

## **COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Council of Bolsover District Council held as a Virtual Meeting on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 at 10:00 hours.

### **PRESENT:-**

Members:-

Councillor Tom Munro in the Chair

Councillors Rita Turner (Vice-Chair), Derek Adams, Allan Bailey, Rose Bowler, Jane Bryson, Dexter Bullock, Tracey Cannon, Anne Clarke, Nick Clarke, Jim Clifton, Tricia Clough, Paul Cooper, David Dixon, Maxine Dixon, Mary Dooley, David Downes, Steve Fritchley, Ray Heffer, Natalie Hoy, Andrew Joesbury, Chris Kane, Tom Kirkham, Duncan McGregor, Clive Moesby, Evonne Parkin, Graham Parkin, Sandra Peake, Peter Roberts, Liz Smyth, Janet Tait, Ross Walker, Deborah Watson and Jen Wilson.

Councillor Tracey Cannon joined the meeting during Minute Number CL760-20/21.

Officers: - Karen Hanson (Director of Environment and Enforcement), Theresa Fletcher (Section 151 Officer), Sarah Sternberg (Solicitor to the Council & Monitoring Officer), Grant Galloway (Director of Development), Nicola Calver (Governance Manager), Amy Bryan (Senior Governance Officer) and Tom Scott (Governance Officer).

### **CL754-20/21      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dan Salt.

### **CL755-20/21      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were reminded by the Monitoring Officer that Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than 2 months must not vote in decisions on or which might affect budget calculations, and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements was a criminal offence under Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

The Monitoring Officer added that any Members who were tenants of a Council property should declare an interest for any budget setting item, but these Members had an automatic dispensation to remain in the room to speak and vote on the items in question.

The Monitoring Officer also reminded Members that votes on budget and Council Tax setting items would be done via recorded vote as set out by the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.

Councillor Steve Fritchley (Leader of the Council) declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in budget setting items as he paid a service charge and ground rent for a leasehold property belonging to the Council.

Councillor Sandra Peake declared that the Section 106 Local Government Finance Act 1992 restriction could apply to her because she was unsure of being up to date with her Council Tax payments.

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Councillor Chris Kane declared a non-significant interest in motion 7b) as a Master with the Four Shires Bloodhounds, which was a different type of hunt to the ones described in the motion.

Councillor Graham Parkin declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 9 (Treasury Strategy Reports 2021/22-2024/25) because the Capital Strategy report mentioned Lloyds Bank as the bank of the Council, and he held shares in Lloyds Bank.

Councillor Mary Dooley declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in budget setting items as a Council tenant.

Councillor Janet Tait explained that she recently moved house and there had been an administrative problem with Council Tax being collected from her new house, leading to her being behind in Council Tax payments for 2 months.

The Monitoring Officer advised Members that the interests submitted would be recorded in the minutes but none of them would prevent Members from voting on items apart from the ones submitted by Councillor Janet Tait and Councillor Sandra Peake. The Monitoring Officer added that because there was a possibility of them both being in arrears of Council Tax for more than 2 months, they should not vote on budget setting items as per Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

### **CL756-20/21 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair asked Members to join him in a moment of silence for all of those in the District and the country impacted by COVID-19, including the recently passed Captain Sir Thomas Moore.

The Chair reminded Members to be aware of their backgrounds in virtual meetings, particularly any visible advertising paraphernalia.

### **CL757-20/21 MINUTES**

The minutes were moved by Councillor Tom Munro and seconded by Councillor Chris Kane.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of a meeting of Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

### **CL758-20/21 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8, Members of the Public were able to ask questions to an Executive Member about the Council's activities for a period of up to 15 minutes.

The Chair indicated that no questions had been submitted.

### **CL759-20/21 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9, Members of Council were able to ask questions about the Council's activities to either the Chair of the Council, the Chairman of

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a specific Committee or a relevant Portfolio Holder.

The Chair indicated that no questions had been submitted.

### **CL760-20/21            MOTIONS**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10, Councillors were able to submit Motions on Notice for consideration at this meeting.

The Chair noted that three motions had been submitted.

#### **a) Motion from Councillor Steve Fritchley:**

*The All Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims was established in 2017 to highlight the aspirations and challenges facing British Muslims; to celebrate the contributions of Muslim communities to Britain and to investigate prejudice, discrimination and hatred against Muslims in the UK.*

*The APPG's most recent publication is a 'Report on the inquiry into a working definition of Islamophobia / anti-Muslim hatred'. This inquiry acknowledges that across policy domains, from employment, education and criminal justice to housing, healthcare and hate crime, Islamophobia has a significant negative impact on the life chances and quality of life enjoyed by British Muslims.*

*To demonstrate its commitment to tackling Islamophobia in all forms, Council is asked to adopt the following definition, as proposed in the APPG Report;*

*"Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness."*

Councillor Steve Fritchley (Leader of the Council) moved the motion, adding his belief that the Council had a proud anti-prejudice tradition and this definition was in the same vein.

Councillor Duncan McGregor (Deputy Leader of the Council) seconded the motion and reserved the right to speak.

No other Members wished to speak on the motion.

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

**RESOLVED** that Council adopts the following definition of Islamophobia, as proposed in the All Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims Report:

*"Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness."*

(Head of Paid Service/Monitoring Officer)

#### **b) Motion from Councillor Nick Clarke:**

*Bolsover District Council notes that fox hunting, deer hunting and hare hunting with dogs*

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*has been illegal under the terms of the Hunting Act 2004, except where an exemption applies.*

*Most registered hunts claim to now be trail hunting, an activity 'invented' after the ban which allows hunts to claim that any chase of a wild mammal is purely accidental rather than intentional.*

*This has been shown to be nothing more than a smokescreen in an attempt to deflect from the real truth which is that trail hunting is in reality illegal fox hunting. If trail hunts were genuine there would be no need for the presence of terrier men who shore up Fox Earths and Badger Setts to prevent foxes going to ground. Last summer there were a series of training webinars where senior members of the hunting fraternity openly admitted how they flout the 2004 Hunting Act. This has been suspected for many years but has now been confirmed. It has been admitted by the Hunting fraternity themselves, that trail hunting where the chase of a wild mammal occurs is deliberate, pre-planned and intentional rather than accidental as they falsely claim.*

*In order to prevent any "illegal" hunting on Council owned land, Bolsover District Council will ban all trail hunting, hound exercise and hunt meets in the district of Bolsover with immediate effect.*

*This motion calls on the leader to write to hunt masters in and around the district, neighbouring districts and Derbyshire Constabulary making clear that while investigations into trail hunting are ongoing hunts will not be permitted to cross public or council controlled land or cause a nuisance on public highways within the district of Bolsover and that we will expect any such encroachments to be investigated expeditiously and prosecuted to the fullest extent.*

Councillor Nick Clarke moved the motion and spoke in further detail about the intent behind it. He stated his belief that trail hunting was often a way to cover up illegal hunts under a different name, and trail hunting only began in 2005 as way to get around the 2004 Hunting Act, so the motion was an attempt to stop illegal hunts which often ended up on Council land. He added that the motion would also build upon some of the aspects about dogs included in the Council's dog management 2020 Public Spaces Protection Order.

*(N.B. Councillor Tracey Cannon joined the meeting at this point.)*

Councillor Nick Clarke also spoke about the negative attention the motion had received from the Countryside Alliance by sending a press release to the local press (Derby Telegraph), a letter to the Leader of the Council and e-mails to all Members. Councillor Nick Clarke believed that the robustness of the response from the Countryside Alliance in the press was the group's tacit acknowledgement that the majority of the public do not support fox/deer/hare hunting. He also believed that the letter sent to the Leader of the Council was inaccurate and disingenuous because it quoted case law rendered moot by the 2004 Hunting Act, and the e-mails sent to Members claimed a scent was simply laid for hounds to track with their noses, but the fact that trail hunts crossed highways, cemeteries, public parks and private gardens (places where foxes are found) appeared to contradict this.

Councillor Nick Clarke felt that the Countryside Alliance was an unelected lobbyist group and hoped Members would not be swayed by the group's intimidatory tactics. He asked Members to bear in mind that six major private UK land owners had suspended trail

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hunting on their land since the training webinars in Summer 2020 where senior members of the hunting fraternity admitted flouting the 2004 Hunting Act, and urged Members to do the same on Council owned land by supporting the motion.

Councillor Ross Walker seconded the motion and reserved the right to speak until Members had finished their discussions.

Councillor Tom Kirkham stated he would support the motion, and spoke about how the e-mails to Members from the Countryside Alliance (mentioned by Councillor Nick Clarke) had mentioned that opposition to hunting in Bolsover District was a matter of Labour Members waging a class war. He believed that this had missed the point because Bolsover currently had a Conservative MP and combined majority of Independent/Community Independent/Conservative Councillors at Bolsover District Council. He felt that opposition to hunting in Bolsover District was more a matter of District residents being passionate about their countryside, and Council Members supporting the protection of animals as they had done in the past.

Councillor Andrew Joesbury stated he would support the motion because he felt fox hunting was barbaric, and added that he would also like to see the Leader of the Council send the letter mentioned in the motion to the Government.

Councillor Tricia Clough stated she would support the motion and read correspondence received from residents about how hounds from the Barlow Hunt trail hunt had gone through their gardens in Scarcliffe. She felt that this was a cover up of illegal hunting because the large distance between Barlow and Scarcliffe made hounds being so far out of the way for trail hunting unlikely.

Councillor Ross Walker used his right to speak as seconder of the motion by stating his belief that the letter in the motion from the Leader of the Council should be sent to the MP for Bolsover and include the fact that the Hunting Act 2004 included a loophole that Parliament needed to close, which was that it did not cover the use of dogs in the process of flushing out unidentified wild animals.

Councillor Steve Fritchley (Leader of the Council) spoke about the motion and stated that based on legal advice he had sought on how much land the Council had powers to ban trail hunting in, and the suggestions made by Councillor Andrew Joesbury and Councillor Ross Walker, he would propose an amendment to the motion which would:

(i) Send a letter capturing the sentiment of the original motion to hunt masters in and around the district, neighbouring districts, Derbyshire Constabulary, the MP for Bolsover and MPs of neighbouring areas.

(ii) Adjourn Council's debate on the original motion (and the Council's powers to ban trail hunting) until his letters had been sent.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed this amendment was viable because the Constitution stated that one of the reasons an amendment could be presented without notice was to adjourn a debate.

## AMENDMENT

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.1 (Motions and Amendments Without

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Notice) Councillor Steve Fritchley moved an amendment to motion b) proposing that debate on the motion be adjourned until he had sent a letter capturing the sentiment of the original motion to hunt masters in and around the district, neighbouring districts, Derbyshire Constabulary, the MP for Bolsover and MPs of neighbouring areas. Once this had been sent, the Council's debate on the original motion and the Council's powers to ban trail hunting would be reconvened.

Councillor Duncan McGregor seconded the amended motion and stated his belief that a national view had to be taken on animal cruelty rather than one just focusing on Bolsover District.

Councillor David Dixon stated his support for the amended motion and believed that the issue had to be looked at in a national context, which is what adding MPs to the distribution targets would achieve.

Councillor Ross Walker stated he would not support the amended motion because he felt the original motion showed the Council wanted to take quick and decisive action, which would prove the Council's seriousness on the issue.

Councillor Andrew Joesbury stated he would not support the amended motion because he felt that by accepting the original motion it would set a precedent about the Council's view. He also stated that he could not understand why the original motion and the amended motion could not be carried out right now.

Councillor Peter Roberts stated he would not support the amended motion because he agreed with Councillor Andrew Joesbury's point about how there was nothing to stop Council from taking action on the original and amended motion.

Councillor Janet Tait stated she would not support the amended motion because she also agreed with Councillor Andrew Joesbury's point. She stated that both original and amended motion could be carried out now, and there appeared to be no reason why the Council could not act upon the original motion and then undertake the points in the amended motion.

Councillor Anne Clarke stated she would not support the amended motion because she believed the residents she represented wanted her and the Council to take immediate action and send a clear message about the Council's intentions.

Councillor Chris Kane stated he would support the amended motion because he did not think the powers the Council had to ban trail hunting (as stated in the original motion) amounted to anything. He felt that there were no Council owned lands that hunt activities took place on, meaning the Council had no power to ban it.

Councillor Maxine Dixon stated she would support the amended motion because she felt adjourning the debate would mean Members being able to listen to views from both sides.

Councillor David Downes stated he would not support the amended motion because he felt that even if the Council did not have land or powers to ban trail hunts, the Council could set the precedent of banning whichever trail hunts it can and then lobby Derbyshire County Council to ban it on the Bolsover District land the Council did not own. He added that an example to follow had been set by Nottinghamshire County Council, who had banned all trail hunting on land it owned.

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Councillor Tom Kirkham stated he would not support the amended version, and believed that because of the sheer number of residents that had contacted him asking to ban trail hunting, he felt the Council owed it to residents to approve the original motion now and consider correspondence afterwards.

Councillor Steve Fritchley thanked Members for their comments on his amended motion. He stated that it was not his intention to stifle debate about the issue, but he was mindful of the fact that the Council only owned 5 and a half acres of its own land, meaning that any powers the Council had would be minimal. The Monitoring Officer clarified this by advising that the Council owned no land where trail hunts actually took place.

The Chair invited the mover of the original motion (Councillor Nick Clarke) to sum up and bring an end to the debate. Councillor Nick Clarke believed that his original motion would allow the Council to take the lead on the issue of trail hunting being a cover for illegal hunting, and show the way to follow for other local authorities.

On being put to the vote, the amended motion was carried.

On being put to the vote, the substantive motion was carried.

**RESOLVED** that debate on the original motion be adjourned until the Leader of the Council has sent a letter capturing the sentiment of the original motion to hunt masters in and around the district, neighbouring districts, Derbyshire Constabulary, the MP for Bolsover and MPs of neighbouring areas. Once this had been sent, the Council's debate on the original motion and the Council's powers to ban trail hunting would be reconvened.

(Head of Leader's Executive/Monitoring Officer/Governance Manager)

### **c) Motion from Councillor Nick Clarke:**

*Bolsover District Council recognises, through its carbon reduction pledges, the considerable risks from climate change to our planetary life support systems. The Council further recognises the weight of economic evidence from reputable sources, including the Bank of England and Carbon Tracker, that climate change poses a serious risk to returns on investment for pension holders. Bolsover District Council should demonstrate leadership on responsible investment and tackling climate change. The Council therefore calls on the Derbyshire Pension Fund to fully divest from all fossil fuels and to reinvest in more environmentally and socially beneficial alternatives by 2024.*

Councillor Nick Clarke moved the motion and stated his belief that the time to act on fossil fuels was right now.

Councillor Anne Clarke seconded the motion and reserved the right to speak.

Councillor Steve Fritchley (Leader of the Council) stated he would support the motion and felt it sent a message to Derbyshire Pension Fund about the view of the District and the country on the importance of carbon reduction.

Councillor David Dixon stated that he supported the aspects in the motion about carbon reduction but was concerned that asking Derbyshire Pension Fund to reduce its

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investments in fossil fuel companies could reduce pay-outs to people with pensions.

Councillor Peter Roberts stated he would support the motion and added that if multi-national asset management company BlackRock thought it was a good idea to move away from fossil fuels, he thought the Council should follow suit.

The Chair invited the mover of the original motion (Councillor Nick Clarke) to sum up and bring an end to the debate. Councillor Nick Clarke acknowledged the point by Councillor David Dixon that the impact on the pension fund would need to be considered, but he felt that there were renewable energy companies that Derbyshire Pension Fund could invest in instead. He concluded by stating that by moving money away from Derbyshire Pension Fund as soon as possible, it would encourage them to take swift action on carbon reduction.

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

**RESOLVED** that Bolsover District Council recognises, through its carbon reduction pledges, the considerable risks from climate change to our planetary life support systems. The Council further recognises the weight of economic evidence from reputable sources, including the Bank of England and Carbon Tracker, that climate change poses a serious risk to returns on investment for pension holders. Bolsover District Council should demonstrate leadership on responsible investment and tackling climate change. The Council therefore calls on the Derbyshire Pension Fund to fully divest from all fossil fuels and to reinvest in more environmentally and socially beneficial alternatives by 2024.

(Head of Paid Service)

### **CL761-20/21            MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2021/22 - 2024/25**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Community Safety (Councillor Clive Moesby) presented the Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2024/25 report to Members. The report provided Members with an overview of the Council's financial position, and sought to approve the proposed budget for 2021/22 for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Programme as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan covering the years 2021/22 to 2024/25.

Councillor Ross Walker referred to the part of the General Fund Detail (Appendix 2) table titled 'G170 S106 Outdoor Sports' and asked why this had increased so much between the original budget (£0) and the revised budget (£292,695). The Section 151 Officer explained that the revised budget amount was the amount of Section 106 money that had been received and was going to be spent.

The recommendations in the report (6.1 to 6.12) were moved by Councillor Clive Moesby and seconded by Councillor Natalie Hoy.

The Chair reminded Members that a recorded vote would be taken on this budget setting motion as per the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.

For the motion – 32



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*(Councillors Adams, Bailey, Bowler, Bryson, Bullock, Cannon, A Clarke, N Clarke, Clifton, Clough, Cooper, D Dixon, M Dixon, Dooley, Downes, Fritchley, Heffer, Hoy, Joesbury, Kane, Kirkham, McGregor, Moesby, Munro, E Parkin, G Parkin, Roberts, Smyth, Turner, Walker, Watson and Wilson.)*

Against the motion – 0

Abstentions – 0

It was **RESOLVED:**

(i) That in the view of the Chief Financial Officer, that the estimates included in the Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2024/25 are robust and that the level of financial reserves whilst at minimum levels are adequate, be accepted.

(ii) That officers report back to Executive and to the Budget Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis regarding the overall position in respect of the Council's budgets. These reports to include updates on achieving savings and efficiencies for 2021/22 and future years.

### GENERAL FUND

(iii) A Council Tax increase of £4.99 is levied in respect of a notional Band D property (2.75%).

(iv) The Medium Term Financial Plan in respect of the General Fund as set out in Appendix 1 of this report be approved as the Revised Budget 2020/21, as the Original Budget in respect of 2021/22, and the financial projection in respect of 2022/23 to 2024/25.

(v) That any further under spend in respect of 2020/21 is transferred to the Council's General Fund Reserves.

(vi) On the basis that income from Planning Fees may exceed £0.500m in 2020/21, the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Leader be granted delegated powers to authorise such additional resources as are necessary to effectively manage the resultant increase in workload.

### HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

(vii) That Council sets its rent levels in line with government policy, increasing rent levels by CPI (.5%) plus 1% to apply from 1 April 2021.

(viii) That the increases in respect of other charges as outlined in Appendix 3 Table 1 be implemented with effect from 1 April 2021.

(ix) The Medium Term Financial Plan in respect of the Housing Revenue Account as set out in Appendix 3 of this report be approved as the Revised Budget in respect of 2020/21, as the Original Budget in respect of 2021/22, and the financial projection in respect of 2022/23 to 2024/25.

(x) That under spends in respect of 2020/21 to 2024/25 are transferred to the HRA Revenue Reserve.

### CAPITAL PROGRAMME

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(xi) That the Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 4 be approved as the Revised Budget in respect of 2020/21, and as the Approved Programme for 2021/22 to 2024/25.

(xii) That the Head of Property Services and Housing Repairs be granted delegated powers in consultation with the Portfolio Member and the Asset Management group to approve the utilisation of the £260,000 of AMP Refurbishment Work allocation, with such approvals to be reported back to Executive through the Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report.

(Head of Paid Service/Section 151 Officer/Head of Property Services and Housing Repairs)

### CL762-20/21      TREASURY STRATEGY REPORTS 2021/22-2024/25

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Community Safety (Councillor Clive Moesby) presented the Treasury Strategy Reports 2021/22 - 2024/25 report to Members. The report provided Members with the necessary information to approve the Authority's suite of Treasury Strategies for 2021/22 to 2024/25.

The recommendations in the report (6.1 to 6.3) were moved by Councillor Clive Moesby and seconded by Councillor David Dixon.

The Chair reminded Members that a recorded vote would be taken on this budget setting motion as per the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.

For the motion – 32

*(Councillors Adams, Bailey, Bowler, Bryson, Bullock, Cannon, A Clarke, N Clarke, Clifton, Clough, Cooper, D Dixon, M Dixon, Dooley, Downes, Fritchley, Heffer, Hoy, Joesbury, Kane, Kirkham, McGregor, Moesby, Munro, E Parkin, G Parkin, Roberts, Smyth, Turner, Walker, Watson and Wilson.)*

Against the motion – 0

Abstentions – 0

It was **RESOLVED** that Council:

(i) Approves the Treasury Management Strategy at Appendix 1 and in particular:

a) Approves the Borrowing Strategy

b) Approves the Treasury Management Investment Strategy

c) Approves the use of the external treasury management advisors Counterparty Weekly List – or similar - to determine the latest assessment of the counterparties that meet the Authority's Criteria before any investment is undertaken.

d) Approves the Prudential Indicators

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(ii) Approves the Capital Strategy as set out in Appendix 2 and in particular:

a) Approves the Capital Financing Requirement

b) Approves the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2021/22

c) Approves the Prudential Indicators for 2021/22 detailed in the Capital Strategy, in particular:

1. Authorised Borrowing Limit £136,518,022

2. Operational Boundary £131,518,022

3. Capital Financing Requirement £117,518,022

(iii) Approves the Corporate Investment Strategy as set out in Appendix 3.

(Section 151 Officer)

### **CL763-20/21      PROPORTIONALITY      AND      CHANGES      TO      COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS**

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Steve Fritchley) spoke on the report and proposed to leave the Committee membership allocations as they were, because the new political balance variable did not make an appreciable difference to the Committee memberships and Council might as well wait until the Annual Council in May 2021.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Deborah Watson.

The Chair asked the Monitoring Officer to clarify if changing the memberships of Committees every time the political balance changed was a legal requirement. The Monitoring Officer advised that the legislation in question stated that Members had to consider changing the memberships but did not have to approve it, with the one condition that no Members vote against maintaining the memberships.

The Chair asked Members to vote on the moved and seconded proposal to maintain the current Committee memberships until Annual Council in May 2021. Members voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

It was **RESOLVED** that Council maintains the current Committee memberships until Annual Council in May 2021.

(Governance Manager)

### **CL764-20/21      ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2019/20**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Community Safety (Councillor Clive Moesby) presented the Annual Audit Letter 2019/20 report to Members. The report asked Members to consider and note the report (Appendix 1) from the Council's External Auditor Mazars.

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The recommendation in the report was moved by Councillor Clive Moesby and seconded by Councillor Ray Heffer.

It was **RESOLVED** that Council considers and notes the report from the Council's External Auditor Mazars.

(Section 151 Officer/Internal Audit Manager)

### **CL765-20/21      CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS**

The Chair thanked all Council officers for their hard work during the COVID-9 pandemic.

Councillor Ross Walker thanked officers dealing with grants to local businesses, because he had been contacted by a number of local businesses who had praised the grant scheme.

Councillor Natalie Hoy asked if it would be possible for Council to agree to send a letter to English Heritage to turn Bolsover Castle blue in tribute to the late Captain Sir Thomas Moore. The Leader of the Council (Councillor Steve Fritchley) asked that she speak to him about arranging this after the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 11:27 hours.