

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF COUNCIL on

Monday 6 November 2023 commencing at 6.30 p.m.

Held at **The Council Chamber, The Symington Building**, Adam & Eve Street, Market Harborough, LE16 7AG

Present: Councillor Barbara Johnson (Chairman)

Councillors: Anderson, Asher, Bannister, Beadle, Bilbie, Birch, Burrell, Dann, Elliott, Finan, Forman, Gair, Galton, Graves, Hallam, Hollick, James, King, Knight, Knowles, Mahal, Modha, Nunn, Mrs Page, Rickman, Sarfas, Taylor, Whelband, Whitmore, Woodiwiss and Worrell.

Officers present: D. Atkinson, L. Elliot, S. Hamilton, R. Jenner, C. Mason, K. Parsons, C.Pattinson, and J. Young

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Bateman and Grafton Reed.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A minute's silence was held for former Councillor Bill Liquorish who had passed away on Friday November 3, 2023.
Councillor Johnson gave a summary of events she had attended since the last Council Meeting.

Council agreed that the order of the agenda be changed in order that Item 11 would be moved to become Item 7.

3. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor Bannister, King, Mrs Page, and Galton declared a registerable interest in relation to Item 11 (now Item 7) as a County Councillors for Leicestershire County Council.

Councillors Bannister and Whelband declared a registerable interest in relation to Item 11 due to their employment or work with Local Members of Parliament, Alberto Costa and Neil O'Brien respectively.

4. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of 18 September 2023 were an accurate and correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

5. REPORT OF THE LEADER

Councillor Knowles provided a written report to Members. Councillors asked questions on the report regarding:

- Timescales of visiting the Parish Councils and if a schedule of visits could be issued to ensure all Councillors were aware of the dates and invited.
- Member involvement, costs and decision for changing the Council Liaison Group of using a third party.
- Examination of the loss of the revenue for free parking charges over the Christmas period; the reason for the requirement of a paper ticket with free parking and the extra 10p charge currently being added to parking tickets booked via the application.
- If Officers could provide a reply from Severn Trent in relation to the water quality issue.

Councillor Knowles explained that regarding the Council Liaison Group, it would still be Chaired by a Member of Harborough Council and cost savings would be gained. He would ask Officers to provide evidence of this.

In relation to the paper tickets being issued, this was a technical issue necessary for monitoring purposes. He would ask Officers to look into the additional 10p charge and he would share the findings with Members.

Councillor Knowles confirmed that the written reply from Severn Trent would be shared with Members.

A schedule will be provided for Parish Councillor meetings with all Councillors welcome to attend.

6. QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS SUBMITTED BY THE PUBLIC

Mr David Campbell-Kelly had submitted a question, and the answer was provided to Councillors in the Supplementary Agenda for the meeting. Mr Campbell-Kelly asked the following supplementary question:

Will Members consider deferring the decision if advice on the November 3 letter is not yet clear? If the advice is already clear, is it now understood that the Duty to Cooperate does not apply, and thus, the SoCG does not need to be signed? If not, what aspects have we misunderstood?

7. REPORT FROM THE CABINET

Councillor Knowles introduced the report from Cabinet, detailing the Decisions taken by Cabinet from 23 October 2023, which was **NOTED**.

8. REPORT ON COMMITTEES

Councillor Knowles introduced the report summarising the activities of the following Committees since the last Council meeting in September:

- Cabinet Grants Sub Committee (27 September 2023)
- Scrutiny Commission (28 September 2023)
- Constitutional Review Committee (5 October 2023)
- Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel (11 October 2023)
- Performance Overview and Scrutiny Panel (19 October 2023)
- Audit and Standards Committee (25 October 2023)

The report was **NOTED**.

9. REPORT ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS

Councillor Knowles introduced the report summarising the activities of organisations with which the Council has Joint Arrangements. The Leicestershire Partnership Revenues and Benefits Joint Committee minutes of a meeting on 14 September 2023 were contained in Appendix A. The report was **NOTED**.

Julie Young, Head of Legal Services left the meeting prior to consideration of the subsequent item.

10. APPOINTMENT TO THE STATUTORY MONITORING OFFICER ROLE

Councillor Knowles introduced the report and it was **RESOLVED** that Julie Young, Head of Legal Services, be appointed as the Monitoring Officer on an interim basis with effect from 7 November 2023 and that the current interim Monitoring Officer, Clare Pattinson, will vacate the post of Director of Law and Governance with effect from 7 November 2023 but be retained by the Council to complete project work.

Julie Young returned to the meeting.

11. HARBOROUGH LOCAL PLAN – LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND RELATING TO HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT LAND NEEDS

Councillor Knowles explained that due to the late arrival of various documents and information, it was recommended that the item be deferred to the meeting on 11 December 2023.

Councillor Knowles proposed a motion without notice that the agenda item and decision be deferred to allow for documents and information to be read in detail and any more information to be provided within 5 working days of the meeting.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Bannister and upon being put to the vote was **CARRIED**.

12. UPDATING REPORT ON THE MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE AND CABINET

Councillor Knowles introduced the report and explained that the correct political balance of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission is 6 administration seats and 4 opposition seats. Therefore, it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Finan would replace Councillor Rickman on the Overview and Scrutiny Commission.

It was also **RESOLVED** that the number of seats on the Licensing Committee and the Regulatory Committee would be increased to 10. Councillor Burrell would be appointed to the Licensing Committee and the Regulatory Committee.

It was to be **NOTED** that Cllr Whitmore ceased to be a Cabinet Member on 6 October 2023, with the Leader assuming responsibility for her former portfolio of Culture, Leisure, Economy and Tourism.

13. ANY URGENT BUSINESS

There were no urgent business matters.

The meeting ended at 19:48