

COUNCIL**Wednesday, 19th October, 2022**

Present:-

Councillor Rogers (Chair)

Councillors	Bingham	Councillors	Holmes
	Blakemore		P Innes
	Blank		Kellman
	Borrell		Kelly
	Brady		Mannion-Brunt
	Brittain		Mann
	Callan		Miles
	Catt		A Murphy
	Caulfield		T Murphy
	L Collins		P Niblock
	Coy		Perkins
	Davenport		Perry
	Dyke		Rayner
	G Falconer		Redihough
	Flood		Sarvent
	Fordham		Serjeant
	P Gilby		Simmons
	T Gilby		Snowdon
	Hollingworth		Wheeldon

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

26 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 20 JULY, 2022**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 20 July, 2022 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chair

27 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor referred with sadness to the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and reflected on her steadfast interest in all aspects of public life. The Queen had visited the borough on three occasions; each occasion was fondly remembered by the people of Chesterfield.

The Mayor commented on the honour and privilege he felt in making the formal proclamation to the citizens of the Chesterfield borough to mark the beginning of the reign of King Charles III.

Services of thanksgiving for the late Queen had been held in Chesterfield, Derby and Staveley to which the Mayor and Mayoress had been invited. The services had provided opportunities for the wider community to come together and remember with affection and gratitude the lifetime of service given by the country's longest reigning monarch.

Members observed a minute's silence in the late Queen's honour.

The Mayor also referred to recent events which he and the Mayoress had attended including:

- A celebration event to mark the 150th anniversary of the iconic Barrow Hill Roundhouse and Engine Shed.
- An event to recognise Chesterfield's success in winning the 'Small City' category within the annual East Midlands in Bloom competition.
- A welcome event for visitors from Chesterfield's twin town of Darmstadt in the Mayor's Parlour.
- The 'Love Chesterfield' awards, which recognised the hard work and achievements of local businesses.

The Mayor thanked members for their support at recent Mayor's Appeal events and invited them and members of the public to attend the upcoming 1940s Market where the Mayor and Mayoress would be hosting a stall.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barr, Bellamy, D Collins, K Falconer, J Innes, Ludlow, Marriott, S Niblock, and Thornton.

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

No declarations of interest were received.

30 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL**

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

How many 'Community Protection Notices' have been issued in Chesterfield for each year since their introduction and what safeguards are in place to ensure that officers, are not using 'Community Protection Notices', as an unwitting instrument for vexatious neighbours?

Councillor Mannion-Brunt provided a verbal response as follows:

- A total of 19 Community Protection Notices (CPNs) had been issued since their introduction in October 2014
- The Council uses a proportionate approach to enforcement, employing supportive interventions in the first instance e.g. education and engagement, only progressing, if unsuccessful, to the use of more robust enforcement measures
- In each of the instances where a CPN had been issued there had been a programme of escalation. A community protection warning would first be issued, and the council would only issue a CPN if in consultation with partners it was felt to be a necessary and proportionate action
- The Council was in the process of adopting a new Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy, which would set out a clear structured approach to how the Council will work with other key stakeholders to manage and reduce anti-social behaviour, with an emphasis on early intervention

Paul Christopher 'Kris' Stone asked a supplementary question:

If someone was threatened with or had violence committed against them would they be able to use CCTV or video cameras to protect themselves? Mr Stone also asked for a copy of the council's current Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy, whilst the new one was under development.

Councillor Mannion-Brunt provided a verbal response assuring Mr Stone that if the Council became aware of such instances then an immediate referral would be made to Derbyshire Police. Councillor Mannion-Brunt also committed to providing Mr Stone with a copy of the council's current Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy.

31 **PETITIONS TO COUNCIL**

In accordance with Standing Order No.13 Council debated the following petition from the Friends of Tapton House, which was received on 20 July, 2022:

The Friends of Tapton House petition Chesterfield Borough Council that Tapton House belongs to the people of Chesterfield and must not be sold.

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.

Martin Bruno, representing the Friends of Tapton House presented the petition and answered Member's questions.

A recorded vote was taken on the recommended course of action and votes cast as follows:

FOR –

Councillors:

Blakemore
Blank
Brady
Brittain
Callan
Catt
Caulfield

Councillors:

P Innes
Kelly
Mannion-Brunt
Miles
A Murphy
T Murphy
Perkins

L Collins
 Dyke
 Flood
 P Gilby
 T Gilby

Rayner
 Sarvent
 Serjeant
 Simmons
 Wheeldon

AGAINST –

Councillors:

Bingham
 Borrell
 Coy
 Davenport
 G Falconer
 Fordham
 Hollingworth
 Holmes

Councillors:

Kellman
 Mann
 P Niblock
 Perry
 Redihough
 Rogers
 Snowdon

ABSTENTIONS –

None

RESOLVED –

1. That the Friends of Tapton House be thanked for submitting the petition to Chesterfield Borough Council.
2. That Chesterfield Borough Council notes the petition and the matters raised in the petition debate by both the petition organiser and members of Council.
3. That Chesterfield Borough Council continues to proceed with the course of action set out within the amended notice of motion agreed at the meeting of Full Council on 20 July, 2022.
4. That council officers ensure that appropriate reference is made to the petition and matters raised in the petition debate within any final report prepared for the Council's Cabinet on the potential sale or otherwise of Tapton House.

5. That the Council's Cabinet, as the decision-making body with responsibility for such matters, take note of the petition and the matters raised in the petition debate when making any final decision on the potential sale or otherwise of Tapton House.

32 **QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER**

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

- Councillor Snowdon considered the recycling of waste to be an important part of protecting our environment and referenced the Council's target to recycle 50% of household waste. The latest figures published by DEFRA indicated that the recycling rate in Chesterfield had fallen again for the fourth year in a row and was now down to 40% whereas the top performing council in England was achieving 64% and the top ten performing councils above 60%. Councillor Snowdon asked the Leader to confirm what actions had been taken to improve the rate of waste recycling and why these actions had not worked?

The Leader provided a verbal response explaining that there had been a significant problem during the pandemic with the Council's waste recycling contractor and emergency action had been taken to keep services running. The Council had now secured the services of a new contractor and was already working with them to improve the waste recycling rate.

The Council would continue to encourage its residents to recycle and was currently running a social media campaign educating residents on the importance of 'getting it right' when separating their waste. The Leader suggested that Cllr Snowdon might wish to speak with the Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing who had a wealth of knowledge on this matter.

- Councillor Mann had asked at a previous meeting how much Chesterfield Borough Council would be committing itself in support of the 11 Staveley Town Deal projects. He confirmed that he had received a response but that he hadn't asked about how much was being spent building houses or bungalows at Middlecroft or how much was being spent on the A61 corridor. The question he had asked was how much of its own money – capital not revenue – the Council would be investing in projects such as Staveley 21.

The Leader provided a verbal response explaining that Chesterfield Borough Council had played a pivotal role in securing the £25.2 million Staveley Town Deal. The Council's overall vision was to put its communities first, and this commitment extended to all areas of Chesterfield borough, including Staveley. The Council was also committed to its priority of 'making Chesterfield a thriving borough' and there were multiple examples of the Council investing both capital and revenue funding in the Staveley area.

- Councillor Fordham expressed concern that rates of suicide and attempted suicide had risen yet again in Derbyshire. One response measure would be to take preventative measures at locations where a risk to life is real or perceived. Councillor Fordham asked if the Leader would agree that it was time to cease the practice of Council staff removing Think Again signs from the footbridge to the Town from the railway station over the A61. Councillor Fordham also asked if the Leader would undertake to ask Network Rail and all associated agencies to look at closing Platform three at Chesterfield Railway Station to pedestrians at night during the dark winter months?

The Leader provided a verbal response confirming that the Council was committed to working in partnership with other agencies on this important and challenging issue. One such partnership forum is the Derbyshire Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention Partnership, with members drawn from Derbyshire County and Derby City Councils, Highways England, Network Rail, Derbyshire Police, Chesterfield Royal Hospital, Derbyshire Healthcare and the Samaritans, as well as all the Derbyshire district / borough councils.

The Partnership had recently refreshed its Strategy and agreed a new action plan through 2025. The action plan reflected the Partnership's understanding of high risk groups, including males aged 30-60.

Derby City Council was in the process of developing a new policy to support the safe upkeep of high-risk structures and sites, such as bridges and multi-storey car parks. This would enable the advancement of preventative measures at such sites and the management of notices and notes left by members of the public (to align with national Samaritans Guidance).

It was proposed that, once developed, this policy would be shared with partners, including district and borough councils, for potential adoption. This would support preventative and mitigation measures in relation to suicide and attempted suicide.

The Leader offered to send her briefing notes to Councillor Fordham after the meeting which would provide an overview of some of the partnership work that the Council were involved in around suicide prevention.

33 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22 AND MONITORING REPORT 2022/23

Pursuant to Standards and Audit Committee Minute No. 22 (2022/23) the Service Director - Finance submitted a report for Members to consider the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2021/22 and the council's treasury management activities for the first five months of 2022/23.

RESOLVED –

1. That the outturn prudential indicators for 2021/22 be approved.
2. That the treasury management stewardship report for 2021/22 be approved.
3. That the treasury management position for the first five months of 2022/23 be noted.

34 STANDARDS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 21/22

Pursuant to Standards and Audit Committee Minute No. 4 (2022/23), the Chair of the Standards and Audit Committee, the Internal Audit Consortium Manager and the Local Government and Regulatory Law Manager submitted a report for Members to consider the Annual Report of the Standards and Audit Committee, attached at Appendix 1 to the officer's report, which summarised the work carried out by the Committee during the financial year 2021/22.

RESOLVED –

That the Annual Report of the Standards and Audit Committee for 2021/22 be approved.

35 CHANGES TO COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2022/23

The Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer submitted a report to Council proposing changes to Member appointments to committees and to the role of vice-chair of the Planning Committee for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year.

RESOLVED –

That the following changes to appointments to committees for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year as proposed by the Leader of the majority group be approved.

Licensing Committee

- removal of Councillor Brittain as a Labour group member
- addition of Councillor Simmons as a Labour group member

Planning Committee

- removal of Councillor Simmons as a Labour group member
- addition of Councillor Brittain as a Labour group member
- Councillor Brittain to replace Councillor Simmons as vice-chair of the Planning Committee.

Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum

- removal of Councillor Brittain as a Labour group member
- addition of Councillor Simmons as a Labour group member

36 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 in order to consider outstanding items of urgent business at Minute No. 37.

37 NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 21

It was moved by Councillor Serjeant and seconded by Councillor Mannion-Brunt that:

Discretionary Housing Fund and Cost of Living Crisis

This winter, a perfect storm of price rises and support cuts will hit our residents in Chesterfield Borough hard. A report co-ordinated by Gordon Brown and supported by 55 charities, faith groups and politicians, has called on the Government to take urgent action to bridge the gap in support.

That is why we urgently call on the Government and the Secretary of State for Local Government to bridge the gap that many are experiencing in being able to pay their rent and to increase the amount available to Councils through the Discretionary Housing Fund.

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