



Nottinghamshire County Council

Meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

Date Thursday, 19 January 2023 (10.30 am – 5.22 pm)

Membership

COUNCILLORS

Roger Jackson (Chairman)

John Ogle (Vice-Chairman)

Reg Adair
Mike Adams
Pauline Allan - apologies
Sinead Anderson - apologies
Callum Bailey
Matt Barney
Chris Barnfather
Ben Bradley MP
Richard Butler
Anne Callaghan BEM
André Camilleri
Scott Carlton
Steve Carr
John Clarke MBE
Neil Clarke MBE
Robert Corden
John Cottee
Jim Creamer
Debbie Darby
Sam Deakin
Dr John Doddy
Bethan Eddy
Boyd Elliott
Sybil Fielding - apologies
Kate Foale
Stephen Garner
Glynn Gilfoyle
Keith Girling
Penny Gowland
Errol Henry JP
Paul Henshaw
Tom Hollis

Mike Introna - apologies
Richard Jackson
Eric Kerry
Bruce Laughton
Johnno Lee
David Martin
John 'Maggie' McGrath
Andy Meakin
Nigel Moxon
Kane Oliver
Philip Owen
Michael Payne
Sheila Place
Mike Pringle
Francis Purdue-Horan
Mike Quigley MBE
Mrs Sue Saddington
Dave Shaw
Helen-Ann Smith
Sam Smith
Tom Smith
Tracey Taylor
Nigel Turner
Roger Upton
Lee Waters
Michelle Welsh
Gordon Wheeler
Jonathan Wheeler
Daniel Williamson
Elizabeth Williamson
John Wilmott
Jason Zadrozny

HONORARY ALDERMEN

Terence Butler
John Carter

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Adrian Smith	(Chief Executive)
Marjorie Toward	(Chief Executives)
Sara Allmond	(Chief Executives)
Sarah Ashton	(Chief Executives)
Carl Bilbey	(Chief Executives)
Heather Dickinson	(Chief Executives)
Isobel Fleming	(Chief Executives)
James McDonnell	(Chief Executives)
Phil Rostance	(Chief Executives)
Nigel Stevenson	(Chief Executives)
Phil Smith	(Chief Executives)
Jonathan Gribbin	(Adult Social Care and Health)
Melanie Williams	(Adult Social Care and Health)
Colin Pettigrew	(Children and Families)
Derek Higon	(Place)

OPENING PRAYER

Upon the Council, convening, prayers were led by the Chairman's Chaplain.

MINUTE SILENCE

A minute silence was held in memory of former County Councillors Albert Haynes and Sue Heathfield (nee Rolstone).

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED: 2022/048

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 November 2022 be agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:-

- Councillor Pauline Allan (medical/illness)
- Councillor Sinead Anderson (medical/illness)
- Councillor Sybil Fielding (other)
- Councillor Mike Introna (other County Council business)

Apologies were also submitted by Councillor Anne Callaghan BEM, Councillor Tom Hollis and Councillor Daniel Williamson who would be arriving late.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Matt Barney declared a private interest in Item 10, motion 2, as he was employed by GeoPura, a renewable energy company working with zero emission fuels and hydrogen.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

None

FORMER COUNTY COUNCILLORS ALBERT HAYNES AND SUE HEATHFIELD (NEE ROLSTONE)

The Chairman spoke in memory of former County Councillors Albert Haynes and Sue Heathfield (nee Rolstone).

Councillors Kate Foale, Ben Bradley MP, Paul Henshaw, Helen-Ann Smith and André Camilleri also spoke in memory of former County Councillors Albert Haynes and Sue Heathfield (nee Rolstone).

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

The Chairman updated Members on the business he and the Vice-Chairman had carried out since the last meeting, including attending a number of events over the Christmas period, events hosted for his good cause and his highlight of a Christmas party he had hosted for Ukrainian children. The Chairman was pleased to announce he had been able to hand over a further cheque to the Ukrainian Cultural Centre for £5,000 meaning he had raised and donated £10,000 so far this municipal year.

Having submitted his apologies for being late, Councillor Tom Hollis arrived at the meeting at 10.42am during consideration of this item.

5. CONSTITUENCY ISSUES

The following Members spoke for up to three minutes on issues which specifically related to their division and were relevant to the services provided by the County Council:-

Councillor Jason Zadrozny regarding roads and pavements in the Ashfield's Division

Councillor David Martin regarding roads and pavements in the Selston Parish

Councillor Debbie Darby regarding roads and pavements in the Collingham Division

Councillor Lee Waters regarding roads and pavements in the Hucknall South Division

Councillor Dave Shaw regarding roads and pavements in the Hucknall West Division

Councillor John Wilmott regarding roads and pavements in the Hucknall North Division

Councillor Kane Oliver regarding roads and pavements in the Eastwood Division

Councillor Helen-Ann Smith regarding roads and pavements in the Sutton North Division

Councillor Samantha Deakin regarding roads and pavements in the Sutton Central and East Division

The time limit of 15 minutes for speeches was reached and all remaining speeches fell.

Councillor Tracey Taylor left the Chamber at 10.50am during consideration of this item and returned to the Chamber after the lunch break.

6a. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

The following petitions were presented to the Chairman as indicated below: -

- (1) Councillor Debbie Darby, regarding protruding tree roots and pavement repairs on Wolsey Road, Newark
- (2) Councillor Penny Gowland, regarding match day parking in West Bridgford
- (3) Councillor Michael Payne, request to resurface Nottingham Road and High Street, Arnold.

RESOLVED: 2022/049

That the petitions be referred to the appropriate Cabinet Member for consideration in accordance with the Procedure Rules, with a report being brought back to Council in due course.

Councillor Helen-Ann Smith left the Chamber at 11.07am during consideration of this item and returned to the Chamber after the lunch break.

Councillor Samantha Deakin left the Chamber from 11.08am to 11.20am during consideration of this item.

6b. RESPONSES TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

RESOLVED: 2022/050

That the contents and actions taken as set out in the report be noted.

7. DRAFT NOTTINGHAMSHIRE VISITOR ECONOMY STRATEGY

Councillor Keith Girling introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of resolution 2022/051 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Reg Adair.

Following a debate, the Chairman put the motion to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman declared it was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2022/051

- 1) That the draft Visitor Economy Strategy and the work done to date be noted.
- 2) That the feedback received during the meeting would be taken into consideration by the relevant decision maker when considering the final strategy for approval and delivery.

8. EXECUTIVE REPORT – KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

RESOLVED: 2022/052

That the contents of the report be noted.

9a. QUESTIONS TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE AUTHORITY

None

The Council adjourned from 12.29pm to 1.32pm for lunch.

Councillor John Clarke MBE and Councillor John Lee did not return to the meeting after the lunch break.

9b. QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

13 questions had been received as follows: -

- 1) from Councillor Jason Zadrozny about budget consultation responses (Councillor Ben Bradley MP replied)
- 2) from Councillor Callum Bailey concerning winter highways maintenance and repair services (Councillor Neil Clarke MBE replied)
- 3) from Councillor Kate Foale concerning devolution funding deal (Councillor Ben Bradley MP replied)
- 4) from Councillor Steve Carr concerning use of Viafix (Councillor Neil Clarke MBE replied)
- 5) from Councillor Paul Henshaw about Ethical Care Charter (Councillor Matt Barney replied)
- 6) from Councillor Samantha Deakin regarding cycle and footpath, High Pavement, Sutton in Ashfield (Councillor Neil Clarke MBE replied)
- 7) from Councillor Penny Gowland concerning safety of Active Travel (Councillor Neil Clarke MBE replied)
- 8) from Councillor Nigel Moxon regarding Youth Investment Fund bid (Councillor Ben Bradley MP replied)

The full responses to the questions above are set out in set out in Appendix A to these minutes.

The time limit of 60 minutes allowed for questions was reached before the following questions were asked. A written response to the questions would be provided to the Councillors who asked the questions within 15 working days of the meeting and be included in the papers for the next available Full Council meeting after the deadline.

- 9) from Councillor Anne Callaghan BEM regarding plans for County Hall (Councillor Keith Girling to reply)
- 10) from Councillor Kane Oliver about pot hole repairs (Councillor Neil Clarke MBE to reply)
- 11) from Councillor Michelle Welsh about Covid-19 Recovery Action Plan for Children and Young People (Councillor Tracey Taylor to reply)
- 12) from Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan concerning fair funding review (Councillor Richard Jackson to reply)
- 13) from Councillor Penny Gowland regarding waterway pollution in Nottinghamshire (Councillor Neil Clarke MBE to reply)

Councillor Dave Shaw returned to the Chamber at 1.51pm following the lunch break.

Councillor Sue Saddington left the Chamber at 2.32pm during consideration of this item.

10. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

MOTION ONE

An altered motion was moved by Councillor Daniel Williamson and seconded by Councillor Helen-Ann Smith in terms of resolution 2022/053 below.

Following a debate, the Chairman put the altered motion to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman declared it was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2022/053

The Independent Review of Children's Social Care headed by Josh MacAlister published in May 2022 a final report and recommendations that included:

"Government should make care experience a protected characteristic" and

"New legislation should be passed which broadens corporate parenting responsibilities across a wider set of public bodies and organisations."

On Protected Characteristics for Care Experience

"Many care experienced people face discrimination, stigma and prejudice in their day to day lives. Public perceptions of care experience centre on the idea that children are irredeemably damaged and that can lead to discrimination and assumptions being made."

One young person told the review that a teacher had told them "You're smart - for a kid in care" another young person said "I don't want people to point out that I am in care if I don't want that mentioned. It makes me so cross – that shouldn't happen."

This stigma and discrimination can be explicit and often comes with assumptions about the likely characteristics of children and adults that have care experience. They can also be implicit and are evidenced in the way care experience is discussed in schools, workplaces and the media.

At its worst this can lead to care experienced people being refused employment, failing to succeed in education or facing unfair judgements about their ability to parent when they have children and families of their own.

Hearing testimony from care experienced people sharing the discrimination they have experienced, even from a very young age, it is clear that such discrimination can be similar in nature to other groups that have a legally protected characteristic under the Equality Act (2010).

So, while there may be ways that society can help reduce stigma and discrimination, including creating greater public consciousness on these issues, just as with other areas of equality, there is a case to go further. Therefore, the government should make care experience a protected characteristic.

“Making care experience a protected characteristic would provide greater authority to employers, businesses, public services, and policy makers to put in place policies and programmes which promote better outcomes for care experienced people. It will make the UK the first country in the world to recognise care experienced people in this way. As a measure, it will bolster and pave the way for a number of the recommendations in this chapter.”

Independent Review of Children’s Social Care May 2022

Nottinghamshire County Council believes that Care experienced people face significant barriers that impact them throughout their lives;

- Despite the resilience of many care experienced people, society too often does not take their needs into account
- Care experienced people often face discrimination and stigma across housing, health, education, relationships, employment and in the criminal justice system
- Care experienced people often face a postcode lottery of support
- As corporate parents, councillors have a collective responsibility for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who are looked after by us as an authority
- All corporate parents should commit to acting as mentors, hearing the voices of looked after children and young people and to consider their needs in any aspect of council work
- Councillors should be champions of our looked after children and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exists in all aspects of society
- The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation of people with protected characteristics
- Nottinghamshire County Council acknowledges that Children entering the care system are often split from their siblings and placed outside their home Local Authority Area. That they don’t choose to enter the care system, that they don’t choose to be split up from their siblings and don’t choose to be placed outside their local area.

Nottinghamshire County Council therefore RESOLVES:

- 1) When making any decisions in relation to its policies or formulating its Council Plan that it recognises that Care Experienced people are a vulnerable group who face discrimination;
- 2) That it recognises that Councils have a duty to put the needs of vulnerable people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration;
- 3) That in the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty the Council includes care experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives and the annual publication of information relating to people who share a Protected Characteristic in services and employment;
- 4) That this council will treat care experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic so that future services and policies made and adopted by the Council should be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a Protected Characteristic;
- 5) To formally call upon all other bodies to treat care experience as a Protected Characteristic;
- 6) To formally call upon all other bodies to adopt corporate parenting for children in care and care leavers;
- 7) For the Council to proactively seek out and listen to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies based on their views."

The Council adjourned from 3.04pm to 3.21pm during consideration of this item.

Councillor Samantha Deakin left the Chamber at 2.41pm and returned at 3.21pm after the adjournment.

Councillor Stephen Garner left the Chamber at 2.56pm during consideration of this item and did not return.

Having earlier left the Chamber, Councillor Sue Saddington returned to the Chamber at 3.21pm after the adjournment.

MOTION TWO

A Motion as set out below was moved by Councillor Jason Zadrozny and seconded by Councillor Steve Carr:

"As the local Minerals Planning Authority, Nottinghamshire County Council is responsible for determining planning applications relating to onshore oil and gas development, including shale gas extraction using hydraulic fracturing, more widely known as 'fracking'.

Nottinghamshire County Council notes the Conservative party's manifesto commitment in 2019 to ban fracking and the UK on September 22nd, 2022 - formally lifted its moratorium on hydraulic fracturing or fracking.

On 26th October, we had yet another u-turn from this Government on fracking – the Government policy on fracking is up and down like a modern high-volume hydraulic fracturing drill. It is therefore imperative that this Council has a policy against fracking.

This Council further notes that if the government decided to change its mind yet again, Nottinghamshire could see the first licenses to drill for shale gas issued since 2019, this includes the Misson Springs site, in Bassetlaw and Tinker Lane, near Barnby Moor and Blyth.

This Council believes that fracking would destroy the environment, not only locally through vehicle traffic at drilling sites and water contamination but also globally through the CO2 emissions from its combustion, and also from the direct escape of methane. This Council further believes that fracking would not solve the energy security or price issues Nottinghamshire and the UK currently face.

This Council recognises the climate emergency declared in May 2021, furthering our commitment to delivering actions to tackle climate change and ensure Nottinghamshire has a greener future. Fracking flies in the face of this.

This Council opposes fracking in Nottinghamshire, or fracking outside county boundaries, which could affect residents within our County and call upon the Government to clearly lay out its policy on fracking and commit to a long-term moratorium on shale gas in the UK.

This Council therefore commits to not allow any fracking activities, including survey work, on Council owned or controlled land and property”

An amendment to the motion as set out below was moved by Councillor Neil Clarke MBE and seconded by Councillor Keith Girling.

“As the local Minerals Planning Authority, Nottinghamshire County Council is responsible for determining planning applications relating to onshore oil and gas development, including shale gas extraction using hydraulic fracturing, more widely known as ‘fracking’.

Nottinghamshire County Council notes the Conservative party's manifesto commitment in 2019 to **‘not support fracking unless the science shows categorically that it can be done safely’** ~~ban fracking and the UK on September 22nd, 2022 – formally lifted its moratorium on hydraulic fracturing or fracking.~~

On 26th October, **Prime Minister Rishi Sunak told the House of Commons that he ‘stands by’ this manifesto commitment.** ~~we had yet another u-turn from this Government on fracking – the Government policy on fracking is up and down like a modern high-volume hydraulic fracturing drill. It is therefore~~ **advisable** ~~imperative that this Council has a policy against fracking.~~

~~This Council further notes that if the government decided to change its mind yet again, Nottinghamshire could see the first licenses to drill for shale gas issued since 2019, this includes the Misson Springs site, in Bassetlaw and Tinker Lane, near Barnby Moor and Blyth.~~

This Council believes that fracking **has the potential to detrimentally impact on** ~~would destroy the environment, not only locally through vehicle traffic at drilling sites and water contamination but also globally through the CO2 emissions from its combustion, and also from the direct escape of methane.~~ This Council further **and** believes that fracking **alone** would not solve the energy security or price issues Nottinghamshire and the UK currently face.

This Council recognises the climate emergency **we** declared in May 2021, furthering our commitment to delivering actions to tackle climate change and ensure Nottinghamshire has a greener future. Fracking flies in the face of this **unless the science shows categorically that it can be done in an environmentally safe manner.**

This Council **does not support** ~~opposes~~ fracking in Nottinghamshire, or fracking outside county boundaries, which could **adversely** affect residents within our County and, ~~call upon~~ **in line with** the Government's ~~to clearly lay out its policy,~~ **does not support** ~~on fracking and commit to a long-term moratorium on shale gas in the UK.~~

This Council therefore commits to not allow any fracking activities, including survey work, on Council owned or controlled land and property."

The Council adjourned from 4.14pm to 4.27pm to allow the amendment to be considered. The amendment was accepted by the mover of the motion and became the substantive (altered) motion.

Following a debate, the Chairman put the altered motion to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman declared it was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2022/054

As the local Minerals Planning Authority, Nottinghamshire County Council is responsible for determining planning applications relating to onshore oil and gas development, including shale gas extraction using hydraulic fracturing, more widely known as 'fracking'.

Nottinghamshire County Council notes the Conservative party's manifesto commitment in 2019 to 'not support fracking unless the science shows categorically that it can be done safely'.

On 26th October, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak told the House of Commons that he 'stands by' this manifesto commitment. It is therefore advisable that this Council has a policy against fracking.

This Council believes that fracking has the potential to detrimentally impact on the environment and believes that fracking alone would not solve the energy security or price issues Nottinghamshire and the UK currently face.

This Council recognises the climate emergency we declared in May 2021, furthering our commitment to delivering actions to tackle climate change and ensure Nottinghamshire has a greener future. Fracking flies in the face of this unless the science shows categorically that it can be done in an environmentally safe manner.

This Council does not support fracking in Nottinghamshire, or fracking outside county boundaries, which could adversely affect residents within our County and, in line with the Government's policy, does not support UK.

This Council therefore commits to not allow any fracking activities, including survey work, on Council owned or controlled land and property.

The following Councillors left the Chamber for more than 10 minutes during consideration of this item:

- Councillor Samantha Deakin left the Chamber at 4pm and did not return.
- Councillor Tracey Taylor left the Chamber at 4.01pm and returned at 4.26pm after the adjournment.

As there would not be enough time to conclude any further business before the time limit of 5.30pm was reached, all remaining business would be carried over to the next ordinary meeting of Full Council.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 5.22 pm.

CHAIRMAN