

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, STATION ROAD, WIGSTON ON TUESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2016 COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM

<u>IN ATTENDANCE:</u>		
Mayor - Councillor Robert F Eaton		
COUNCILLORS (21):		
E R Barr	Ms K M Chalk	D A Gamble
L A Bentley	Miss M V Chamberlain	J Kaufman
G A Boulter	M H Charlesworth	Dr T K Khong
J W Boyce	M L Darr	Mrs H E Loydall
Mrs L M Broadley	B Dave	K J Loydall
F S Broadley	Mrs L Eaton	Mrs S B Morris
D M Carter	R E Fahey	R E R Morris
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE (3):		
S J Ball	M W L Hall	M Hone

Min Ref.	Narrative	Officer Resp.
24.	<p><u>CALLING TO ORDER OF THE MEETING AND PRAYERS</u></p> <p>The meeting of the Council was called to order to receive His Worship The Mayor.</p> <p>The meeting was led in prayer by the Chaplin.</p>	
25.	<p><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></p> <p>An apology for absence was received from the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs S Z Haq, Councillors Miss A R Bond and R H Thakor and the Director of Services / Monitoring Officer, Mrs A E Court.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:</p> <p>Councillor Mrs L Eaton substitute for the Deputy Mayor as Vice Chair of the Council for the duration of the meeting.</p>	
26.	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
27.	<p><u>READING, CONFIRMATION AND SIGNING OF MINUTES</u></p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday, 14 June 2016 be taken as read, confirmed and signed.</p>	
28.	<p><u>MOTIONS ON NOTICE</u></p> <p>The Council gave consideration to the Motion on Notice (at page 5) in respect of racism, xenophobia and hate crimes following the outcome of the result in the referendum of the United Kingdom's membership of the</p>	

European Union. This should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.

The Motion was moved by Councillor Mrs S B Morris.

The Member reported that an increasing number of reports from residents within the Borough had been received by Councillors regarding incidents of alleged racism, xenophobia and hate crime. She stated that all people ought to be considered and respected as “human beings” irrespective of race, colour, creed, or national origin and invited all Members to give their unanimous support to the Motion.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor J Kaufman.

The Member noted the significant increases in reported hate crimes at a national level and, in particular, within the areas in which the “leave” vote was the highest. He stated that, although there was no intimation that those who had voted “leave” were responsible, the outcome of the referendum had provided the opportunity and excuse to perpetrate such abuses. He emphasised that there was zero-tolerance towards such crimes within the Borough and encouraged all Members to act to stamp it out.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor B Dave, endorsed the Motion and the sentiments of Members’ earlier contributions. He noted the importance of all Members’ responsibility as community leaders to promote an inclusive and tolerant Borough. He said the issue of hate crime should never become a complacent one.

Councillor K J Loydall stated that discussions had been jointly-held in recent years by the Community Safety Partnership Group and the Police and Crime Panel to raise awareness of the subject-matter. He reported that at a meeting of the Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board due to held on 8 September 2016 at County Hall, a vision statement (entitled a ‘Strategy Statement for Tackling Hate Crime’) was to be agreed as a basis of a pan-Leicestershire, multi-agency and cross-party initiative to realise the objectives of the Motion before Members.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

This Council notes:

- (i) As elected Members of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council (OWBC), we are very concerned about racism, xenophobia and hate crimes.
- (ii) Members of this Council remain committed to stamping out all forms of racism, xenophobia and hate crimes.
- (iii) OWBC already works with the police and other agencies to raise awareness of the causes and problems created by hate crimes and addresses these problems and will continue to do so.
- (iv) We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society where racism, xenophobia and hate crime have no place. We reassure all people living in the Borough that they are valued members of our community, and publicly condemn any such crimes.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor B Dave, left the Chamber at 7:23 pm.

29.	<p><u>PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
30.	<p><u>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u></p> <p>The Mayor expressed his gratitude to all those who donated at the charitable collection held at Sainsburys on Bell Street, Wigston on 1 July 2016. He particularly noted the generosity and support of Councillors Miss A R Bond, D M Carter and Mrs S Z Haq for their fundraising efforts. He further thanked Councillor G A Boulter and his wife, Mrs L Boulter, for hosting a garden party on 27 August.</p> <p>The Mayor further announced that a three-course charitable Autumn Lunch was to be held at the Glen Gorse Golf Club, Oadby on 16 October and that the Members' Civic Service was to be held on 25 September at St Paul's Church, Hamble Road, Oadby.</p>	
30a.	<p><u>LIST OF OFFICIAL MAYORAL/DEPUTY MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS</u></p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:</p> <p>The list of Official Mayoral Engagements attended by The Mayor and, or, Deputy Mayor be noted by Members.</p>	
31.	<p><u>LEADER'S STATEMENT</u></p> <p>The Leader of the Council, Councillor J W Boyce, spoke upon the adjournment debate granted to the Member of Parliament (MP) for the Harborough Constituency, The Rt Hon Sir Edward Garnier MP QC, regarding the Governance of the Council as debated in the House of Commons on Tuesday, 06 September 2016.</p> <p>The Leader described the speech delivered by Sir Edward as a recapitulation of - together with other concomitant matters - the ongoing issue(s) regarding the collective staff grievance against the Senior Management Team (SMT). He said that the information to which Sir Edward referred had already been shared with Members since the grievance's inception, which Members' were holding to account, and was freely available in the public domain (to the extent permissible by law). It was noted that neither he nor the Chief Executive was made aware that the debate was to go ahead until short-notice. He advised Members that the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Mr Marcus Jones MP, was fully and honestly briefed by this Council prior to the debate. The documents that were provided to Mr Jones were tabled and circulated to Members at the meeting.</p> <p>With reference to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary's response, the Leader emphasised that the Council's external auditor, KPMG, was not of the opinion that there was a threat to neither this Council's viability nor any risk of service failure. He further sought to clarify that no Member or Officer at the Council had any former relationship with any of the two external Officers appointed to assist in the matter in question. He stated that the grievance was being dealt with in the most open and transparent way possible in conjunction with the ongoing work undertaken by the Change Management Committee to drive and deliver a schedule of Council-wide improvements together with the assistance of the Local Government Association (LGA). He</p>	

noted the importance of concluding the matter in the proper fashion.

He further emphasised that the Council enjoyed a highly-motivated and highly-trained complement of staff who worked tirelessly to make a difference to the Borough and proposed to Members that a list detailing the achievements made by the Council in the preceding year be published on the Council's website thanking the same.

The Leader advised that he was prepared to answer Members' questions by suspending the Council Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of the Constitution.

Councillor Mrs S B Morris moved that the Council Procedure Rules (capable of suspension) as set out in Part 4 of the Constitution be suspended.

Councillors J Kaufman seconded Councillor Mrs S B Morris' motion.

RESOLVED THAT:

The Council Procedure Rules (capable of suspension) as set out in Part 4 of the Constitution be suspended.

Votes For	18
Votes Against	0
Abstentions	3

Councillor Mrs L M Broadley enquired as to: (i) what the Harborough MP's motivation was behind the debate; (ii) why the Leader and, or, the Chief Executive was not formally approached by the MP prior to the debate; and (iii) the debate's outcome.

The Leader stated he was unaware of the motive or the reason why he or the Chief Executive was not approached, but alleged a possible party-politically cause. He advised that the MP was made aware of the complained-of issue(s) at two meetings in November 2015 and February 2016 and that despite offers by himself and Chief Executive to share further information, all such offers were declined. He further advised that the Parliamentary Under-Secretary did not consider that any intervention on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) was warranted and that the Under-Secretary would continue to monitor the situation.

Councillor J Kaufmann asked the Leader whether he agreed to make certain that the electronic correspondence to which the Harborough MP referred to in his speech did not exist on the Council's premises.

The Leader stated that no such electronic correspondence had been found.

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor M H Charlesworth, asked the Leader whether he agreed if the Harborough MP had chosen to unduly and politically capitalise on the grievance in question and if the Council's staff had been unfairly dragged into the political spotlight.

The Leader opined that the way in which the MP chose to intervene was unfortunate and that his intervention was not exclusively done for, and in the interests of, the residents of the Borough. He stated that the MP's speech did not raise any new information that had not hitherto been dealt with

	<p>openly and transparently.</p> <p>Councillor Mrs H E Loydall asked the Leader whether he agreed if the Harborough MP had used his parliamentary privilege to attack the Council and, if so, if this Council would otherwise be subject to legal action had the opposite been true.</p> <p>The Leader agreed that parliamentary privilege had been used to attack the Council. He advised that he would take legal advice on the Member's latter question.</p> <p>Councillor K J Loydall sought the Leader's comments upon the valued contributions and work ethic of Officers towards the achievements made by the Council to date.</p> <p>The Leader stated that the Council's workforce was working harder, more efficiently and more cheerfully than previously and warned of the negative impact on the same of commentator's historically-applying what may have been to the current situation.</p> <p>Councillor G A Boulter asked the Leader whether he agreed that the Council was continuing to maintain and protect frontline services and if a form of reassurance could be put to all Council staff to reiterate Members' support at the present time.</p> <p>The Leader agreed that frontline services were being maintained and protected and that all Council staff were to be written to with a list of achievement alongside Members' gratitude.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council moved that the Council Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of the Constitution be re-instated.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader of the Council seconded The Leader's motion.</p> <p>UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:</p> <p>The Council Procedure Rules as set out in Part 4 of the Constitution be re-instated.</p> <p>Councillor D A Gamble left the Chamber at 7:57 pm.</p>	
32.	<p><u>COMBINED AUTHORITY FOR LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE (UPDATE)</u></p> <p>The Council gave consideration to the report (at pages 11-12) as delivered and summarised by the Chief Executive which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council moved the recommendation as set out at paragraph 2 of the report (at page 11).</p> <p>The Deputy Leader of the Council seconded the recommendation.</p> <p>Councillor Mrs H E Loydall requested, subject to the Chair of the Policy, Finance and Development Committee's discretion, that all Members be informed of the relevant meeting of the Committee and to be given an opportunity to speak upon the item.</p>	

	<p>UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:</p> <p>The Council agrees that, due to the revised timescale, the progression of the Combined Authority for Leicester and Leicestershire be reported to and considered by the Policy, Finance and Development Committee at its most appropriate meeting during the Autumn Schedule.</p>	
<p>33.</p>	<p><u>PROPOSED RE-APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE 2016/17</u></p> <p>The Council gave consideration to the report and appendix (at pages 13-15) as delivered and summarised by the Senior Democratic Services Officer / Legal Officer which should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council moved the recommendation as set out at paragraph 2 of the report (at page 13).</p> <p>The Deputy Leader of the Council seconded the recommendation.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader stated that, considering the circumstances, the re-appointment of the membership of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee on this occasion was not to set a precedent for adjusting other committee membership numbers in the future.</p> <p>UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:</p> <p>The nominated re-appointment of the membership of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2016/17 (in accordance with the appendix) be approved.</p>	
<p>34.</p>	<p><u>RECEIVING OF MINUTES FOR INFORMATION</u></p> <p>UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:</p> <p>The minutes as set out at agenda item numbers 11a -11l (pages 16 - 85) from the meetings of the below-mentioned Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Outside Bodies for the purposes of information be received by the Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Minutes of the Place Shaping Working Group held on Thursday, 09 June 2016; b. Minutes of the Community Engagement Forum held on Thursday, 30 June 2016; c. Minutes of the Service Delivery Committee held on Tuesday, 05 July 2016; d. Minutes of the Oadby Residents' Forum held on Wednesday, 06 July 2016; e. Minutes of the Greening the Borough Working Group held on Thursday, 07 July 2016; f. Minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on Tuesday, 12 July 2016; g. Minutes of the Wigston Residents' Forum held on Tuesday, 12 July 2016; h. Minutes of the Place Shaping Working Group held on Thursday, 14 July 2016; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Minutes of the Policy, Finance and Development Committee held on Tuesday, 19 July 2016;j. Minutes of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee held on Wednesday, 20 July 2016;k. Minutes of the Change Management Committee held on Thursday, 21 July 2016; andl. Minutes of the Development Control Committee held on Thursday, 28 July 2016	
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THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.09 PM



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MAYOR
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TUESDAY, 06 DECEMBER 2016
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