

## **CITY COUNCIL**

**TUESDAY 6 JANUARY 2015 AT 6.45 PM**

**PRESENT:** The Mayor (Councillor Bowditch), Councillors Allison, Mrs Atkinson, Bainbridge, Bell, Betton, Bloxham, Boaden, Mrs Bowman, Bowman (S), Mrs Bradley, Burns, Cape, Collier, Earp, Ellis, Ms Franklin, Mrs Geddes, Gee, Glover, Graham, Harid, Higgs, Layden, Mrs Mallinson, McDevitt, Mrs McKerrell, Mrs Martlew, Mitchelson, Morton, Nedved, Mrs Parsons, Ms Patrick, Ms Quilter, Mrs Riddle, Scarborough, Miss Sherriff, Southward (C J), Mrs Southward, Mrs Stevenson, Stothard, Taylor, Tickner, Mrs Vasey, Mrs Warwick, Watson and Weber,

Town Clerk and Chief Executive  
Director of Governance

### **C.01/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Caig, Dodd, Mallinson (J), Mrs Prest and Wilson.

### **C.02/15 MINUTES**

Councillor Glover moved and Councillor Mrs Martlew seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on 4 November 2014.

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting of the City Council held on 4 November 2014 be received and signed as a true record of the meeting.

### **C.03/15 PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED** – That the Agenda be agreed as circulated.

### **C.04/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Members declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct in respect of Item 14(2) – Notice of Motion – Firefighters, for the reasons stated:

- Councillor Mrs Mallinson – a close family member is a fireman and she would therefore leave the meeting during that item of business.
- Councillor Bloxham – his son is a serving Fire Officer.

The following Members declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct in respect of Item 15(i) – Discretionary Rate Relief Policy Amendments, for the reasons stated:

- Councillor Harid – due to his business interests, and he would retire from the meeting during that item of business

- Councillor Mitchelson – the interest related to his employment
- Councillor Allison – two family members qualified for discretionary rate relief

## **C.05/15 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **(i) The Mayor**

The Mayor announced that all Members had received a copy of a moving letter which he had received on 8 December 2014 from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum concerning the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Abraham Lincoln. A response was in the course of being prepared, which would also be circulated to Members.

The Mayor also reported that, although not a civic event, a Burns Supper would take place on 23 January 2015. He further expressed grateful thanks to Councillor Harid who had organised a curry night and would be cycling, along with the Mayor of Rochdale, to raise money for the Mayor of Carlisle's Charity Fund.

### **(ii) The Leader of the Council**

There were no announcements from the Leader.

### **(iii) Members of the Executive**

The Deputy Leader, and Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder stated that, as Members were aware, acts of vandalism had occurred in Rickerby Park and Richmond Green. The City Council would offer a reward in the sum of £200 for information leading to the successful prosecution of the offender(s).

The Deputy Leader informed Members that the above decision had not been taken lightly, but was rather designed to send a clear message that such acts would not be tolerated. She further expressed the hope that the reward would lead to a successful conclusion and called on the community to work with the Police in tracking down the perpetrator(s).

### **(iv) Town Clerk and Chief Executive**

There were no announcements from the Town Clerk and Chief Executive.

## **C.06/15 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 10.1, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported that no questions had been submitted on notice by members of the public.

## **C.07/15 PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS**

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 10.11, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported that no petitions or deputations had been submitted by members of the public.

## **C.08/15 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 11.2, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported that no questions had been submitted on notice by members of the City Council.

## **C.09/15      EXECUTIVE**

Councillor Glover moved and Councillor Mrs Martlew seconded the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 10 November, and 8 and 15 December 2014.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 10 November, and 8 and 15 December 2014 be received and adopted.

## **C.10/15      PORTFOLIO HOLDER REPORTS**

Copies of reports from the following Portfolio Holders had been circulated prior to the meeting:

Leader  
Finance, Governance and Resources  
Environment and Transport  
Economy, Enterprise and Housing  
Communities, Health and Wellbeing  
Culture, Leisure and Young People

The Leader moved his report highlighting, in particular, the very successful launch of the Carlisle City WiFi project which had been welcomed in the City. Around ten lamp post banners had been used to promote and support the launch, which could be found around the pedestrianised area of the City Centre. The Leader was most appreciative of the assistance provided in erecting the banners.

The Leader also informed Members that the Ambassador of Finland had recently visited Carlisle during which time very fruitful discussions had taken place. He added that forestry was a key industry in Finland. The Ambassador had met with local businesses and expressed a wish to build upon the relationship initiated during his visit.

The Mayor added that the afternoon in question had indeed been most rewarding.

Whilst moving his report, the Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder drew Members' attention to the sections concerning the eighth annual Celebration of Learning event which had taken place on 2 December 2014; the Carlisle and Eden Best Bar None Scheme 2014 Award Ceremony held on 11 November 2014; and the Disposal Programme. The Portfolio Holder also congratulated those members of staff whose work had contributed to the issue of an excellent and very positive Annual Audit Letter for 2013/14.

The Deputy Leader, and Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder moved her report, summarising the paragraphs concerning Green Spaces - Friends of Engine Lonning – Interpreting Carlisle's railway history; Melbourne Park Play Area consultation; Healthy City; and the Liberty Swing project in Bitts Park. She thanked Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust for their most generous grant of £20,000 towards the Liberty Swing project.

The Deputy Leader added that many positive comments had been received regarding the Christmas Lights in the City Centre and she read out the content of one letter by way of example. She also thanked the Senior Engineering Technician and the Highway Services Manager for their work on the Fireshow.

In response to a statement by Councillor Ellis concerning the liberty swing, the Deputy Leader said that she was most appreciative of the valuable advice provided by the resident in question. Although the equipment was very expensive, she hoped that additional equipment for disabled children may be provided in the future.

The Mayor also asked that his warmest wishes be conveyed to the resident.

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder moved her report. In so doing, the Portfolio Holder outlined the changes resulting from the introduction of new planning legislation with regard to the provision of affordable housing, and the implications for delivery in rural areas. Also, the very important Homelessness Strategy which was currently proceeding through the committee process. The Portfolio Holder wished to place on record thanks to all those involved in the preparation of the Strategy and hoped that people would take the time to read it.

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder moved her report highlighting, in particular, the information provided with regard to Bonfire Night / Operation Roman Candle; and the Northern Silver Screen Awards.

In moving her report, the Culture, Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder highlighted the Arts Centre update and commended all Officers concerned in the project.

Members questioned individual Portfolio Holders on details of their reports and it was:

RESOLVED – (1) That the reports of the Portfolio Holders be received.

(2) That the Deputy Leader, and Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder arrange to:

- (a) Issue letters of thanks to the volunteers who had done a tremendous job in cleaning Rickerby Park, as requested by Councillor Mrs Mallinson;
- (b) Investigate the arrangements in place to repair Cavendish Terrace (an unadopted road), and provide a written response clarifying the matter to Councillor Mrs Mallinson.

(3) That the Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder investigate the mental health aspects of hoarding and respond to Councillor Bainbridge.

(4) That the Culture, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder arrange for the Director of Economic Development to provide:

- (a) a detailed report on all financial contributions towards the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site Partnership Board, as requested by Councillor Nedved; and
- (b) the statement marked 'to follow' as requested by Councillor Mrs Bowman

(5) That the Culture, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder also arrange for the signage pointing to the relocation of the Tourist Information Centre to 40 Scotch Street to be clarified, as requested by Councillor Earp.

**C.11/15      OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MINUTES AND CHAIRMEN'S  
REPORTS**

(a) Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Burns moved and Councillor Mrs Vasey seconded that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 23 October and 25 November 2014 be received and adopted.

Councillor Burns presented his Chairman's Report.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 23 October and 25 November 2014 together with the Chairman's Report be received and adopted.

(b) Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Watson moved and Councillor McDevitt seconded that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 30 October, 27 November and 2 December 2014 be received and adopted.

Councillor Watson also presented his Chairman's Report.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 30 October, 27 November and 2 December 2014 together with the Chairman's Report be received and adopted.

(c) Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Nedved moved and Councillor Watson seconded that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 21 October and 27 November 2014 be received and adopted.

Councillor Nedved also presented his Chairman's Report.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meetings of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 21 October and 27 November 2014 together with the Chairman's Report be received and adopted.

**C.12/15 REGULATORY PANEL**

Councillor Bell moved and Councillor Stothard seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Regulatory Panel held on 12 November 2014.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Regulatory Panel held on 12 November 2014 be received and adopted.

**C.13/15 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

Councillor Scarborough moved and Councillor Bloxham seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the Meetings of the Development Control Committee held on 1 and 3 October, and 5 and 7 November 2014.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Development Control Committee held on 1 and 3 October, and 5 and 7 November 2014 be received and adopted.

## **C.14/15 NOTICE OF MOTION**

### **(1) Carlisle Floods**

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 12, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported the receipt of the following Motion submitted on notice by Councillor Nedved:

“This Council wishes to commemorate the Carlisle Floods of January 7th and 8th 2005, the loss of life and the 2000 households affected. We acknowledge the benefit of the flood alleviation schemes and the good work that was undertaken by government agencies, local authorities, emergency services and charitable organisations.

- 1) A minute of reflection at Council on the 6th January
- 2) A plaque in the Civic Centre foyer to mark these events.

This Council asks that insurance companies and underwriters should provide fair and reasonable premiums that reflect the flood alleviation schemes undertaken both in the City and parishes since 2005.”

Councillor Nedved moved and Councillor Bloxham seconded the motion.

Councillor Nedved then elaborated in some detail upon the reasons for submission of the motion, expressing the hope that the City Council would lend their support.

Wide ranging discussion ensued, during which many tributes were paid and a number of Members of the City Council recalled their own personal experiences of the floods and outlined their support for the Motion.

Following voting, it was:

RESOLVED – That the Motion of Councillor Nedved as set out above be UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

Members then stood for a Minute of reflection upon the Carlisle 2005 flooding event

### **(2) Firefighters**

Councillors Bloxham and Mrs Mallinson, having declared a disclosable pecuniary interest, retired from the meeting during this item of business.

Councillor Mrs Geddes also declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in accordance with the Council’s Code of Conduct and retired from the meeting. The interest related to the fact that her nephew was a firefighter at the MOD.

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 12, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported the receipt of the following Motion submitted on notice by Councillor Miss Sherriff:

“This council wishes to acknowledge the bravery of the fire service in protecting the people of Carlisle, putting their own lives at risk to protect our residents.

We call on the Fire Minister, Penny Mordaunt, to honour the right of firefighters eligible for the Firefighters Pension Scheme, prior to it closing in 2006, to retire at the age of 55, not be forced to continue working until the age of 60. Firefighters should be rewarded for their public service with a fair pension settlement.

The Council resolves to write to the Fire Minister urging her to enter into further negotiations with the Fire Brigades Union with regards to pension age, pension contributions and actuarial rates".

Councillor Miss Sherriff moved and Councillor Glover seconded the motion.

Councillor Miss Sherriff then elaborated in some detail upon the reasons for submission of the motion, expressing the hope that the City Council would lend their support.

Following substantial discussion, with input from a number of Members of the City Council, and voting thereon it was:

RESOLVED – That the Motion of Councillor Miss Sherriff as set out above be CARRIED.

#### **C.15/15      PROPOSALS FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN RELATION TO THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK**

##### **(i)      Discretionary Rate Relief Policy Amendments**

Councillors Allison, Harid and Mitchelson, having declared a disclosable pecuniary interest retired from the meeting during consideration of this item of business.

Pursuant to Minute EX.110/14 and EX.131/14, consideration was given to a recommendation from the Executive concerning proposed additions to the Council's Discretionary Rate Relief Policy.

A copy of Report RD.40/14 and relevant Minute Extracts had been circulated.

Councillor Tickner moved, Councillor Mrs Martlew seconded, and it was:

RESOLVED – That the City Council –

- (1) approved the proposed additions to the City Council's Discretionary Rate Relief Policy, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report RD.40/14, covering the following business premises:

- i. New Build Empty Properties discretion
- ii. Reoccupation Relief for Retail premises
- iii. Flood Support Relief

- (2) Noted that the cost of such relief was met by Government Grant pursuant to Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.

(ii) Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Trust Business Plan 2015 - 2018

Pursuant to Minute EX.122/14 and EX.140/14, consideration was given to recommendations from the Executive concerning the Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Trust Business Plan 2015 – 2018.

A copy of Report SD.01/15 and relevant Minute Extracts had been circulated.

Councillor Ms Quilter clarified that Recommendation (ii) should in fact have read:

“(ii) approve Carlisle City Council’s core funding for 2015/16 of £982,000 as set out in the Tullie House Business Plan”.

Councillor Ms Quilter then moved and Councillor Glover seconded the recommendations as amended.

Councillor Ellis considered the proposed reduction in grant funding to be significant in a short space of time. He asked that the Executive reconsider that aspect as part of the 2015/16 Budget process.

In response, Councillor Ms Quilter indicated that the Executive was hoping to phase in the further reductions referred to. She further quoted from the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chairman’s report which recorded that “It was good to hear the representatives say that they had a positive and robust relationship with Members and Officers of the Council and while clearly, they didn’t exactly welcome the proposed reductions in their grant, they were bullish about their ability to withstand them.”

At the request of Councillor Allison, the Leader clarified the proposed reduction in grant funding.

Following voting, it was :

RESOLVED – That the City Council:

1. Approved the Tullie House Business Plan for 2015 – 18.
2. Approved Carlisle City Council’s core funding for 2015/16 of £982,000 as set out in the Tullie House Business Plan.

(iii) Dates and Times of Meetings for 2015/16

Pursuant to Minute EX.132/14, consideration was given to recommendations from the Executive concerning the Schedule of dates and times of meetings for 2015/16. A copy of report GD.01/15 and the Minute Extract had been circulated.

Councillor Tickner moved and Councillor Glover seconded the recommendations.

RESOLVED – (1) That the schedule of dates and times of meetings in the 2015/16 municipal year, as set out in the calendar attached as an Appendix to Report GD.01/15, be approved.



(2) That the dates and times of meetings of the Executive as chosen by the Leader be noted.

(iv) Review of Polling Arrangements

Pursuant to Minute EX.141/14, consideration was given to a report of the Director Governance regarding the Review of Polling Arrangements and the recommendations contained therein. A copy of Report GD.02/15 and Minute Extract had been circulated.

Councillor Tickner moved and Councillor Glover seconded the recommendations.

Councillor Tickner also responded to a Member's concerns.

RESOLVED – That it be agreed that:

1. No changes be made to current polling district boundaries at this time but that the position with regard to development in the polling districts itemised in paragraphs 34 and 35 be kept under review.
2. The polling arrangements in the following Wards remain unchanged:

**Belle Vue  
Belah  
Burgh  
Botcherby  
Castle  
Currock**

**Denton Holme  
Great Corby & Geltsdale  
Harraby  
Hayton  
Irthing**

**Lyne  
St. Aidans  
Stanwix Rural  
Upperby  
Yewdale**

3. The new Community Centre at Wetheral be used as a replacement polling station for polling district RE.
4. The new Parish Centre at St. Augustines be used as the replacement polling station for polling district BD.
5. Given the suitability of the current polling station location and the timescales for completion of residential developments to the north of the town, the current polling arrangements for Longtown remain unchanged but that the situation be reviewed in future years.
6. The current polling arrangements for voters in the Kirkandrews on Esk Parish (PE3) be continued.
7. The Irthing Centre continue to be used as the polling station for polling district PKA.
8. The Moot Hall continue to be used as the polling station for polling district PK.
9. A portable cabin be sited in polling district KC and be the designated polling place for polling district KC.

10. Subject to the approval of the St. Cuthbert Without Parish Council, a portable cabin be sited on Blackwell Common where it fronts on to Low Moor Avenue and be the designated polling place for polling district OF.
11. Officers continue to monitor the use of portable cabins as polling stations and continue to investigate potential alternatives. It be further recommended that Officers discuss with the supplier the use of a number of self contained units and improved units with a wider door as detailed in paragraph 24 at a number of polling station locations where portable cabins are currently used.
12. The Returning Officer be given authority, after consultation with relevant Ward Councillors and Portfolio Holder, to change polling place locations at the City Council elections if the usual premises prove to be unavailable due to unforeseen circumstances.

**C.16/15      OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES CALL-IN  
AND URGENCY**

Pursuant to Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 15(i), consideration was given to a report of the Director of Governance (GD.04/15) on procedures in respect of occasions where decisions taken by the Executive were urgent.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

**C.17/15      COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications or items of business brought forward by the Mayor as a matter of urgency to be dealt with at the meeting.

(The meeting ended at 9.22 pm)