

## **COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 1000 hours.

### **PRESENT:-**

Members:-

Councillor T. Munro in the Chair

Councillors T. Alexander, A. Anderson, P. Barnes, J.E. Bennett, R.J. Bowler, P.M. Bowmer, G. Buxton, J.A. Clifton, T.J. Connerton, C.P. Cooper, P.A. Cooper, M.G. Crane, M. Dixey, M.J. Dooley, S.W. Fritchley, H.J. Gilmour, R.A. Heffer, A. Joesbury, B.R. Murray-Carr, K. Reid (until Minute No. 0467) M.J. Ritchie, J.E. Smith, P. Smith, S.J. Statter, A.M. Syrett, R. Turner, K.F. Walker, B. Watson, D.S. Watson and J. Wilson.

Officers:-

D. Swaine (Chief Executive Officer), L. Hickin (Strategic Director), K. Hanson (Strategic Director), S. Sternberg (Assistant Director – Governance, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer), D. Clarke (Assistant Director – Finance and Revenues & Benefits), D. Oakley (Community Arts Development Officers) and D. Cairns (Governance Officer - Acting)

### **0457. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T. Cannon D. McGregor, C.R. Moesby, S. Peake, and E. Stevenson.

### **0458. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made at the meeting.

### **0459. CHANGE OF ORDER OF THE AGENDA**

Members agreed that the order of the Agenda be changed, to take Agenda Item 7 – Arts in Bolsover, after Agenda Item 10 – Annual Audit Letter 2016/17.

### **0460. QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC**

Mr Graham Heasman asked a question of Councillor A. Syrett, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning and Regeneration:

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*It has been reported from some other areas affected by the proposed HS2 route that Parish Councils and possibly some District, City and County Councils have been contacted by a department of HS2 offering 'incentives' of provision of amenities or*

*replacement or renewal of amenities, but have been asked not to release the information to the public.*

*Have any such, or similar, offers from HS2, or any organisation linked to the Department for Transport or HS2, been made to Bolsover District Council and what is the council's position on keeping this kind of information off record?*

Councillor A. Syrett confirmed that no such offers had been received from HS2 or related bodies, and the Council had not made any deals with HS2 behind closed doors. If any offers had been made, they would have been put into the public realm. She repeated the Council's previously declared commitment to lobbying HS2 to alleviate the affects of the HS2 proposals, and to promote the prosperity of all the residents of the District. Councillor A. Syrett undertook to confirm this answer in writing.

Under the Council's Procedure Rules, each questioner was permitted to ask one supplementary question arising from the original question or reply. Mr Heasman chose to exercise this right and his question was as follows:-

*I understand that Councillor Syrett has accepted an invitation to attend a meeting of the community of the Parish of Blackwell on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at the Newton Community Centre. Our MP Dennis Skinner has also accepted the invitation and also a representative from Derbyshire County Council. May I add that at the last Bolsover District Council meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017, some Council Members were noticeably interested in hearing more about the plight of our community and how HS2 and the Department of Transport are handling our situation but due to the 15 minute rule, they were unable to hear the full volume of our case. Can I therefore ask Councillor Syrett to invite any other fellow Councillors if they would also like to attend the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January to hear more.*

Councillor A. Syrett confirmed she would pass on this invitation to any Members interested in attending.

### **0461. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

There were no questions from Members.

### **0462. REPORTS ON URGENCY DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE**

There were no urgency decisions to be reported.

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### **0463. MINUTES – 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

Moved by Councillor R. Turner and seconded by Councillor S.W. Fritchley

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of a meeting of Council held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017 be approved as a true and correct record.

### **0464. MINUTE BOOK**

Moved by Councillor T. Munro and seconded by Councillor R. Turner

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed in the Minute Book dated 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017 be noted.

### **0465. RECOMMENDED ITEMS**

There were no recommended items.

### **0466. NEW ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS AND POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACE REVIEW**

The Chief Executive Officer presented the report which informed Members of the proposals to implement the new electoral arrangements determined by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and sought approval of the proposed timetable for the polling district and polling place review.

The final recommendations proposed that Bolsover District Council retain 37 Councillors, representing four three-councillor wards, twelve two-councillor wards and one one-councillor ward across the District. This would be 17 wards in total, three fewer than the existing wards. The boundaries of six wards would remain the same.

In order to implement the new electoral arrangements, it was necessary for the Council to undertake a review of its polling districts and polling places and to include the changes in the new electoral register to be published on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

The report set out the proposed timetable for how this review would be undertaken.

Moved by Councillor K. Reid and seconded by Councillor A. Syrett

**RESOLVED** that Council:

- (1) notes the outcome of the new electoral arrangements as determined by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England
- (2) approves the review of polling places and polling districts as outlined in the report.

(Chief Executive Officer)

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### **0467. ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2016/17**

The Assistant Director – Finance and Revenues & Benefits presented a report which gave details of the Annual Audit letter for 2016/17 received from KPMG, the Council's External Auditors.

It was noted that the Council had been successful in closing the accounts by the end of May 2017 in line with the new statutory timetable and had also completed the audit of the accounts with the external auditors, KPMG, by the end of July 2017. Bolsover District Council and North East Derbyshire District Council were the only two authorities within Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire to be able to achieve this.

Councillor K. Reid, Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for Corporate Services, moved the recommendations and commented that it was a good report and a good review by KPMG.

It was highlighted that KPMG recognised in the Annual Audit letter the high quality working papers and efficient responses provided by officers to their queries, which enabled the completion of the audit by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017. Members commended the officers involved in this work.

Moved by Councillor K. Reid and seconded by Councillor A. Syrett.

**RESOLVED** that Council notes the Annual Audit Letter from the Council's External Auditors, KPMG.

(Assistant Director - Finance and Revenues & Benefits)

### **0468. ARTS IN BOLSOVER**

The Strategic Director, Lee Hickin, introduced the Council's Community Arts Development Officer and outlined the new direction that was sought through his appointment, in the delivery of the support for the arts throughout the District. It was reported that the service was intended to promote the role of the arts and activities in the community and to help facilitate access amongst groups who may struggle to engage or connect with the arts in their area.

The Community Arts Development Officer gave a presentation which outlined the past successes in the delivery of the arts in the District, current tasks that were being undertaken to develop new strands and areas of work and the vision for future areas of development. The presentation demonstrated how each area related to the Council's corporate aims.

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The current areas of work outlined in the presentation included:

- Digital arts
- Creating an arts community
- Engaging groups in society
- Visitor economy project
- Section 106 Projects – Percent for art
- Researching the District

Future areas identified for development included:

- Information arts
- Arts ownership
- Arts Leadership
- A new festival
- Apprenticeship opportunities
- Arts and health
- Exploring partnership opportunities, including with Junction Arts, schools and universities, Arts Derbyshire and Derbyshire Adult Education Service.

Members suggested further partnership working opportunities, such as the Building Resilience Programme in Shirebrook.

Members recognised the importance of the arts in the community, with respect to social cohesion and both mental and physical health. It was also commented that the arts and creative industries were a large and thriving industry and have an important part to play in the economy.

Moved by Councillor J. Ritchie and seconded by Councillor A. Syrett.

**RESOLVED** that Council note the presentation.

(Strategic Director, Lee Hickin)

### **0469. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair invited Members to participate in upcoming receptions to celebrate Christmas.

The meeting concluded at 1040 hours.