

BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne, on 20 June 2018 at 10:00 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, T. Cannon, J.A. Clifton, T.J. Connerton, C.P. Cooper, P.A. Cooper, M.G. Crane, M. Dixey, M Dooley, S.W. Fritchley, R Heffer, A. Joesbury, D. McGregor, C.R. Moesby, B.R. Murray-Carr, K. Reid, J.E. Smith, P. Smith, S Statter, E. Stevenson, A.M. Syrett, R. Turner, K.F. Walker, B. Watson, D.S. Watson and J. Wilson.

Officers:-

D. Swaine (Joint Chief Executive Officer), L. Hickin (Joint Strategic Director - People), K. Hanson (Joint Strategic Director - Place), S. Sternberg (Joint Head of Corporate Governance & Monitoring Officer), D. Clarke (Joint Head of Finance and Resources and Section 151 Officer), A Westray-Chapman (Joint Head of Economic Development), Nicola Calver (Governance Manager).

0068. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr M.J. Ritchie.

0069. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business considered at the meeting.

0070. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared at this meeting.

0071. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman was delighted to present a cheque to Sight Support Derbyshire on behalf the Council for funds raised during his 2017/18 Civic Year. The Chairman expressed his sincere thanks to the PA's to Chief Executive Officer and Partnership Team in supporting the roles of the Chairman and Vice Chairman throughout their first term in office.

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0072. QUESTIONS

Members gave consideration to questions submitted by the public pursuant to Rule 8 of the Council Procedure Rules.

i) Question submitted to Cllr Ann Syrett, Leader of the Council by Judith Duvall

The Mineral Plan Community Action Group, was formed to represent the communities of Bolsover, Creswell, Eckington, Barlborough, etc. following an invitation from Derbyshire County Council (DCC) to contribute to their New Mineral Plan consultation process.

We anticipate working very closely with local elected members of Bolsover Town Council, Bolsover District Council and Derbyshire County Council on the development of the New Mineral Plan and specifically on the sections relating to Unconventional Gas Extraction (High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing) otherwise known as 'fracking'.

The group has already held a meeting with Bryn Walters (Principal Planner, Development Plans) and had communication with Michelle Spence (Team Leader, Development Plans) where our outline comments were submitted. We are now planning future meetings with the Mineral Plan officers in order to supply more detailed and fully researched and documented information.

A major concern at the present time is the proposal by the Oil and Gas Industry to take planning applications for exploratory drilling out of the hands of local planning authorities in order to speed up the planning process and the Government appear minded to support this wholly undemocratic step. It is for this reason we feel that a detailed and robust Mineral Plan for Derbyshire is essential in maintaining local control over planning and should be given a high priority.

We have grave concerns over many aspects of fracking with regard to public health, water supply, environmental contamination, noise and traffic management. The roles of the EA, HSE, public utilities for example, Severn Trent Water, together with local rescue service contingency plans should be examined closely as this is a new and wholly untried industry in the UK.

Importantly to note, Inspector Elizabeth Ord at the hearing of the North Yorkshire County Council's Mineral and Waste Development Plan was minded to accept the following proposals:

- Definitions of extraction processes of Conventional Gas Extraction, Exploratory Wells and most importantly, Unconventional Gas Extraction (High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing) should be clarified with some urgency.*
- Set back lines from residential buildings of 500m. (We would press for a minimum of 1000m).*

New research is constantly being resourced and published eg. a recent paper outlining the dangers of UGE in mining areas and proximity to faults was published by Prof.

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Peter Styles of Keele University (former adviser to David Cameron) in April 2018 advising a set back distance of 850m from major fault lines.

At all times the Community Action Group wishes to work constructively and consult with local and county elected representatives together with their respective planning officers in order that best practice for Derbyshire is achieved.

We would like to ask the BDC:

For their recognition and acceptance of this group and its aims of working towards a comprehensive and detailed Mineral Plan together with how, in their view, this can best be achieved?

The Leader, on behalf of all Members, thanked Mrs Duvall for her question and concurred with her concerns and acknowledged the uncertainties around this matter. In light of the complexity of this issue the Leader undertook to provide a written response to Mrs Duvall and pledged the Council's support to any community group working on this matter.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Mrs Duvall exercised her right to ask a supplementary question of the Leader of the Council and queried which Overview and Scrutiny Committee may oversee the development of a Mineral Plan.

The Leader confirmed that this matter was under the jurisdiction of Derbyshire County Council and, on advice of Cllr Clive Moesby, Mrs Duvall was signposted to County Councillor Martin Ford and contact details would be provided following the meeting.

0073. REPORTS ON SPECIAL URGENCY DECISIONS

No reports were considered under special urgency rules at this meeting.

0074. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Members gave consideration to the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held on 23rd May 2018.

Moved by Cllr R Turner and seconded by Cllr A.Syrett

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 23rd May 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

0075. RECOMMENDED ITEMS FROM OTHER STANDING COMMITTEES

There were no recommended items for consideration at this meeting.

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0076. MOTIONS

There were no motions on notice submitted for consideration at this meeting of Council.

0077. PAY POLICY STATEMENT

The Pay Policy Statement was withdrawn for consideration prior to the meeting and would be submitted to a future meeting of Council following consideration by the UECC.

0078. RECESS

At this point in the meeting Council held short recess in order to be joined by the Youth Council.

0079. YOUTH COUNCIL

Members gave consideration to a presentation given by the Bolsover District Youth Council (Young Voice). Young Voice consisted of 36 youth councillors representing six secondary schools within Bolsover District. They met four times a year and held their meetings either within the Council Chamber at the Arc, Clowne or at one of the composite schools.

The Youth Councillors expressed the importance of the work of Young Voice in helping local young people prepare for making decisions in the future, helping them to express their opinions, learning about democracy, and improving confidence and public speaking skills.

Young Voice had produced a manifesto which covered some of the key areas they felt were important for young people including focussing on feeling safe, physical health, mental health, and first aid. In their meetings, they had the chance to discuss a range of topics including 'the role of the Councillor' supported by Councillor T Munro (Chairman of the Council) and had received other guest speakers from organisations such as Derbyshire Fire and Rescue and the Scouts.

During the previous year, the Youth Council had focused on their priority of physical health and had worked hard to raise £3,730 for Teenage Cancer Trust. The priority for the forthcoming year was raising funds in support of awareness of mental health, and they had chosen the charity 'Young Minds to promote and be their beneficiary.

A number of questions had been devised by the Healthy Safe Clean and Green Committee and submitted to the Youth Council in advance of the meeting in order for them to prepare for a question and answer session with the Council. Members welcomed the opportunity to hold open discussions with the Youth Councillors, gaining insight around how better the Council should engage with young people,

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assisting them to access council services, and give consideration to stereotyping of young people and its effects.

The Chairman expressed his sincere thanks on behalf of all Members to Young Voice; for the work that they had undertaken and for their honest and open responses provided during the meeting. All Members concurred, and expressed their pride in the young people of Bolsover District.

0080. SAVE A LIFE

The Chairman welcomed Rod Knox, Chief Executive of Virtual College Limited to the meeting, who gave a presentation on the Save A Life initiative. It was explained that, six years previous, Dr Cheryle Berry MBE had launched a plan to have a first aider on every street and in 2012 Bolsover District Council agreed to support this initiative.

When the project was launched it was believed that 7 out of 9 people wouldn't know the appropriate action to take in an emergency lifesaving situation. Mr Knox explained the Virtual College programme 'Save A Life' which registered over 1500 new learners each day. This resolution to first aid training was hoped to assist the target set of creating a life saver on every corner and it was hoped to register 250,000 learners by July 2019.

The product was explained in detail and a short video on CPR was shown to the meeting. Virtual College would be launching a national programme following roll out within Bolsover District. It was hoped that Bolsover District Council would be the first Council to fully support the project and each Member be prepared to 'save a life'.

The Leader spoke in support of the initiative and the importance of both mental and physical health, and pledged the Council's ongoing support to the programme.

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

RESOLVED that the presentation on Save a Life be noted.

0081. UDG AWARDS

The Joint Head of Economic Development gave a video presentation to Council in relation to BDC's recent submission to the UDG awards where they had been selected as a finalist competing against larger Unitary and Metropolitan Councils within London and other major cities. The Director of the UDG had offered excellent feedback to Bolsover District, which was shared at the meeting.

Moved by Cllr A Syrett and seconded by Cllr T Munro.

RESOLVED that the presentation be noted.

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0082. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman of the Council announced that for the forthcoming civic year, he intended to raise funds for the I-Venture Project which would afford for a group of young people from local secondary schools within the District to travel to South Africa to support local communities. These young people would engage in significant fund raising to support this experience.

The meeting concluded at 1120 hours