

**Minutes of Meeting: FULL COUNCIL**

**Date and Time: Wednesday 21 February 2024 19.00**

**Venue: The Old Courthouse**

**Present :** Cllr M Stott (Chair) G Adams, P Barron, J Berridge, R Blaney, J Bostock, P Brooker, M Brock, L Harris, P Harris (arrived at 19.45), J Lightwood, P Rainbow, K Roberts, John Lightwood , Steve Perry

**In Attendance :** L Wright Clerk, 19 members of the public, 1 member of the press

**24/02/159 Apologies for absence – none**

**24/02/160 To receive any declarations of interest.**  
**Members are hereby reminded of the provisions of sections 26-34 and Schedule 4 of the Localism Act 2011. - none**

**24/02/161 Minutes of previous meetings**  
**161.1 Minutes Wednesday 18 January 2024 –**  
**Agreed Unanimously** with the inclusion of Cllr Steve Perry present  
**161.2 Matters arising -none**

**24/02/162 Opportunity for questions from Councillors and Members of the Public**  
**Agreed Unanimously** to suspend standing orders and subsequent re instate.

Members of the public asked the following questions regarding the Southwell Swimming Pool

- 1 Why has there been no official communication to and from STC
  - 2 Why have STC not been involved in the appraisal options.
  - 3 Can the Swimming Pool be added to the next Full Council agenda.
  - 4 What actions are the STC taking
- All questions were noted

**23/02/163 Chair Report and Announcements –**  
The Chair passed on the thanks of the council to  
- Cllr Bostock and Roberts for the Crowd Funder and FOSP for the grant application  
-Squires for their help with the Squires and Cludd pond project

**24/02/164 County Councillor Report –**

- Road closure fees can only be waived for community events
- Highways have suggested an alternative option for the closure of Kings Street
- A sink hole has appeared near the Minster School
- A crash investigation team is reviewing Normanton Crossroads
- Options for the Bus stop on Nottingham road are being investigated
- Harveys Field Bund is being submitted to planning

- The footpath to Brackenhurst is still under investigation

**24/02/165 District Councillor Reports**– noted and attached

**24/02/166 Clerk & Projects Report** -noted

**24/02/167 Finance Matters –**

**167.1 Summary Income & Expenditure and Reserves to end January 2024**

**167.2 Bills for Payment** – previously circulated

**167.3 Late bills for payment** -to be circulated

Items 167.1 – 167.3 Agreed unanimously

**167.4 Proposal on spending to the end of financial year 23/24**

**Proposed P Barron Seconded B Blaney**

Amendment no cost code can be overspent without consent of Chair Council and Chair G & F

**Agreed unanimously.**

**167.5 Application for Grant from GTSF –**

**Proposed R Blaney Seconded M Stott**

Not to Grant the monies requested, Cllr R Jackson to enquire again if the fee for the Road closure can be waived

**Agreed Unanimously**

**24/02/168 Governance and Finance**

**168.1 Approve the Scheme of Delegation submitted by Governance & Finance –**

**Proposed S Perry Seconded P Barron**

Amendment to delete ‘may not act independently’.

**3 for 11 against, not carried**

**Proposed R Blaney Seconded J Berridge**

To accept the original proposal

**Agreed by majority 1 abstain.**

**168.2 Approve recommendation from G & F for the use of CIL monies for the Neighbourhood Plan if required –**

**Proposed R Blaney Seconded P Harris**

**Agreed unanimously.**

**24/02/169 Reinstatement of the monthly Southwell Town Council stall on the Saturday market –**

**Proposed -Cllr Gina Adams Seconded – Cllr P Rainbow**

To hold the market on the Saturday before every Full Council meeting

**Agreed by majority 1 abstain**

**24/02/170 Election of 4 Councillors in the Town Forum and to appoint a convener.**

Councillors elected Cllrs P Harris – to convene initial meeting, G Adams, P Brooker, K Roberts.

**24/02/171 Update of the Skatepark Crowdfunding** – the Crowd Funding target has been reached. Monies to the allocated for the opening event.

**24/02/172 Decision to progress Double Yellow Lines on Bishops Drive –**

Proposal not to progress DYL and to investigate further options.

**Agreed unanimously.**

**24/02/173 To receive and note the most recent committee meeting minutes from the following standing committees that have taken place since the last Full Council meeting.**

**173.1 Draft Planning & Highways Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> February – noted**

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**24/02/174 To resolve on whether the Council will move into closed session in accordance with the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972 for the following confidential items –**

**Agreed unanimously.**

**174.1 HR – Cllr Stott declared an interest and withdrew from the meeting**

**Proposed R Blaney Seconded S Perry**

To accept proposals 1-4 from the HR committee

**Agreed by majority 1 against**

**Cllr Stott rejoined the meeting**

**174.2 Memorial Drive Land**

**Proposed R Blaney Seconded J Berridge**

Following further consideration of a range of factors by councillors the purchase of the land will not be progressed. Clerk to inform the agents and solicitor

**Agreed by Majority 12 Against 3**

**24/02/175 Items for Communication**

**24/02/176 Items for Agenda at next meeting - Emergency Plan**

**24/02/177 Date of next meeting Wednesday 20 March 2024**

Signed  
Chair of Full Council

Date

## **District Cllrs Karen Roberts and Peter Harris Report for February 2024**

### **Full Council Feb 13**

Council rents are to be increased by 7.7% next year. This will generate a surplus of around £3m that will be used to implement new legislation with enhanced regulations on social housing etc.. The housing stock is in good condition but further spending will be required. The reserves now stand at £13.36m. 40% of the money from right-to-buy is being used to support more social housing building - the rest is returned to the Government. A question requested the Council to look at introducing short term permanent shelters to help homeless people in the District. This was supported and a plan to do so is being developed.

Council Tax for houses that are left empty for more than one year will now be set at 200% to encourage every building to be brought back into residential use. However, the Council will have discretion for this to be relieved due to issues such as probate delays and recruitment for tied houses etc.

The council is looking at introducing public statements to be made - more than the current Town Council's representations - at Planning Committee and this will be debated at a future Planning Committee meeting.

Following the three significant weather events in the last few months, including surface water flooding in villages in the area worse than seen for many years, the Council has agreed to propose to work with Districts and Counties upstream to reduce the peak flows of water into the Trent and its tributaries- and investigating flood mitigation measures in the District.

### **Cabinet**

In December the Cabinet heard that fly tipping is reducing and fixed penalties for littering and illegal waste carrying are having an effect at reducing - but sadly not eliminating the issue across the District. The government has provided a £19m Fund for Ollerton Town Centre and development will include a new library, cinema and further business and commercial spaces, together with a transport hub. This has meant that significant money has now been allocated to both Ollerton and Newark town centres. There has not been similar funding for Southwell.

Following the continuing of the swimming pool at the Leisure Centre, a new swimming pool building for Southwell, with options for a wider development of a new leisure centre 'in conjunction with partners and relevant landowners' was agreed. A capital borrowing budget of £5.5m was approved with further reports to be taken to the Cabinet as the feasibility project progresses. The Playing Pitch Strategy - that is expected to show a continuing significant short fall of spaces in Southwell - is expected to be published shortly.

The CCTV system is to be replaced and project to examine the case for bringing CCTV monitoring back in house agreed.

Active for Today the wholly owned Company of the N&SDC made a loss of £450k last year. The position for this year will be impacted by the closure of the Southwell Pool but total is unclear but expected to cost £20k per month. Last year membership at the SLC was around 2100 adults and 1500 children [at Newark the numbers are under 4000 adults and 1600 children, Dukeries 1300 and 500]

In January the Cabinet heard that the biodiversity net gains in the Environment Act 2021 is now implemented. This requires a net 10% gain. It agreed that there should be 'significant enhancements' will be made in the area, but these may be 'off-site'. This is a complicated area and Councillors are recommended to read the whole January 23 Cabinet Report on pages 33-64 on the NSDC website. Southwell and the villages is encompassed by 'The Dumbles' region for biodiversity designation. Much of the landscape is shown as having 'high' distinctiveness with our lowland meadow areas and woodland pasture with parkland 'high distinctiveness'.

February 2024

## DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT FEBRUARY 2024

### Public speaking at NSDC Planning Committee

At the next NSDC Full Council meeting on February 13th, a report is being considered to allow for public speaking at the Planning Committee.

Currently, only representatives of Parish and Town Councils, members of the planning committee and NSDC officers are allowed to speak at the meeting. Members of the planning committee attended a workshop where we ran through a number of differing scenarios and looked at options as to who and how many representatives can speak and for how long. NSDC is only one of a handful of planning authorities in England and Wales who don't allow public participation.

Applicants themselves find it very frustrating that whilst watching and listening to their application being discussed, they cannot contribute.

The Council's Constitution includes provision for public speaking at Full Council but it has no mention of public speaking at committee meetings.

The report before Council will seek approval of updates to the Constitution to enable the Planning Committee to revise the protocol to allow for public participation at its meetings.

### Council Tax Empty Homes

The empty homes premium report was presented to Cabinet members at their meeting on January 23rd.

The proposal was for Cabinet to agree and recommend to Full Council that a change is made on which the council tax long-term empty homes premium becomes due from 2 years to 1 year. This proposal supports both the Council and Government policy in helping to reduce the number

of empty homes by giving the highest incentive to owners to bring properties back into use, by either selling or renting the property.

On 1st October 2023, 748 properties in the Newark and Sherwood area were empty for between 1 and 2 years.

### New Policy on NSDC Tenants Management of X-LARGE Bullies

In the light of recent reports of X-L Bully dog's behaviour, a new policy has been developed by the Council.

The policy applies to existing tenants only, as new tenants moving into NSDC property will not be given permission to keep the breed.

The policy aims to encourage responsible dog ownership by tenants and minimise concern surrounding these dogs.

Dog owners wishing to keep their XL Bully must comply with new legislation and provide a certificate of exemption.

The tenancy agreement clearly sets out the Council's stance on the keeping of dog breeds banned under the dangerous dogs act 1991

The Council will allow tenants who owned an XL Bully prior to the 31st January 2024 to keep their dogs providing -

Permission is sought.

Compliance with Government requirements.

That the Council upholds no complaints relating to behaviour.  
Permission will be withdrawn after incidents involving XL Bullies are reported.  
CLLR PENNY RAINBOW  
Ward member for Southwell