

Minutes



Meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

Date Thursday, 25th June 2009 (11.25 am – 12.30 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with `A`

COUNCILLOR

David Taylor (Chairman)

Thomas A J Pettengell (Vice Chairman)

	Reg Adair		Bruce Laughton
	John Allin		Keith Longdon
	Tom Appleby		Rachel Madden
	Fiona Asbury		Geoff Merry
	Chris Barnfather	A	Mick Murphy
	Michael Bennett		Philip Owen
	Victor Bobo		Carol Pepper
	Joyce Bosnjak		Mrs Sheila Place
	Richard Butler		Peter D Prebble
	Steve Carr		Darrell Pulk
	Steve Carroll		Mike Quigley MBE
	Allen Clarke		Mrs Wendy Quigley
	Ged Clarke		Alan Rhodes
	John Clarke	A	Ken Rigby
	L B Cooper		Kevin Rostance
	John Cottee		Mrs Sue Saddington
	Michael J Cox		Mel Shepherd MBE
A	Jim Creamer		Mrs S Smedley
	Bob Cross		Mark Spencer
	Mrs Kay Cutts		June Stendall
	V H Dobson		Andy Stewart
	Sybil Fielding		Martin Suthers OBE
	Stephen Garner		Linda Sykes
	Michelle Gent		Parry Tsimbiridis
	Glynn Gilfoyle	A	Gail Turner
	Keith Girling		Keith Walker
	John M Hemsall		Les Ward
	Stan Heptinstall MBE		Gordon Wheeler
A	Rev. Tom Irvine		Brian Wombwell
	Richard Jackson		Martin Wright
	Rod Kempster		Liz Yates
	Eric Kerry		Jason Zadrozny
	John Knight		

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mick Burrows	(Chief Executive)
Jayne Francis	(Monitoring Officer)
Chris Holmes	(Chief Executive Department)
Carl Bilbey	(Chief Executive Department)
Barbara Cooper	(Chief Executive Department)
Marie Lewis	(Chief Executive Department)
David Pearson	(Adult Services and Health)
Anthony May	(Children and Young People's Services)
Tim Malynn	(Communities)
Alan Sumbly	(Corporate Services)
Tim Gregory	(Corporate Services)
Nigel Stevenson	(Corporate Services)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Jim Creamer, Rev Tom Irvine, Mick Murphy, Ken Rigby and Gail Turner.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of Interest.

3. CHAIRMANS BUSINESS

(a) Presentation of Awards.

Councillor Joyce Bosnjak congratulated the County Council's Scrutiny Team on being awarded a highly recommended certificate by the Centre of Public Scrutiny at the recent Scrutiny Team of the Year Awards. The Chairman presented the team with the Certificate.

(b) Constituency Issues

Set out in Appendix A to these Minutes in a full note of the issues discussed by Councillors as follows:-

Councillor Rachel Madden – Bentinck Void

Councillor Michelle Gent – Sutton in Ashfield Bus Station

Councillor Keith Longdon – Eastwood Residents Traffic Problems

4. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

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

- (1) Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts – Request to resurface Shadwell Grove, Radcliffe on Trent
- (2) Councillor Mike Quigley – Request for Road Block, Cobwell Road/Pelham Road, Retford
- (3) Councillor Jason Zadrozny – Elder Street, Skegby

RESOLVED: 2009/036

That the petitions be referred to the appropriate Cabinet Members for consideration in accordance with Standing Orders.

5. QUESTIONS

(a) QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 6.1

Three questions had been received as follows:-

1. from Councillor Stan Heptinstall about funding the extension of the tram to South Broxtowe and adjacent areas (Councillor Richard Jackson replied)
2. from Councillor Stella Smedley concerning possible plans to sell off land earmarked for NET lines 2 and 3 (Councillor Richard Jackson replied)
3. from Councillor Jason Zadrozny about plans for Skegby Road (Councillor Richard Jackson replied)

The full response of answers to these questions under Standing Order 6.1 are set out in Appendix B to these Minutes.

(b) QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 6.2

There were no questions to the Chairs of the Police Authority and the Fire Authority.

6. APPLICATION OF THE SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES

On a motion by Councillor Carol Pepper, and seconded by Councillor Sheila Place it was

RESOLVED: 2009/037

- (1) that the interim recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel be adopted.

- (2) that the Independent Remuneration Panel be convened to undertake a full review of the scheme in the autumn

7. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

On a motion by Councillor Reg Adair, and seconded by Councillor Michael J Cox it was:-

RESOLVED: 2009/038

That the Statement of Accounts for 2008/09 be approved, subject to approval by the District Auditor.

8. APPOINTMENT OF POLITICAL ASSISTANTS

On a motion by Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts, and seconded by Councillor Carol Pepper, it was

RESOLVED: 2009/039

1. That the changes to the Council's Employment Procedure Rules and Standing Orders as set out in Appendix A to the report be approved.
2. That posts be allocated to qualifying groups as set out in paragraph 6 of the report.

9. LATEST ESTIMATED COST: WESTFIELD FOLKHOUSE YOUTH CENTRE, MANSFIELD

On a motion by Councillor Philip Owen, seconded by Councillor Reg Adair it was

RESOLVED: 2009/040

- (1) that the variation to the Capital Programme as set out in the report be approved.
- (2) that the latest estimated cost for the building works as set out in the report be approved

10. ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

There were no motions to adjourn the Council.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm

CHAIRMAN
M_25JUNE09

APPENDIX A

3-MINUTE SPEECHES

Councillor Rachel Madden

“Those of you who know me of old may have an idea of the subject I am addressing today. For the benefit of the newcomers to this authority I wish to raise the allocation of the Bentinck sites for a landfill. I'll briefly outline a few of the many reasons why this subject deserves further consideration:

There is no need for this dump. The supporting arguments say that there must be somewhere to take the household waste from Ashfield, the City and Mansfield. Ashfield is now the 12th best in the country for kerb side separation so each week less and less is going to landfill through measures taken by the Lib Dem administration. The City is increasing Eastcroft's capacity by 50% and I read only last week in the Post of plans to raise their re-cycling rate by 33%, again reducing dumping drastically. The Waste Local Plan was based on flawed data and is now so out of date as to rate as something written by Dickens.

Other waste disposal methods are coming on line through this authority's own preferred partner so again no need for this site to become one of the largest dumps around.

This allocation goes against EU Directives, Government policies, strategies, guidance - "reuse, reduce, recycle", Regional and our own County's Plans, etc. In fact, the Waste Plan contradicts itself by continuing this allocation. Why trash our open space for Landfill Tax Credit money? The Void is an important unique habitat offering many rare and protected species along with an excellent opportunity for a research and educational tool, possibly the only one in the country. It is a SSSI but should be a SPA, should we destroy that just to prop up a failing budget with these Credits?

There is more and more research throwing up the links between landfill and poor health, cancers, miscarriages or birth defects. My area has suffered enough with industrial disease etc already, give us a break please. Or do you think that "Ashfield is already a dump so deserves to be dumped on" to quote an ex Labour Sutton North councillor?

This is a very contentious subject as has been shown by the massive swing away from Labour, who continue to support this unsuitable proposal, to bring about my election to this chamber. 17 hundred or more people were worried enough about this to put their cross against my name, the person who has been fighting this for over 10 years now. Anyone who looks into the objections raised by both lay people and professionals can see that this is not “not in my backyard” (as it seems by one 'anti landfill' councillor who publicly stated "if the landfill comes I go.")

I therefore urge you to listen to the residents of my Division and others across Ashfield and take this allocation out of the Waste Local Plan."

Councillor Michelle Gent

"I would like to bring to the attention to this Chamber the sorry state of my previous project at the heart of my constituency. The Sutton Bus Station needs to be completed to the satisfaction of the people of Ashfield. At the moment there are a number of small but very important details that need to be addressed.

There is an atmosphere of neglect already draped over the bus station. The area may look okay as you drive past but let's face it, the majority of people that use the bus station don't just drive past, they walk through the filthy station. The litter bins are few and far between and not strategically placed to collect discarded litter. They are instead placed away from the waiting areas of the bus stands and even away from the seating areas so that the litter and cigarette stubs are wedged between the slots of the seats or thrown on the ground. But not only is the ground filthy, the interactive computer is also in a disgraceful state. I visited the bus station just this Monday and was loathe to even go near the touch screen facility let alone use it. The keys are probably a health hazard by the looks of it. That's not to mention that the electronic timetables are still yet to be installed. And what ever happened to the ill-fated art project. I understand that the CCTVs now working but there is only one camera that I saw which seems close enough to cover the area, and I wonder if that's sufficient.

Most distressing for my residents however, is the lack of public conveniences still. When will the users of Sutton Bus Station be provided with toilets in the vicinity of the station? I've spoken to people that use this station and those that no longer use it because of the lack of toilets. The elderly cannot be expected to trot back and forth to the market hall toilets and trust the luck that they don't miss their bus. And it is by no means disabled friendly. In fact it proactively prohibits people with disabilities from being able to access or egress the facility.

I know that the new Council has inherited the sow's ear that was built as a silk purse but now that we have it we must make the best of a bad job and finally bring it up to the standard with toilets. I am cognisant that the subject of this public inconvenience has been raised in this Chamber before. At that time, then Labour administration, attempted to deceive the residents of Sutton with what was nothing more than a smoking mirror illusion. Let me enlighten this chamber on the genuine facts. The company which owns those public conveniences offered this County Council the opportunity that they would repair and renovate those facilities. They would also clean and maintain them and would provide them as a public service all for the sum of £7000 per annum. Knowing how busy this particular bus station is, if only 200 people per day use that facility it would've cost this council less than 10p per p. This Council refused. This Council let down the residents of Sutton and the Labour Party responsible will never ever regain the trust of the residents they betrayed.

Please can I have the assurance that this will be addressed with the immediacy that this deserves. Don't make Sutton worry about being cut short waiting for the bus and don't sell Ashfield short with this half finished project."

Councillor Keith Longdon

"I would like to take this chance to address this Chamber about the problem facing residents in my constituency of Eastwood. As many Members will know I sit on Eastwood Town Council and it is my great privilege this year to be Mayor of Eastwood. I believe these roles have given me a deep sense of understanding of the problems facing my residents and my area. This was confirmed when I won my County seat by 50% of the vote. With this mandate I will continue to speak up for Eastwood, its proud community and my neighbours all in there.

Mr Chairman, Eastwood is plagued with traffic problems, congestion, jolts our historical town centre and threatens to squeeze it to death. At a time when vibrance of the town centre is vital to ensure local communities weather this economical storm we should do all we can to protect vital and zestful towns like Eastwood. Eastwood punches above its weight, it is a busy town with much to see and much to do. It is as important to historians and scholars as it is to everyday shoppers.

The economical regeneration of former coalfield areas like this is vital to the future of Nottinghamshire. Everything that can be done should be done to ensure great jobs and draw down inward investment of local regional national funding. This economic regeneration in the LAA will be moving firmly into remit of the County Council and we know on this side we will fight hard to make sure that vital regeneration is argued for. I was delighted to see a new administration pledge of 60 million into Nottingham roads. It is something that the Liberal Democrats have been calling for for years and I will be watching that Eastwood gets its fair share. I also hope that in this division the trouble at IKEA island, of my colleague Ken Rigby and I have been campaigning on is resolved."

APPENDIX B

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25th JUNE 2009

(a) QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 6.1

Question to the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways from Councillor Stan Heptinstall:

Richard, as the new Cabinet Member for Transport & Highways, and also as a representative of the South Broxtowe area of our County, how can you justify the view from your party that the County Council should not provide its 5% share of the money needed to fund the extension of the tram to South Broxtowe and adjacent areas?

How can you deny the enhanced access that will be provided to Beeston Town Centre, to Castle College (in the Division that you personally represent), to the University of Nottingham, to the Queens Medical Centre and to emerging business districts, and, by so doing, compromise the economic future of the area?

How can you deny the environmental benefits that will result from provision of new off-road public transport, which will result in a decrease in the number of cars on our roads?

I plead with you to announce today that your group has reviewed this matter and will now concur with the views of the independent inspector that the tram extensions are essential to the economic and environmental wellbeing of Beeston, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

Response by Councillor Richard Jackson, Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways:

"As I am sure Councillor Heptinstall understands I am a supporter of Line One and will ensure that this Council continues to support it for the residents of Nottinghamshire. Councillor Heptinstall will also understand however, that we, as a party, were very clear in our manifesto regarding our position on the network extension.

As would be expected, we are keen to move forward with our manifesto commitments, but as a sensible business like administration it is important that time is taken to consider the best way to see these achieved. To this end we are spending considerable effort and resource on getting the best advice for the council so as to fully understand the options before it. When we are in possession of the relevant information, we intend to progress with all appropriate diligence a decision as is required by due process and the Council's legal obligations.

I don't wish to rehearse the age old arguments for and against the proposals at this stage but I can assure Councillor Heptinstall that the final decision will be fully debated in this chamber as soon as we are in a position to do so.

Transportation within Nottinghamshire and neighbouring authorities is of great importance to me. To this end I am wholly committed to improving public transport throughout the County and have already asked officers to review the range of matters in this regard."

Question to the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways from Councillor Stella Smedley:

Could the Cabinet Member tell me if the rumours are true that his administration are looking to sell off land in the ownership of Nottinghamshire County Council which has been earmarked for the pre-work on Lines 2 and 3 of the tram, thus sabotaging any future construction before we've even had a chance to debate their plans for the NET Phase Two project?

Response by Councillor Richard Jackson, Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways:

"Over the last 18 months NCC has purchased 10 properties which are required to allow NET Phase Two to be developed. These properties are still in the ownership of this County Council and are not in the process of being sold. We have no plans to sell off land that has been earmarked."

Question to the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways from Councillor Jason Zadrozny:

The new Cabinet Member may recall that in previous meetings I have mentioned the plight of the residents of Skegby Road in my Division. He may also recall that I have twice stood in this chamber and spoken of fatalities that have taken place there.

Plans for a roundabout and pedestrian islands were drawn up and residents were promised action. However, as the road straddles my division of Sutton North and Sutton Central, the former member for that division quashed those plans. Instead insisting on the installation of a pedestrian refuge further into his division.

Would the Cabinet Member agree with me that the safety of the public in this area should have been the paramount consideration. Will he further inform the chamber what the plans are for this road scheme under the new conservative administration, and will he consider using some of the 60million pledged to resolve this treacherously dangerous road.

Response by Councillor Richard Jackson, Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways:

“A meeting was held with Councillor Zadrozny on site at this location in November 2008, where officers confirmed that there had been no fatal accidents in that location or area. I am assured by my officers that there have in fact been a total of 2 slight accidents in the whole of Skegby Road in the last 3 years. If Councillor Zadrozny has evidence of other accidents then I would ask him to send it to me as a matter of urgency.

At the meeting it was agreed to investigate possible options which could be considered, subject to funding being available and approval of the Cabinet Member and Local Member. It was concluded the main problem was parking around the Skegby Road/Dalestorth Road junction, causing problems for emerging drivers and for the School Crossing Patrol.

A scheme was designed which incorporated a zebra crossing and addressed the parking issues, but further consultations have had to be carried out on the scheme due to concerns raised by two shop owners and the Church.

The safety of the public and all others using our highways is always of the greatest importance. I will ensure that full consideration will be given to provision of a suitable scheme at that location, with potential funding from within the 2009/10 Building Better Communities Programme.”