide strategic oversight and co-ordination of emergency planning in Derbyshire. These arrangements had been utilised during the pandemic and included new areas of support such as deliveries of food and medication to the most vulnerable members of the borough's communities.

Mr Stone asked if he could have access to the detailed plans and Councillor Blank replied that at such times as it was necessary for such plans to be put into place she would be happy to provide an overview of their content.

98 **PETITIONS TO COUNCIL**

The following petition was delivered by Councillor Fordham, on behalf of Mr George Sheppard:

Chesterfield Skatepark is in need of minor maintenance. The lights that were installed a few years ago have all since gone past their life span and need new bulbs, 8 in total. We are also in favour of a timer for the lights to turn off at midnight if it was to prolong the life of the bulbs. It's also going to be dark at 4pm meaning no one will be able to use the facility after work.

A new bin would be massively appreciated. The current bin has corroded through its own base and no longer fixed to the floor. As well it's too small, with skateboarding becoming more popular there's more litter. That being said, a bench or a seating area for parents would be beneficial as parents have a tendency to stand/sit in the way unintentionally.

Finally there is some metal coping that needs replacing on one of the blocks. This block has been ground on a daily basis ever since it opened in 2007 and it needs replacing. It's become so sharp and dented it is almost un-skateable.

Skateboarding is on the rise and we'd really appreciate it if the council could help and repair Chesterfield Skatepark. It doesn't deserve being neglected, it probably wasn't cheap to build.

The petition was received.

99 **DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CABINET APPOINTMENTS 2022/23**

RESOLVED –

1. That the appointment by the Leader of Councillor Amanda Serjeant as the Deputy Leader of the Council for the municipal year 2022/23 be noted.
2. That the appointment by the Leader of the following Members of the Cabinet for the municipal year 2022/23 be noted:

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

100 **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2022/23**

RESOLVED –

1. That the Member-level bodies of the Council for 2022/23, and the number of Members on each be as follows:-

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

2. That the following named Members be appointed to the Council's Member-level bodies for 2022/23:

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 2022/23:

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 2022/23:

Planning Committee

Chair: Councillor Callan

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

101 **QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER**

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

Councillor Davenport asked, following the announcement of Marks and Spencer's store relocation, can you tell us what communications have taken place with the building's owner and what strategies are in place to deal with such a large, prominent and soon-to-be empty building in the town centre.

Councillor Gilby replied, agreeing that although this was disappointing news for the town centre, she was delighted that Marks and Spencer were staying and expanding their operations in Chesterfield when stores in other cities and towns were closing. The Chief Executive had been in conversation with Marks and Spencer's Property Director and a 3-way meeting was planned with the building's owner and Marks and Spencer to develop a plan for the town centre building to be re-occupied as soon as possible. Marks and Spencer's lease did not expire until 2027 and as the building was privately owned CBC's role would be to influence the process and encourage the building's owner to keep the council and the people of Chesterfield informed.

Councillor Bingham asked what the Borough Council's carbon output was in 2019 when it declared a climate emergency and what is it today, three years later.

Councillor Gilby replied, explaining that a carbon accounting report was due soon, which would set out the latest information. A successful carbon reduction plan was in place and both officer and financial resources had been increased to support the plan's delivery.

Councillor Paul Niblock asked, following the closure of Eyres furniture store, what communication had taken place with the owners.

Councillor Gilby replied, expressing the disappointment felt by many that the store had closed. She acknowledged that there were significant challenges to restoring the building due to its age and condition. However, in officer conversations with the owner there had been no suggestion of any plans to close the store. The council would continue to reach out to the owners and planned to share with them details of the many growth projects already underway in and planned for the town centre to assist with the marketing of the site.

Councillor Gilby referenced the press reports of customers having placed deposits with little hope of receiving what they had paid for. The Leader advised that people so affected should contact Toby Perkins MP.

Councillor Nick Redihough asked, what the current figure was for the number of empty units in the Pavements Shopping Centre and given that the centre is owned by CBC what was the council doing to reinvigorate it and attract new tenants.

Councillor Gilby replied, confirming that there were currently a growing number of empty units and it was a challenging situation. However, the previous Monday the Leader had sight of a report on the council's whole estate which was very positive, and she would be happy to share the figures with Cllr Redihough. The town centre overall was on average better occupied than other comparable towns. Plans for the Pavements Shopping Centre would be drawn up and brought to Council once they were ready. It was acknowledged that there had been a delay on this due to the economic development team being very busy preparing bids for the Levelling Up Fund and Staveley Town Deal which had successfully secured more than £45 million to the borough.

Councillor Miles asked, what the Leader's significant engagements had been since the last meeting of the Council after having heard the Mayor's at the start of the meeting.

Councillor Gilby replied, firstly referring to her meeting with Sir John Peace, Chair of Midlands Engine and Midlands Connect. The Leader explained that she had been able to show Sir John the development opportunities in the Staveley Works Corridor, including the HS2 Infrastructure Maintenance Depot site and the former Hartington Colliery site, and finally the proposed site of the Derbyshire Rail Industry Innovation Vehicle (DRIVE) centre at the Round House in Barrow Hill. The training that would take place at the centre for learners from 16 years old through to post-graduates, had been made possible due to the council's excellent relationships with Chesterfield College, Derby University and New Rail. Two and a half thousand children were currently living in poverty in the surrounding area with the potential for all to have access to good quality training opportunities and jobs as a result.

Councillor Gilby had attended the opening of Badger Croft, the largest council housing development in a generation. The standard of housing provided was impressive and in keeping with the Council's climate change ambitions. The contractor had worked closely with the Holmebrook Valley Environmental Improvement Group on biodiversity projects including hedgehog runs between the properties. A beautiful art piece had been installed, illustrated with badgers as part of the Council's Percent for Art scheme.

Alongside the Cabinet Member for Housing Councillor Gilby had recently broken ground in Middlecroft for ten new council homes, and she also referenced the significant refurbishment scheme that the Council had

taken forward at Aston Court in Lowgates as evidence of the Council's commitment to investing housing capital in the Staveley area.

Councillor Gilby had attended a photo call alongside Derbyshire County Council representatives at Jewson's new Sheffield Road depot. Jewson had been moved from their Spa Lane depot to enable the Council to bring forward the Chesterfield Station Master Plan. Councillor Gilby thanked Christine Durrant for her professional expertise and hard work on the re-location project. Morgan Sindall had done a great job as the Council's construction partner and Jewson were delighted with their new depot.

Finally, Councillor Gilby referenced Look North's recent coverage of three Chesterfield-based projects – the restoration of Chesterfield Canal, the refurbishment of the Pomegranate Theatre and Chesterfield Museum, and the work of Gussies Kitchen. Councillor Gilby congratulated everyone involved in these projects.

102 COUNCIL'S DELEGATION SCHEME AND CONSTITUTION

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report seeking confirmation of the Council's scheme of delegation and constitution for the civic year 2022/23.

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 is delegated.

The current versions had been approved and confirmed at the April 2021 Annual Business Meeting and all changes made since then were documented in Appendix A of the officer's report.

RESOLVED –

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

103 VISION DERBYSHIRE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

The Deputy Leader presented a report to Council seeking endorsement for the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy.

The importance of working collaboratively on climate change had been acknowledged by all Derbyshire councils as evidenced by their work in creating an overarching strategy, supportive of individual authorities' plans. The development and adoption of a joint strategy had also been identified as an opportunity to establish common ambitions and priorities, foster collaboration and resource sharing, and promote consistency and best practice in delivery.

A Vision Derbyshire Climate Change working group, comprising of political and officer representatives from all Derbyshire councils had been established and a series of ambition areas identified which were supported by a detailed action plan.

RESOLVED –

That the publication and delivery of the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy (2022-2025) be endorsed by Council.

104 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the following Committees be noted:

- Appeals and Regulatory Committee of 16 February, 2 March, 9 March and 6 April, 2022.
- Employment and General Committee of 28 March, 2022.
- Planning Committee of 21 February, 28 February, 14 March and 4 April, 2022.
- Standards and Audit Committee of 16 February, 2022.

105 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE CABINET OF 22ND FEBRUARY, 2022 AND 15TH MARCH, 2022

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meetings of Cabinet of 22 February and 15 March, 2022 be noted.

106 **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT CABINET AND EMPLOYMENT AND GENERAL COMMITTEE OF 22ND FEBRUARY, 2022**

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Cabinet and Employment and General Committee of 22 February, 2022 be noted.

107 **TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY FORUM OF 27TH JANUARY, 2022**

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum of 27 January, 2022 be approved.

108 **TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY, CUSTOMER AND ORGANISATIONAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 3RD FEBRUARY, 2022**

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee of 3 February, 2022 be approved.

109 **TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 10TH FEBRUARY, 2022**

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee of 10 February, 2022 be approved.

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

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

- “Given the apparent policy within the CBC Housing is to replace damaged doors from Council Estates and Properties rather than repair them, what steps does the Council take to ensure that such waste, which appears to go into skips for collection, does not just go to landfill?”

Councillor Serjeant provided a verbal response explaining that CBC always undertakes repairs to damaged doors where appropriate to limit waste and any doors that are replaced are recycled through Wards recycling.

The Council was currently progressing several major replacement programmes to ensure that the highest standards of security and fire safety were achieved. Only minor repairs could be carried out on fire doors that were already to the required FD30s standard. Repairs couldn't be carried out on old doors where there was no certification or proof of compliance with the required standard, also items such as locks would need to be capable of being opened from the inside without a key, and letter boxes and other components fire rated. Similarly, if fire doors were damaged and their integrity compromised, the only option was to replace them.

The contractor used to recycle old or damaged doors as part of the current Holme Hall door replacement scheme, Ventro, had a Sustainability Policy which ensured all waste was re-cycled where possible and other measures taken to achieve the company's net-zero targets. The Policy was available on Ventro's website for reference.

- “It is now a year since the Elder Way Co-op store for food closed – a situation driven largely by a reduction in footfall and the pandemic. Given this sits at the heart of the Northern Gateway with the new car park, the Enterprise Centre and of course the development of the empty shops that comprise the former Co-op Department Store - isn't this now the time to lead by example regarding town centre living and offer in-town housing flats and apartments in the Council owned former Co-op food store building?”

Councillor Dean Collins provided a verbal response confirming that the Council's Local Plan sought to prioritise town centre living and that the Council was already seeing a pleasing increase in applications for town centre housing schemes.

Whilst the Council owned the freehold for the property, Central England Co-operative still had over 80 years remaining on their lease. The site was being actively marketed by the Co-op and the Council was supporting this by including the site within its site and premises guide.

The site offered limited potential for conversion to Council housing stock as the key pressure points for social housing were for bungalows and larger properties. This site would be more suitable for upper floor 1- and 2- bedroom apartments for which there was less demand.

There had however been several recent town centre property conversions where the Council had worked pro-actively with private sector investors and developers to secure attractive, high-quality schemes enabling key town centre buildings to be brought back into use. A good example was Knightsbridge Court.

111 **NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 21**

Motion to Adopt the All-Party Parliamentary Group Definition of Islamophobia

It was moved by Councillor Serjeant and seconded by Councillor Blank:

That Chesterfield Borough Council believes racism in all its forms is unacceptable and must be stamped out. Recent high-profile cases have shown that islamophobia is still rife in areas where young people often look for role models such as in the world of sport. It is, therefore, proposed that this Council adopts the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims' definition of Islamophobia –

"Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness."-

to demonstrate solidarity with our Muslim communities and to assist the Council in furthering its aim of putting our Communities First and improving the lives of the people of Chesterfield.

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