

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Full Council** broadcast from the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 1BY on Tuesday, 9 February 2021 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor R Crowe (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs P Rainbow (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor R Blaney, Councillor L Brailsford, Councillor L Brazier, Councillor M Brock, Councillor Mrs B Brooks, Councillor Mrs I Brown, Councillor S Carlton, Councillor B Clarke-Smith, Councillor M Cope, Councillor Mrs R Crowe, Councillor D Cumberlidge, Councillor Mrs L Dales, Councillor Mrs G Dawn, Councillor Mrs M Dobson, Councillor K Girling, Councillor L Goff, Councillor P Harris, Councillor Mrs R Holloway, Councillor Mrs L Hurst, Councillor R Jackson, Councillor B Laughton, Councillor J Lee, Councillor D Lloyd, Councillor Mrs S Michael, Councillor N Mison, Councillor N Mitchell, Councillor P Peacock, Councillor Mrs S Saddington, Councillor M Skinner, Councillor T Smith, Councillor I Walker, Councillor K Walker, Councillor T Wendels, Councillor R White and Councillor Mrs Y Woodhead

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Mrs K Arnold and Councillor M Brown

This meeting was held remotely, in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police & Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police & Crime Panel Meetings) (England & Wales) Regulations 2020.

101 MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2020

AGREED that that minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

102 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS AND AS TO THE PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest and the Council noted the interests previously declared by Members in Agenda Item No. 13 – Minutes for Noting.

103 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTENTIONS TO RECORD THE MEETING

Other than the Council recording in accordance with usual practice, there were no declarations of intention to record the meeting and the Chairman advised that the meeting was being streamed live.

104 2021/22 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET AND RENT SETTING

The Council considered the joint report of the Deputy Chief Executive, Director – Resources and Section 151 Officer and Director – Housing, Health & Wellbeing which sought approval of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for the 2021/22 financial year and proposed changes in rent levels and service charge levels for 2021/22.

The Policy & Finance Committee, at their meeting held on 21 January 2021, recommended approval of the HRA budget for 2021/2022, financial plan to 2024/25 and proposed changes in rent and service charge levels for 2021/22. These were detailed in Appendix A to the report.

Councillor T Wendels, as Chairman of the Homes & Communities Committee, confirmed his support for the recommendation of an increase of 1.5% (Consumer Price Index (CPI) + 1%) in the 2021/22 rents of all properties in the HRA. The proposed increase would provide funds to build new homes and fulfil the needs of the current and future tenants. He added that the district wide housing need survey had identified a need of 243 new homes per year, over the next four years.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- (a) the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2021/22, as set out in Appendix A1 to the report, be approved;
- (b) an increase of 1.5% (Consumer Price Index (CPI) + 1%) in the 2021/22 rents of all properties in the HRA as at 31 March 2021, be approved;
- (c) an increase of 1.5% (CPI + 1%) in all 2021/22 service charges, except for the television (TV) licence costs payable by tenants of Gladstone House, be approved; and
- (d) that the TV licence costs payable by tenants of Gladstone House in 2021/22 remain at £0.21 per week.

105 CHANGE IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive which proposed a change to the membership of the Homes & Communities Committee.

AGREED (unanimously) that Councillor Robert Crowe replace Councillor Mrs S. Saddington on the Homes & Communities Committee.

106 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION - FINANCIAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Council considered the report of the Director – Resources, Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer which set out proposed amendments to a number of financial policies and procedures which formed part of the Council’s Constitution.

A number of financial policies and procedures were due for review and a report was presented to the Councillors Commission at their meeting held on 11 January 2021, which recommended updates to the various documents detailed below. The Commission recommended all of these changes to the Full Council for approval.

The policies concerned were the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy; Anti-Money Laundering Policy; Guidance for Dealing with Irregularities; Financial Procedure Rules; and Contract Procedure Rules.

AGREED (unanimously) that the refreshed policies and procedures as detailed in the report, as recommended by the Councillors' Commission, be approved and updated in the Council's Constitution.

Councillor L Brailsford joined the meeting during consideration of this item.

107 MINUTES FOR NOTING

108 POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE- 21 JANUARY 2021

Minute No. 180 – E-Newsletters

Councillor P. Harris stated that despite making savings by introducing E-Newsletters, the Council needed to recognise that not everyone had access to electronic devices. He asked how many households in the District had no access to electronic equipment.

Councillor D. Lloyd advised that the proposed introduction of E-Newsletters had been considered by both the Homes & Communities and Policy & Finance Committees and provision could be made for hard copies to tenants and residents if required. A review of the implementation of the scheme would also be undertaken.

Councillor B Laughton added that all residents can access electronic devices in public libraries.

109 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE- 13 JANUARY 2021

110 HOMES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE- 18 JANUARY 2021

Minute No. 99 – Update on the delivery of the Safer Streets Initiative

Councillor L Goff welcomed the progress being made in respect of the targeted hardening at Chatham Court Estate and the proposal for a Community Hub.

Councillor T Wendels welcomed these comments and added that this was a fantastic initiative. He thanked the local Ward Members who had been involved in the development of this project, and the officers for implementing.

111 LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE- 19 JANUARY 2021

Minute No. 91 – Southwell Leisure Centre Trust Update

Councillor P Harris stated that there was no exempt information contained in the report considered by the Committee and advised that the information had in fact been made public as part of budget information. He added that the only reason for exemption was because the Trust had requested this be debated in private.

Councillor R Jackson advised that information relating to the Trust would be considered in open session when appropriate to do so.

112 PLANNING COMMITTEE- 12 JANUARY 2021

Minute No. 294 – 14 Chatham Court, Newark (20/02000/FUL)

Councillor L. Goff, on behalf of the tenants of Chatham Court, thanked the Planning Committee for approving this application for the Community Hub, stating that the hub would be a success for residents.

Councillor R. Blaney confirmed that the Committee decision had been unanimous.

113 SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE- 8 DECEMBER 2020

113 COUNCILLORS COMMISSION - 11 JANUARY 2021

Meeting closed at 6.32 pm.

Chairman