

Minutes



Meeting COUNTY COUNCIL (ANNUAL MEETING)

Date Thursday, 17th May 2007 (10.30 am – 12.27 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with `A`

Councillors

	Reg Adair		Pat Lally
	John C Allin		Bruce Laughton
	Peter Barnes		Edward Llewellyn-Jones
	Chris Baron		Ellie Lodziak
	Joyce Bosnjak		Joe Lonergan MBE
	Martin M Brandon-Bravo OBE	A	Mick Murphy
	Kenneth Bullivant		Jim Napier
	Richard Butler		Jim O'Riordan
	Steve Carr		Philip Owen
	Steve Carroll		Tom Pettengell
A	John Carter		Sheila Place
A	John Clarke	A	Peter D Prebble
	Jen Cole		Darrell Pulk
	Barrie Cooper		Alan Rhodes
	John Cottee		Ken Rigby
	M J Cox		Sue Saddington
	Jim Creamer		David Shaw
	Mrs Kay Cutts		Mrs Stella M Smedley
	Yvonne Davidson		Mark Spencer
	Alan Davison		Andy Stewart
	V H Dobson		John R Stocks
	Sybil Fielding		Mick Storey
	Andy Freeman		Martin Suthers OBE
	Glynn Gilfoyle		Lynn Sykes
	Keith Girling		David Taylor
	Albert Haynes		The Hon Joan Taylor
	John M Hemsall		Parry Tsimbiridis
	Paul Henshaw		Kevan Wakefield
	Stan Heptinstall MBE		Keith Walker
	Helen Holt		Chris Winterton
	Richard Jackson		Brian Wombwell
	Rod Kempster		Yvonne Woodhead
	David Kirkham	A	Jason Zadrozny
	John R Knight		

OPENING PRAYER

Upon the Council convening at 10.30 a.m. Councillor Peter Barnes was in the Chair. In accordance with usual practice and prior to the commencement of the formal business, the Chairman's Chaplain led the Council in prayer.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Prior to calling for nominations for the appointment as Chairman of the County Council for 2007/08, Councillor Peter Barnes (outgoing Chairman) made a short address reviewing the work he had undertaken during his year. Councillor Barnes then asked for nominations and was moved by Councillor Albert Haynes and seconded by Councillor Andy Stewart that Councillor John Allin should be elected Chairman of the County Council.

In moving and seconding the motion, both Councillors Haynes and Stewart referred to the personal qualities which they felt Councillor Allin would bring to the position. There were no other nominations and it was unanimously:-

RESOLVED: 2007/036

That Councillor John Allin be elected Chairman of the Nottinghamshire County Council for 2007/08.

Having been elected, Councillor Allin made his declaration of acceptance of Office and was invested with the Chain of Office, Councillor John Allin's portrait was then unveiled by the Chief Executive. Councillor John Allin then took the Chair and addressed the Council, indicating his pleasure at having been invited to serve as Chairman of the County Council. During his address, Councillor John Allin described his intentions in respect of the conduct of the Council meetings and the corporate and civic roles of the position he now occupied. He indicated also that his chosen charitable objective for the coming year was to raise money for the John Eastwood Hospice at Kings Mill which was a self-funding hospice and had been the hospice where two previous Councillors had been admitted.

Councillor John Allin then asked Councillor Joyce Bosnjak to move a vote of thanks for Councillor Barnes' work as Chairman of the County Council. This motion was seconded by Councillor Mark Spencer who spoke on behalf of Members of the Conservative Group, further thanking Councillor Peter Barnes for the work he had undertaken and paying tribute to the many attributes which he had brought to the Civic Office. Councillor Stan Heptinstall also paid tribute to the outgoing Chairman.

The motion was put to the meeting and it was unanimously:-

RESOLVED: 2007/037

That Councillor Peter Barnes be thanked for his work as Chairman of the County Council and be presented with a Past Chairman's badge of Office.

In accordance with the above resolution, Councillor John Allin then made the presentation to Councillor Peter Barnes.

2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

A motion to appoint Councillor The Hon Joan Taylor as Vice-Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year was moved by Councillor Stella Smedley and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Kay Cutts. Upon being put to the meeting it was unanimously:-

RESOLVED: 2007/038

That, Councillor The Hon Joan Taylor be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year.

Councillor The Hon Joan Taylor then made her declaration of Acceptance of Office, following which she was invested with the Chain of Office by the Chief Executive.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED: 2007/039

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the County Council held on 29th March 2007 be agreed as a correct record and confirmed and signed by the Chairman subject to it being noted that Councillor Paul Henshaw was in attendance at that meeting.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors:-

John Carter
John Clarke*
Mick Murphy

Peter D. Prebble
Jason Zadrozny

* denotes on other County Council business.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

The following Members declared prejudicial interests in agenda item number 10 – Nottingham Express Transit (NET) Phase 2; confirmation on the submission of

an order for the Transport and Works Act 1992 to authorise construction and operation of two extensions to the system.

- Councillor Richard Jackson – because of his employment being on the Beeston part of the intended route of NET Phase 2
- Councillor Barrie Cooper – because his house backs onto the Clifton/Wilford Park intended route of NET Phase 2

The following Members declared personal interests in agenda item number 10 - Nottingham Express Transit (NET) Phase 2;

- Councillor Martin Suthers – as Chairman of the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust Attenborough and a member of the Council of the University of Nottingham
- Councillor Brian Wombwell – as a member on the NET Development Board Liaison meetings to which he was appointed by Broxtowe Borough Council
- Councillor Chris Baron – as a member of NET Development Board and Chair of the Greater Nottingham Rapid Transit Advisory Committee
- Councillor David Kirkham – as member of the NET Development Board
- Councillor Stella Smedley as member of the NET Development Board
- Councillor Edward Llewellyn-Jones as a member of the Court of the University of Nottingham
- Councillor Stan Heptinstall indicated that it had been suggested that he declare a personal interest in this report due to the fact that he works at the University of Nottingham but re-stated that at no time in the past or future would he be able to influence any decision made by the University of Nottingham as to the intended NET route”.

6. CHAIRMAN’S BUSINESS

(a) Presentation of Awards

- (1) Councillor Alan Rhodes presented to the Chairman a certificate of commendation for a better way of working presented to Nottinghamshire

County Council by the National Award for Info-Care Systems.

- (2) Councillor Alan Rhodes presented an Award for the Commitment and Recognition for Outstanding Achievement in respect of Brooke Farm.

(b) Suspension of Standing Orders

It was moved by Councillor Mick Storey, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Kay Cutts and

RESOLVED: 2007/040

That, in accordance with Standing Order 12, the Standing Orders of Council be suspended for the business of agenda items 6 (c) (Constituency Issues) and agenda item 7 (Presentation of Petitions).

(c) Constituency Issues

Following the suspension of Standing Orders the next three minutes of the Council meeting were allotted to give a Member, who had previously given notice, an opportunity to speak for three minutes on any particular matter relevant to their constituency or any particular issue arising from their electoral division. This was an opportunity simply to air these issues in Council meeting and it did not give rise to debate upon the issue or question and answer sessions.

Set out in Appendix A attached to these Minutes is a full note of the issues discussed by Councillor Richard Butler regarding HGVs travelling through villages in his division.

7(a) PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

The Chairman reminded Members that there was no requirement to walk whilst presenting a petition and there was a two minute time limit for such presentations.

A petition was presented to the Chairman by Councillor Richard Butler about residents of Hoe View Road, Cropwell Bishop who are requesting parking spaces to be made available.

7(b) REPORT BACK ON PETITION

RESOLVED: 2007/041

That the matters contained in the report back on the petition received on 29 March be noted.

8(a) QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 6.1

One question had been received from Councillor Alan Rhodes to the Finance and Portfolio Holder regarding County Councillors' allowances.

The full text of the question together with answer given is included at Appendix B to these Minutes.

8(b) QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 6.2

There were no questions asked under Standing Order 6.2.

9. REPORTS FROM CABINET MEMBERS

The Leader moved the reports to the meeting on-bloc and in presenting the reports to Council he informed Members that they may indicate to the Chairman any questions or comments they wished to put to the Cabinet Members on matters arising from their reports.

Comments and questions are included at Appendix C to these Minutes.

RESOLVED: 2007/042

That the reports be noted.

10. NOTTINGHAM EXPRESS TRANSIT (NET) PHASE 2 CONFIRMATION OF THE SUBMISSION OF AN ORDER UNDER THE TRANSPORT AND WORKS ACT 1992 TO AUTHORISE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF TWO EXTENSIONS TO THE SYSTEM

In accordance with the prejudicial interests which they had declared earlier, Councillors Barrie Cooper and Richard Jackson withdrew from the meeting during discussion and voting on this item.

In introducing the report Councillor David Kirkham reminded Members that the County Council at its meeting on 22nd February 2007 approved to jointly promote with the City Council a Transport and Works Act Order Application for NET Phase 2. This has now been ratified also by the City Council and the purpose of the report was to confirm the submission of that Order in accordance with the Transport and Works Act.

During the debate which followed, Conservative Members reiterated their strong opposition to the proposed NET Phase 2 and indicated that they would again be voting against the recommendation.

A motion in terms of resolution number 2007/043 moved by Councillor David Kirkham and seconded by Councillor Stella Smedley.

The motion was put to the meeting and was carried on a show of hands.

The requisite number of Members requested a recorded vote and it was ascertained that the following 37 Members voted '**For**' the motion.

'FOR'

John Allin	Edward Llewellyn-Jones
Peter Barnes	Ellie Lodziak
Chris Baron	Jim Napier
Joyce Bosnjak	Jim O'Riordan
Steve Carroll	Sheila Place
Jen Cole	Darrell Pulk
Jim Creamer	Alan Rhodes
Yvonne Davidson	Ken Rigby
Alan Davison	David Shaw
Sybil Fielding	Mrs. Stella Smedley
Andy Freeman	John Stocks
Glynn Gilfoyle	Mick Storey
Albert Haynes	The Hon Joan Taylor
Paul Henshaw	Parry Tsimbiridis
Stan Heptinstall	Kevan Wakefield
Helen Holt	Chris Winterton
David Kirkham	Brian Wombwell
John Knight	Yvonne Woodhead
Pat Lally	

and the following 22 Members voted 'against' the motion.

'AGAINST'

Reg Adair	Bruce Laughton
Martin Brandon-Bravo	Joe Lonergan
Kenneth Bullivant	Philip Owen
Richard Butler	Tom Pettengell
John Cottee	Sue Saddington
M. J. Cox	Mark Spencer
Mrs. Kay Cutts	Andy Stewart
V. H. Dobson	Martin Suthers
Keith Girling	Lynn Sykes
John Hemsall	David Taylor
Rod Kempster	Keith Walker

Councillor Steve Carr abstained from voting.

The motion was declared to be carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2007/043

That the County Council confirm the resolution of the Council made at its meeting on 22nd February 2007 to promote, jointly with the Nottingham City Council, an order made under the Transport and Works Act 1992 by the Secretary of State for Transport to authorise the construction and operation of two extensions to the Nottingham Express Transit System, running from the present terminus of the system at Nottingham railway station in the City of Nottingham to (1) Clifton in that City via Willford in that City and to (2) Chilwell in the Borough of Broxtowe in the County of Nottinghamshire via the Queen's Medical Centre in the City of Nottingham and Beeston in the Borough of Broxtowe and to make consequential provision in relation to the operation and maintenance of Line 1 of the Nottingham Express Transit system.

Councillors Barrie Cooper and Richard Jackson returned to the meeting.

11. ANNUAL REVIEW OF SCRUTINY

On a motion by Councillor Edward Llewellyn-Jones, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Davidson it was:-

RESOLVED: 2007/044

That the Annual Review of Scrutiny for 2006/07 be noted.

12. LEGAL EXPENSES INSURANCE

On a motion by Councillor Chris Baron, seconded by Councillor Mick Storey, it was:-

RESOLVED: 2007/045

- (a) That legal expenses insurance cover (as described in Appendix 1) be effected and that the commencement be backdated to 1st December 2006.
- (b) That the cover be arranged by the County Council's Insurance Fund and that no premium be charged for the moment in common with the existing indemnity cover provided to members for health and safety prosecutions.
- (c) That in the event of claims, the Strategic Director of Resources will review whether a premium will be charged for the future and consult as appropriate.

13. APPOINTMENTS

On a motion by Councillor Sheila Place, seconded by Councillor Albert Haynes, it was:-

RESOLVED: 2007/046

1. That Councillor David Kirkham be elected Leader for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the County Council in May 2008.
2. That the Council continue the practice of inviting the following to attend Cabinet meetings, with the ability to participate in discussions but not to vote:-

Chairs of the Nottinghamshire Police and Combined Fire Authorities where the holders of those positions are Members of the majority political Group on the County Council

8 Members of each of the Labour and Conservative Groups and 1 Member of the Liberal Democrats Group (appointed by the Groups in accordance with the rules which apply for Committee appointments)

3. (a) That the Council re-establish a Standards Committee, with its membership being 4 Members of the Labour Group, 2 Members of the Conservative Group, 1 Member of the Liberal Democrat Group and 3 Independent Members.
- (b) That Canon Eddie Neale, Mr Robert Lilley and Mr Ian Roger be invited to accept the re-appointment as Independent Members of the Standards Committee until the Annual meeting of the County Council in May 2008 and that Canon Eddie Neale be appointed Chair of the Committee until that time.
4. (a) That the Council re-establish the following regulatory Committees and Committees of Council with the membership shown:-

	Total	Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrat	Statutory Co-optees	Other
<u>Regulatory Committees</u>						
APPEALS	11	6	4	1		
PLANNING & LICENSING	11	6	4	1		
<u>Committees of Council</u>						

	Total	Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrat	Statutory Co-optees	Other
ADMINISTRATION	11	6	4	1	-	-
AUDIT	11	6	4	1		
PENSIONS	11	6	4	1		
SELECTION	9	5	3	1		
PERSONNEL	11	6	4	1		2 trades union reps (non-voting)

- (b) That the Council make the following appointments of Chair and Vice-Chair until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2008, it being noted that the appointment of a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Selection Committee shall be a matter for that Committee.

	Chair	Vice-Chair
Administration	Cllr Sheila Place	Cllr Sybil Fielding
Appeals	Cllr Helen Holt	Cllr Rod Kempster
Audit	Cllr David Taylor	a Labour Member
Pensions	Cllr Chris Baron	Cllr Darrell Pulk
Personnel	Cllr John Stocks	a Labour Member
Planning & Licensing	Cllr Sybil Fielding	Cllr Ken Bullivant

5. (a) That the Council establish an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and that its membership be 4 Members of the Labour Group, 2 Members of the Conservative Group and 1 Liberal Democrat Member.
- (b) That it be noted that the application of the strict political balance calculation to the available places on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would give an allocation as follows:-

Labour Group – 4 (3.78)
 Conservative Group – 3 (2.73)
 Liberal Democrat Group – 0 (0.49)

however, the above allocation enables all 3 Groups to be represented.

- (c) That Councillor Edward Llewellyn-Jones be appointed Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and that Councillors Yvonne Davidson, John Knight and Chris Winterton be appointed as its Vice-Chairs.
- (d) That 3 Scrutiny Select Committees be established permanently each with a politically balanced core membership of at least 7 places.
- (e) That Councillors Yvonne Davidson, John Knight and Chris Winterton each be appointed as the Chair of one of the Scrutiny Select Committees referred to in 5(d) above and that their Vice-Chairs be the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Members to be appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee referred to at [5(a)] above.
- (f) One of the Scrutiny Select Committees will undertake Health Scrutiny as directed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This will be in addition to its operation as a topic Select Committee. When undertaking Health Scrutiny, Members will be drawn from the Health pool as set out in the report.
- (g) That the following Statutory Co-optees be appointed to attend and participate in meetings of any or all of the Scrutiny Select Committees whenever matters relating to education are being considered (including voting on education issues before the Committees)

1 representative of the Church of England
 1 representative of the Roman Catholic Church
 2 elected Parent Governors

- 6. (a) That, subject to similar resolutions being taken by the relevant other authorities, Joint Committees be established as follows:-

JOINT COMMITTEE	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL			
	TOTAL NO OF COUNCILLORS	LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Jt City/County Health Scrutiny	8	4	3	1
Jt Cttee for Appointments to the Nottinghamshire Police Authority	3	2	1	
Jt Cttee on Strategic Planning & Transport	4	3	1#	
Greater Nottingham Light Rapid Transit Advisory Committee	5	3	2	

- (b) #That the County Council note that the application of the strict political balance calculation to the available places on the Joint Committee on Strategic Planning and Transport would give an allocation as follows:-

Labour	2 (2.16)
Conservative	2 (1.56)
Liberal Democrat	0 (0.28)

However, the principles of the relevant sections of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 require the majority of available places to be allocated to the majority political group.

7. That School Governance Group be re-appointed and that its membership be 3 Members from the Labour Group plus 1 Member from each of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups.
8. (a) That the appointment of members of the political groups to committees, sub-committees and Joint Committees and the School Governance Group be undertaken by the Head of Members' Services on behalf of the Chief Executive (the Proper Officer) acting in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Local Government Act 2000 the relevant Statutory Regulations and the Council's Standing Orders.
- (b) That the Head of Members' Services be authorised to act on behalf of the Chief Executive to appoint people as statutory or non-statutory co-optees, added (non-councillor) members or trade union representatives to membership of committees or joint committees where their memberships include such appointments. (The appointment of any trades union representatives shall be undertaken only on receipt of nominations agreed collectively by the recognised trades unions.)

14. RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS AND OFFICERS OF GROUPS

On a motion by Councillor Sheila Place, seconded by Councillor Albert Haynes, it was:-

RESOLVED: 2007/047

- (1) That the membership of the political Groups be noted and
- (2) that in accordance with Standing Orders, the Officers of the Groups be recognised.

15. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

On a motion by Councillor Sheila Place, seconded by Councillor Albert Haynes, it was:-

RESOLVED: 2007/048

1(a) That appointments be made as follows for a period up to the annual meeting of Council 2008:-

Combined Fire Authority

6 Labour Group, 5 Conservative Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group

Local Government Association

4 Labour Group

LGA Urban Commission

1 Labour Group

LGA Rural Commission

1 Labour Group

Local Government East Midlands (LGEM) General Meeting

4 Labour Group

East Midlands Regional Assembly

1 Labour Group plus 1 substitute from the Labour Group.

Local Government Information Unit

2 Labour Group

County Council Network

4 Labour Group

SACRE

4 Labour Group, 2 Conservative Group

School Organisation Committee

3 Labour Group, 2 Conservative Group

- 1(b) That expressions of interest in appointment to subsidiary bodies of Local Government East Midlands and the Regional Assembly be handled as described in the report.
2. That the Head of Members' Services be authorised to act on behalf of the Chief Executive to appoint or nominate people to the external organisations and bodies referred to in (1) and (2) above, acting in accordance with nominations to be received from the Groups.
- 3 That previous nominations to the Coalfield Communities Campaign terminate with effect from 7th June 2007;
4. That the Portfolio holder for Culture and Regeneration be appointed as the County Council's representative for the final meeting of Coalfields Communities Campaign and the first meeting of the Alliance for Regional Development on 8th June 2007.

16. NOTICE OF MOTION

It was noted that the motion had been withdrawn from the Agenda.

17. ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

There was no adjournment debate.

CHAIRMAN

M_17May07

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING 17TH MAY 2007

THREE MINUTE SPEECH

3-minute speech by Councillor Richard Butler

“Thank you Mr Chairman and congratulations and good wishes for your year ahead.

I am raising a subject, today, that has, in turn, been brought to my attention by residents mainly of Cotgrave.

This is the matter of HGVs making unnecessary trips through the village.

This is not a “bash the haulage industry” moment, because they carry out an essential job and I know that they have a difficult job to do, facing many challenges.

But, I am simply doing my job as the elected county representative for the residents when they, along with parish councils, come to me and say: “When is the county council going to do something about the disturbance and other difficulties being caused by lorries that do not need to be coming through the village?”

Cotgrave is primarily rural as opposed to urban. It is located conveniently for Nottingham, Leicester, Newark, Melton, Loughborough and other nearby towns.

This, of course, might be the problem – its relatively good road and access links, but, there is no main ‘A’ or ‘B’ road in, or leading directly to Cotgrave. The nearest real main roads are the A606, the A52 and the infamous A46. The routes leading into Cotgrave are Plumtree Road, Main Road and Hollygate Lane.

These three minor roads all converge in the oldest and most historical part of Cotgrave – ‘The Cross’.

Traffic surveys have been carried out by County Highways staff (as part of a pedestrian crossing campaign) and volunteers from the community and town council. Officers accept the fact that it gets busy around here and pedestrians do face challenges and difficulties.

The complaints about HGVs centre around rigid lorries that often appear to be carrying aggregates. They are not delivering from or to Cotgrave, but are cutting through from the Plumtree direction from where they then head towards Newark and the north.

We know that if there has been an accident or incident on a main road, then traffic will, at times, have to come through villages. But it is plain to me that this route is being used by drivers who for their own reasons, want to avoid going along the A606 to Widmerpool and then joining the A46 from there.

I can't believe that they make any saving on time, because by the time they have negotiated the narrow turns, roads and parked cars in Cotgrave, any time that they thought they could save will have been lost.

Given the proximity to Leicestershire, I have to wonder whether this is another example of the effect and impact of us not following the same policy of Leicestershire County Council by banning Heavy Goods Vehicles from its minor roads.

Given our desire to be seen to be working with and listening to the concerns of parish councils, residents and other partners, surely we should be taking a leaf out of our neighbours' book and start to introduce a policy which legislation is there and will allow us to do.

Thank you Mr Chairman."

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING 17TH MAY 2007

QUESTION UNDER STANDING ORDER 6.1

Question for the Cabinet Member for Finance and Property from Councillor Alan Rhodes

Is the Cabinet Member aware of the unanimous decisions of the County Council, in September 2003 and May 2006, to accept the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel for schemes for Members' Allowances on Nottinghamshire County Council?

Would you agree with me, that such schemes provide a 'Framework for Responsible Councillors' (the title of the 2000 Independent Panel Report)?

Would the Cabinet Member for Finance and Property comment on a recent Conservative Distric Council election leaflet quoting Councillor Bruce Laughton as claiming Labour have increased County Councillors' allowances?

Response by Councillor Chris Baron, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property:

"Thank you Chairman and I wish you all the very best for the forthcoming year and thanks very much, again, Alan for this question.

Members have noticed, over the last few weeks, that details of their allowances and expenses have been published in local newspapers. We do this every year. All councils do it. All councils have to do it.

The allowances we receive as elected Members are and will always be, a contentious issue and there is nothing secret about what we receive.

But we all do know that the media need little encouragement to stoke the fires of controversy on this. So I, along with other Members, were disappointed with Councillor Laughton's comments made in a local election leaflet before the 3rd May elections.

Disappointed, but not surprised.

Let's get one thing straight.

No political party sets the level of remuneration for councillors. This local authority has, since the start of this decade, appointed independent people to recommend levels of payments to councillors.

I was a councillor back in 2003 and, of course last year, when this County Council unanimously accepted, on both occasions, the recommendations of the independent remuneration panels. So yes Alan, I am aware of what this County Council decided.

Councillor Laughton should be too. He was in the chamber in September 2003 and in May last year. Like everyone else, Councillor Laughton voted for a fair and decent package of proposals for members' remuneration.

That doesn't make, of course, such interesting reading in election leaflets though, so Bruce neglected, of course, to mention this.

What he did say in his leaflet was that we were 'paying more for County Councillors to attend fewer meetings and do less'....along with other comments like 'enough is enough'.

Shameful. Irresponsible. But, again, we should not be surprised.

Many Members here will not be aware of the history of independent people making proposals about the levels of allowances for Members here at County Hall. For those that do, please bear with me, whilst I give a quick resume.

From 1991 to 1992 until 1994 to 1995 local authorities had little discretion over the level of allowances paid to their Members, as the level of allowances were subject to an overall cash limit.

This all changed in 1996, when the **Conservative** Government relaxed most of the financial restraints that applied to Members allowances. The County Council took a 'responsible' approach to Members' allowances by appointing Coopers and Lybrand to review and update members' allowances in the Millennium year - 2000. Their report, which Alan refers to in his question, was called a 'Framework for Responsible Councillors'.

Councillor Laughton was not a County Councillor at that time, but he would do well to take that title to heart. Be 'responsible'.

As part of the build up to this change, various working parties, set up (again) by the **Conservative** Government, reporting under titles like 'we can't go on meeting like this' and 'community leadership and representation; unlocking the potential' paved the way for Councillors to be paid properly and fairly.

All this work in the 1990's was trying to achieve 2 key things:

- Firstly, it was trying to ensure that individual Members did not suffer financial hardship by getting elected.

- And secondly, it was also working to attract a wider range of people to stand for election.

Nothing to concern Bruce Laughton I suppose.

So yes Alan, I welcome the opportunity to comment on Councillor Laughton's thoughts on County Councillors' allowances. I hope Bruce will find a way to explain his actions. Most Members I have spoken to about this leaflet have condemned his actions, as I do today.

Bruce, what you did was:

irresponsible.

... people are finding it difficult to trust political parties, we are all getting tarred with the same brush, why make things worse?

hypocritical.

.....you are in receipt of the same allowances you claim are the preserve of one political party. You also receive allowances and expenses from being a Member of Newark and Sherwood District Council. And the worst of all -

anti-democratic.

...the Conservative Party has always and always will be a party of privilege and wealth and taking part in the democratic process.....it will take us back to the time when the landed gentry ran what passed for local services...

Maybe that is your aim Bruce?

Quoting your own leaflet Bruce, 'enough is enough'. Apologise.

Thank you Chairman."

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING 17TH MAY 2007

REPORTS FROM CABINET MEMBERS

1. Culture and Regeneration

Members made the following comments or asked questions as indicated:-

- Thanks were given to Councillor Steve Carroll for the support on the delicate negotiations with the Welbeck Estate regarding the transformation of Cresswell Craggs.
- Congratulations for the work undertaken by both Members and Officers in achieving a Waterways Renaissance Award for the partnership of the Chesterfield Canal.
- Welcome the additional funding of £3.1 million to help develop stronger clubs and better coaches but still disappointed with the Sport England attitude with regard to Holme Pierrepont and is there any update on those issues.
- Regarding the Olympics – how is Nottinghamshire going to support its potential Olympians?

Councillor Steve Carroll replied as follows:-

- Expressed thanks for the kind words with regard to the Cresswell Craggs issue and indicated he would ensure that local Members are kept informed of any developments.
- There was a lot of work being undertaken with regard to a meeting with Sport England and he would keep Members updated on any developments.
- With regard to the Olympics and the Olympian issues there was currently a scrutiny select committee looking at what Nottinghamshire can do for our Olympians.

2. Environment

In response to questions and comments on:-

- The A612 to Gedling By-pass and how the new bus plugs were working.
- Civil parking enforcement, commence.
- Proposed new bus services to Robin Hood Airport.

- Greater Nottingham Congestion Delivery Plan – disappointment there was no mention of rail improvements.
- Welcom to the development of a motorcycle strategy and action plan for Nottinghamshire.

Councillor Stella Smedley replied as follows:-

- The bus plugs on the A612 are not fully operational but when they were it would allow buses to move more freely into the City.
- The Civil parking enforcement will commence as soon as we are able to in early 2008.
- Unfortunately, the Government did not seem to give priority to rail travel. Members may wish to know that Nottinghamshire is campaigning to have a Sunday service on the Robin Hood Line and increase services of the Midland Mainline to include destinations, for example, Leeds.
- The motor cycle strategy and action plan for Nottinghamshire was another good example of partnership working.
- With regard to the Robin Hood Airport we have taken the opportunity to ensure Nottinghamshire gains the best travel system in place for the benefit of Nottinghamshire people. Currently the bus service will cover Worksop and Retford but it is hoped in the future it will be extended to Mansfield.

3. Finance and Property

In response to a comment on the size of the capital programme Nottinghamshire had Councillor Baron informed Members it is an exciting time for Nottinghamshire as a whole with regard to investment and opportunities in the County and it will continue to be a leading authority.