

MINUTES

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 20 APRIL 2017

2.00 PM



PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor Mrs Judy Smith then Councillor Bob Sampson

Councillor Bob Adams
Councillor Duncan Ashwell
Councillor Ashley Baxter
Councillor Mrs Pam Bosworth
Councillor Teri Bryant
Councillor Mrs Frances Cartwright
Councillor George Chivers
Councillor Michael Cook
Councillor Kelham Cooke
Councillor Lynda Coutts
Councillor Nick Craft
Councillor Felicity Cunningham
Councillor Phil Dilks
Councillor Barry Dobson
Councillor Mike Exton
Councillor Tracey Forman
Councillor Helen Goral
Councillor Breda Griffin
Councillor Graham Jeal
Councillor Mrs Rosemary Kaberry-Brown
Councillor Ms Jane Kingman
Councillor Matthew Lee
Councillor Nikki Manterfield
Councillor David Mapp
Councillor Charmaine Morgan

Councillor Dr Peter Moseley
Councillor Nick Neilson
Councillor Helen Powell
Councillor Robert Reid
Councillor Nick Robins
Councillor Bob Russell
Councillor Bob Sampson
Councillor Ian Selby
Councillor Jacky Smith
Councillor Peter Stephens
Councillor Judy Stevens
Councillor Adam Stokes
Councillor Ian Stokes
Councillor Mrs Sarah Stokes
Councillor Brian Sumner
Councillor Mrs Brenda Sumner
Councillor Frank Turner
Councillor Dean Ward
Councillor Hannah Westropp
Councillor Martin Wilkins
Councillor Paul Wood
Councillor Rosemary H Woolley
Councillor Mrs Linda Wootten
Councillor Ray Wootten

OFFICERS

Chief Executive (Beverly Agass)
Strategic Directors (Tracey Blackwell,
Steve Ingram, Daren Turner)
Executive Manager, Corporate (Lucy
Youles)

OFFICERS

Corporate Finance Manager (Richard
Wyles)
Principal Democracy Officer (Jo Toomey)

Your council working for you

1. STATEMENT BY COUNCILLOR BOB ADAMS

Following his resignation as the Leader of the Council, Councillor Adams made a brief statement thanking Members for their support and hard work. He also added his appreciation for the work of the authority's officers and strategic directors who had helped take the district forward in a positive way and achieve recognition. After offering his thanks to Members, he wished the Council well for the future.

2. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Members were invited to make nominations for the Chairman of the Council.

A proposition was made and seconded that Councillor Brian Sumner be elected as Chairman of the District Council. Those Members who spoke in support of Councillor Sumner's nomination referred to advice and support he had given them and stated that he would serve the Council well.

A nomination for Councillor Bob Sampson was also proposed and seconded; reference was made to the active role he had played in his Ward and the personal qualities that made him a strong contender for the role. The comment was also made that the Chairman was not a political appointment, so an independent Member would be well-placed to be Chairman.

A vote was taken and Councillor Sampson was elected as the Chairman of the Council.

The Chairman was invested with the chain of office. He made a declaration of acceptance and took the chair.

COUNCILLOR SAMPSON IN THE CHAIR

The outgoing Chairman thanked the Council for giving her the opportunity to carry out the role. She said that she had felt privileged to live in a county and district with such outstanding towns, villages and countryside and having the opportunity to meet such a broad range of people. She thanked everyone who had supported her throughout her year in office, referring specifically to Councillor Bob Russell who had served as her consort, the Chairman's Chaplain and the Chairman's Officer, to each of whom she presented a gift to show her appreciation.

The Chairman presented Councillor Mrs. Smith with a gift to show the Council's appreciation for all the work she had done during the year.

3. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING CHAIRMAN

The Chairman led the vote of the thanks to the retiring Chairman. He praised her dedication to the role and her fairness in the way she conducted meetings.

Reference was also made to Councillor Mrs. Smith's continued active participation in other aspects of Council life and public service. He invited Members to show their appreciation with a round of applause.

4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Councillor George Chivers was proposed and seconded as the Vice-Chairman of the Council. In proposing Councillor Chivers, reference was made to his dedication and dependability and that he was deserving of the honour of the position. On being put to the vote, this was carried and Councillor Chivers was elected as the Vice-Chairman of the District Council. Councillor Chivers signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Benn, Broughton, Evans, King and Webster.

6. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

No interests were disclosed.

7. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 MARCH 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2017 were proposed, seconded and agreed as a correct record.

8. COMMUNICATIONS (INCLUDING CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS)

The Council noted the Chairman's engagements.

9. APPOINTMENT OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

A request was made that any Councillors nominated as Leader of the Council be given an opportunity to explain their manifestos prior to a vote.

Councillor Matthew Lee was proposed and seconded as Leader of the Council. Reference was made to Councillor Lee's experience across both the private and public sector, noting specifically his role as Deputy Leader of Peterborough City Council and the active role he had played on committees in South Kesteven since his election. His supporters stated that they felt that the Council would be able to deliver more as a result of his leadership.

Councillor Ian Selby was also nominated for the position of Leader; this proposition was seconded. Those speaking in support of Councillor Selby felt that he would be able to be consultative and neutral. Reference was also made to his many years of experience as he was the longest-serving member of the Council and the commitment he had shown to public service during his term of

office as Mayor of Grantham.

It was proposed and seconded that, following the vote to appoint the Leader, article 4.11.4 of the Council's Constitution be suspended so that the successful nominee could fully outline their plans for the authority. This was put to the vote and carried. A request was also made that a recorded vote be taken for the position of Leader. In accordance with article 4.13.4 of the Council's Constitution it was agreed that the vote would be recorded after more than ten Members indicated their support for the proposition.

Both candidates had the opportunity to speak. Councillor Selby accepted his nomination and said that he would be honoured to serve as Leader; he would look across the Council for his Cabinet. Councillor Lee stated that he looked forward to the opportunity to work with Members from across the whole Council.

The vote was taken:

Councillor Lee	Councillor Selby	Abstain
Cllr Ashwell	Cllr Baxter	Cllr Adams
Cllr Mrs Bosworth	Cllr Cook	Cllr Bryant
Cllr Chivers	Cllr Craft	Cllr Mrs Cartwright
Cllr Cooke	Cllr Cunningham	Cllr Mrs Kaberry-Brown
Cllr Coutts	Cllr Dilks	Cllr Mrs Wootten
Cllr Dobson	Cllr Forman	Cllr Wootten
Cllr Exton	Cllr Morgan	
Cllr Goral	Cllr Powell	
Cllr Griffin	Cllr Sampson	
Cllr Jeal	Cllr Selby	
Cllr Kingman	Cllr Stevens	
Cllr Lee	Cllr Turner	
Cllr Manterfield	Cllr Wood	
Cllr Mapp		
Cllr Dr Moseley		
Cllr Neilson		
Cllr Reid		
Cllr Robins		
Cllr Russell		
Cllr Jacky Smith		
Cllr Judy Smith		
Cllr Stephens		
Cllr A Stokes		
Cllr I Stokes		
Cllr Mrs S Stokes		
Cllr Mrs Sumner		
Cllr Sumner		
Cllr Ward		

Cllr Westropp		
Cllr Wilkins		
Cllr Woolley		
31	13	6

Councillor Lee was duly elected as Leader of the Council. He said that the changes that he wanted to make would see Councillors in the driving seat. His proposals would support markets, shops and local businesses, championing them and helping them to reach their full potential so that towns were working communities. He added that the Council needed to respond to long-term structure changes. He stated that he was passionate about the area and making a positive, lasting difference by attracting new industries and jobs and looking at making the district's offer more attractive.

The Leader added that every Councillor needed to work together, regardless of political affiliation and that he wanted all Members to be more involved in holding each other to account, increasing debate and participation in the Chamber. He alluded to the proposed changes to overview and scrutiny which would be discussed at agenda item 11b.

He stated a commitment to improving working conditions for the officers of the Council so that it could retain and attract the best staff.

He introduced his Cabinet and gave an overview of their responsibilities (listed under minute number 10). He added that appointments were based on merit and whom he believed was best for each role.

Finally the Leader outlined his priorities and the areas on which he intended to focus. He wanted to make sure that all areas were vibrant, clean and attractive and any areas not up to those standards would be the subject of a large scale clean-up operation. The development focus for the district would be Grantham, making it a desirable attractive place that people wanted to live and visit. He talked about building on festivals and existing arts and heritage events in the district, continuing with plans for a cinema in Grantham, carrying out work in relation to leisure centres in Stamford, Bourne and the Deepings and introducing a heritage festival in Bourne. He concluded by saying that he hoped the new Cabinet and the introduction of new overview and scrutiny committees demonstrated his commitment to ensuring that everyone should have a voice in policy and decision-making.

Councillor Cook addressed the Chamber, stating that he could not align with the new leadership and was resigning from the Conservative group, continuing his term as an unaligned independent Councillor.

A number of Members spoke in response to the Leader's statement, expressing some concern about his comments on inclusivity, which they did not feel were reflected in the overview and scrutiny proposals, under which the Labour group

would have no representation on any scrutiny committee. Several comments were also made about the inclusive approach taken by the previous Leader and how that was reflected in the unanimous approval of the Council's Budget, which had previously been unknown and the withdrawal of opposition amendments. It was hoped that the new Leader would honour the proposals raised during debate on the budget on 2 March 2017, which the previous Leader had agreed to take on board.

There was support for improving the office conditions however speakers said that this needed to be balanced against the people who lived in the area and the need to manage budgets in accordance with the needs of the community.

The choice of the Cabinet Member responsible for promoting growth was also questioned, as that Member was not a Grantham Councillor.

The Leader responded to the comments, reiterating that Cabinet appointments were based on the selected Councillors having the appropriate skills and experience to successfully deliver. He had an expectation that all Cabinet Members would quickly get to grips with their areas of responsibility. In respect of working conditions for Council officers, the Leader clarified that when he had walked around the building, the staff that he had encountered were dedicated and wanted to do their best, he wanted to ensure that accommodation and equipment was of a suitable standard. The Leader invited any Member with concerns or issues in their Ward to speak to an appropriate Cabinet Member, or to him directly, and they would visit the area to look more closely at those concerns.

10. ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE SIZE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE AND THE ALLOCATION OF PORTFOLIOS

Responsibility	Member
Human Resources and Cultural Services	Councillor Matthew Lee
Business Transformation and Commissioning	Councillor Kelham Cooke
Economy and Development	Councillor Mike King
Major Development Projects	Councillor Jacky Smith
Retail and Visitor Economy	Councillor Nick Robins
Communications and Engagement	Councillor Helen Goral
Finance	Councillor Adam Stokes
Communities and Wellbeing	Councillor Rosemary Woolley
Environment	Councillor Dr. Peter Moseley

In addition to his Portfolio, Councillor Kelham Cooke would also take on the role of Deputy Leader of the Council.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE AND OTHER PROPOSED CONSTITUTION CHANGES

(1) Recommendations from the Constitution Committee

Decision:

1.1 Members' Open Questions

That the Constitution is amended at Article 4 – the Council, to include Open Questions at Council meetings in place of Questions by Members at Article 4.8 as shown below:

4.8 Open Questions by Members

- 4.8.1**
- i) Open questions at Council will not be allowed at the Council budget meeting.**
 - ii) Time allowed for questions will be a maximum of 45 minutes.**
 - iii) Questions should be addressed to: Leader, Executive Members, Chairman or Vice-chairman of PDGs and opposition Leaders.**
 - iv) No questions are to be addressed to the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Development Control Committee, Licensing Committee (Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Committee) or Governance and Audit Committee or any officer.**
 - v) Questions will be on a first come, first served basis, members will join the queue through the electronic method using the speaker queuing system. (If the speaker queuing system is unavailable questions will be taken by a show of hands and this will be managed by the Chairman until the time allowed has been reached or before that if no more questions are forthcoming).**
 - vi) No debate, speech or statement is to take place and members are limited to one question per meeting, no supplementary questions can be asked. Please note that questions only are to be asked and this will be managed through the Chairman.**

- vii) **The response to any question that has been asked but not answered at the meeting is to be made available at the start of questions at the next full council meeting.**
- viii) **Questions will not be recorded verbatim in the Council minutes. Details in the minutes will consist of the Member who asked the question, a brief summary of the question and either the Leader, Executive Member, Chairman or Vice-chairman of the PDG or opposition Leader who answered the question. Recordings of council meetings are available for those Members who wish to listen to full council meetings.**
- ix) **Members must show respect to each other during the session.**
- x) **A question will be rejected by the chairman:**
 - **if it is not about a matter for which the local authority has a responsibility or which directly affects the district; or**
 - **is of a defamatory, frivolous, objectionable, improper or of an offensive nature; or**
 - **which is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of the council in the past six months; or**
 - **if the answer requires disclosure of confidential or exempt information**

1.2 Development Control Committee

That the Constitution be amended at Article 9 to change the composition of the Development Control Committee to 15 members

1.3 Member Training

That the Constitution is amended at Article 2.3b) as follows:

- i) **All members of the Development Control Committee, Licensing Committee (including Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Committee) and Governance and Audit Committee are required to undergo mandatory training at the start of each term of office following an election. This mandatory training**

requirement relates to new Members, returning Members and substitute Members

- ii) Members of these Committees are required to attend refresher training on an annual basis for the remainder of their term in order to retain their position on the Committee**

The Chairman of the Constitution Committee thanked the Members and officers with whom he had worked during his tenure as Chairman and proposed the recommendations in report number LDS213, which related to Members' Open Questions, reducing the size of the Development Control Committee and minimum training requirements for Members who sat on those Committees where training was mandatory. These proposals were seconded.

Reference was made to the recommendation on formally adopting Members' Open Questions and that consequential amendments to the wording would be required should the recommendations at agenda item 11b be adopted.

Each recommendation was subject to a separate vote, all of which were carried.

(2) Overview and Scrutiny Proposals

Decision:

- 1. That the Council approves the change of the name "Executive" to "Cabinet" throughout the Constitution**
- 2. That the Council approves the changes to the Constitution relating to the provision of overview and scrutiny committees as set out at the Appendix to report number Cabinet 1 by deleting existing Articles 6 and 7 and replacing them with the new Article 6 and 7 as set out in the appendix, together with any consequential amendments and an increase to the number of members sitting on each overview and scrutiny committee from 6 to 7 and an increased quorum of 4 members rather than 3**

The Leader proposed the recommendations in report number Cabinet 1; in so doing he stated that the changes he was suggesting would replace existing policy development arrangements with committees that were more holistic, looking at both budget and policy. The new committees would develop their own remits and be sufficiently dynamic to respond to emerging challenges. He explained that provision had been written into the arrangements that would permit any political group leader or deputy group

leader to attend any overview and scrutiny committee meeting and have the right to speak or present reports. He felt that in respect of committee size, a smaller membership would help with focus and mean that the skills and expertise of their members would be used to best effect. The proposal was seconded.

Some concern was expressed about the timing of the report and a suggestion was made that, rather than immediately implementing new arrangements, it might be helpful to spend time reviewing existing arrangements. Further comments were also made about inclusivity and the representation of all political groups on the new committees.

An amendment was proposed and seconded, which left intact the first recommendation to change the name from Executive to Cabinet, but replaced the second and third recommendations with the following:

“This Council resolves to set up a working party made up of representatives of all political groups on the Council to carefully consider all options to improve the policy development and scrutiny of this Council.”

Members speaking in favour of the amendment echoed concerns about the speed with which the changes would be implemented and the potential for confusion as there was no pre-agreed remit for any of the new committees.

Some members questioned whether the new arrangements would create conflict because the same committee that helped develop a policy would be instrumental should a decision relating to that policy be called-in. Concerns were also expressed about representation for Grantham, noting that there was a Rural Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet members holding responsibility for engaging with town and parish councils, neither of which Grantham had. The Leader reiterated his previous remarks about opportunities for participation by all political groups.

One member requested that the remits for the overview and scrutiny committees, be presented to Council, to which the Leader agreed.

The Leader responded to the comments that had been made in support of the amendment, stating that the proposals would provide a proper engagement process that would help drive forward all policy development. He also spoke about opportunities for multiple committees to work together on overarching issues. In response to concerns raised by one Member about which Committee would take primacy in the event of a call-in, he explained that this would be determined by the Chairman of Chairmen for all overview and scrutiny committees. He also felt that any call-in would benefit from being considered by members who had been involved in the development of a policy; they would be aware of the background of an issue and the considerations of which a decision-maker should have taken account.

Prior to a vote on the amendment, the Monitoring Officer was asked to determine whether it was acceptable or whether it negated the original proposition. She stated that the amendment retained part of the original proposition and suggested that the remaining part be put to another body for consideration, therefore it complied with the requirements of the Constitution.

A vote was taken and the amendment was lost.

A further amendment was proposed: that each Overview and Scrutiny Committee consist of 7 members with a quorum of 4 and that all political group leaders or their appointed representatives have a right to attend and speak at any overview and scrutiny committee meetings.

16:34 to 16:55 – the meeting was adjourned to allow the calculation of political balance in light of the new committee size proposed by the amendment and the two resignations from the Conservative Group.

Following the adjournment, the amendment was withdrawn as an arrangement had been reached between the Conservative and Labour Groups. The Leader agreed to adjust his proposals to increase the membership of the overview and scrutiny committees to 7 with a quorum of 4 and, as the political balance calculation identified a tie between the Conservative Group and the Labour Group for the outstanding place, he agreed that it should be given to the Labour Group. He also clarified that the remit of each committee could be presented to Council once it had been agreed.

The proposals were put to the vote and carried.

12. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES INCLUDING THE APPOINTMENT OF THEIR CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN

Decision:

To approve the appointments to Committees and Panels and their Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen as appended to the minutes

Report number LDS209 asked Council to approve the membership of its committees and panels. Nominations from Group Leaders had been circulated prior to the meeting; the Leader of the Council made some verbal updates to their nominees and the Labour Group also made verbal nominations for their places on the overview and scrutiny committees. As a result of the change to the Council's political balance which resulted from the resignation of two Councillors from the Conservative Group, there was a tied entitlement to the final seat on the Governance and Audit Committee, which the Conservative group also agreed Labour could fill.

The final nominations (appended to these minutes) were seconded and subject to a vote, which was carried.

13. TIMETABLE OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Decision:

That the Council approves the dates of meetings for the Council, Cabinet and committees as per the attached timetable

Since the circulation of report number LDS208, a number of updates had been made to the draft programme of meetings. The updated draft was circulated to all members prior to the meeting. The draft programme of meetings as circulated was proposed, seconded and, on being put to the vote, agreed.

17:15 - As the meeting had been in progress for three hours, it was proposed and seconded that, in accordance with article 4.6.4 of the Council's Constitution, the meeting should continue until all business had been concluded.

14. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Decision:

To appoint the Leader (or the Deputy Leader in the Leader's absence) as the Council's representative on East Midlands Councils and the Local Government Association

Report number LDS207 asked the Council to make appointments to both East Midlands Councils and the Local Government Association.

It was proposed, seconded and, on being put to the vote, agreed that the Leader (and in his absence, the Deputy Leader) should represent the Council on both bodies.

15. AMENDMENT TO CAR PARKING ORDER

Decision:

That the Council adopts the South Kesteven District Council Civil Enforcement Off-Street Parking Places Order 2017 (as attached at Appendix 1 to report number LDS211)

Report number LDS211 sought approval from the Council to adopt the South Kesteven District Council Civil Enforcement Off-Street Parking Places Order 2017 following the expiry of the period of consultation with relevant statutory bodies and the public. The Former Leader proposed that the recommendation

made by the outgoing Executive be approved. The proposition was seconded and, on being put to the vote, agreed unanimously.

16. GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT AND WORK PLAN

Decision:

- 1. Council approves the Annual Report of the Governance and Audit Committee for 2016/17**
- 2. Council approves the indicative work plan and timetable for 2017/18 which reflects the terms of reference of the Governance and Audit Committee**

The outgoing Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee presented its annual report for 2016/17 and the draft work programme for 2017/18. He referred to the Committee's achievements during the year and the increased standards achieved as a result of the hard work of officers and Members. He proposed the recommendations in report number GAC009, which were seconded. On being put to the vote, the recommendations were approved.

17. MEMBERS' OPEN QUESTIONS

Question 1

Councillor Selby asked the Cabinet Member for Environment whether he would join the refuse crews on one of their Christmas rounds as the previous incumbent had.

Question 2

Councillor Dilks asked the Leader what changes he had instituted as Leader Designate regarding personnel matters, office arrangements and changes to the building, under what authority and at what cost.

Question 3

Councillor Bryant addressed a question to the Cabinet Member for Finance about how he proposed to replace the monies lost from falling Revenue Support Grant while meeting rising costs and additional pressures created by the withdrawal of services by other organisations in light of the plans that the Leader revealed during the meeting

Question 4

Councillor Powell asked a question about the impact of government-level changes on the work of the Development Control Committee and its non-political role

Question 5

Councillor Morgan asked the Leader about ensuring that proposals made at the Budget meeting and work begun by the policy development groups would be carried forward

Question 6

Councillor Ashley Baxter asked whether Members of the Cabinet would visit the Deepings after 4 May 2017 to meet with the Ward Councillors and local stakeholders to talk about the services and facilities available in the area

18. QUESTIONS WITHOUT DISCUSSION

As agenda item 11a had been approved, which replaced Questions Without Discussion with Members' Open Questions, this item was withdrawn.

19. NOTICES OF MOTION GIVEN UNDER ARTICLE 4.9:

Councillor Dilks had proposed a motion about the Council's Investment Strategy which allowed the purchase of property situated outside South Kesteven for investment purposes. He explained that he had agreed to withdraw the motion after a commitment from the Leader that the policy and decision to purchase outside the district would be reviewed.

20. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting was closed at 17:35.