

COUNCIL

Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Urban Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield,

on Thursday, 29th November, 2018 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Glenys Maxwell in the Chair;

Councillors Lee Anderson, Chris Baron, Rachel Bissett, Tony Brewer, Amanda Brown, Tim Brown, Cheryl Butler, Christian Chapman, Don Davis, David Griffiths, Helen Hollis, Tom Hollis, John Knight, Rachel Madden, Cathy Mason, Lauren Mitchell, Keir Morrison, Lachlan Morrison, Mick Murphy, Nicolle Ndiweni, Christine Quinn-Wilcox, Paul Roberts, Kevin Rostance, Phil Rostance, Robert Sears-Piccavey, Helen-Ann Smith, Mike Smith, John Wilmott, Sam Wilson and Jason Zadrozny.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Jim Aspinall and Jackie James.

Officers Present: Lynn Cain, Richard Crossland, Ruth Dennis, Martin Elliott, Peter Hudson, Robert Mitchell and Shane Wright.

C.50 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

C.51 Minutes

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 11th October and 23rd October, 2018, as now submitted, be received and approved.

(During consideration of the minutes, Councillor Mike Smith entered the meeting at 7.02 p.m.)

C.52 Announcements from the Chairman, Leader, Members of the Cabinet and the Head of Paid Service

Chairman

“Personally I have one announcement to make. After the meeting in the room behind, there are drinks, sherry and wine and I think there are a few mince pies. So you are quite welcome to come and join us.”

Leader of the Council

"I do, Madam Chairman, thank you, I'll give a brief report on my portfolio.

"Regeneration and Place Area: Place Enhancement: Discover Ashfield, the new brand for the District, was launched in November at the Mansfield and Ashfield 2020 Business Meeting and with a very positive article in the Chad. The brand will be promoted at Christmas events with information provided on the brand as well as give-aways and competitions.

The Discover Ashfield website is up and running, helping to promote the area for business investment, to boost visitor numbers and tourism as well as increasing pride in our communities. We are recruiting Discover Ashfield ambassadors who will be supported to promote the District from a business, community and/or visitor perspective.

Moving forward sub-groups from the Place Board will be implementing an action plan to support these themes. We've already secured a number of place brand ambassadors including Rolls Royce and it's been very ably chaired by Martin Ridley who I would, again, like to put thanks from the Administration for all the work that he's done.

In terms of economic growth, Madam Chairman, a blue chip IT company, after some serious lobbying from this Council, has decided to open an operation at Sherwood Business Park and planning to create around 200 jobs there over the next two years. Corporate Communications Officers are working with their counterparts at the company to co-ordinate the publicity. A public announcement and launch event is expected in the very early new year.

Unfortunately, though it would appear that Prolog will be closing their Sherwood Business Park distribution operation with the potential loss of around 500 jobs. We understand that Prolog is looking for another operator to take on the plant and the workforce and we wish them well in that search. We have been working with the DWP's Rapid Response Team and will be doing what we can to help any affected local residents to find alternative employment should Prolog's search for another owner not be successful.

With D2N2 consultations we have submitted our second set of comments back on the D2N2 Draft Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). This Council's feedback in September has resulted in a more recent consultation on our recent feedback and has been largely very supportive.

A more important consultation is still to come in the early new year with the D2N2 Local Industry Strategy (LIS) due to be created. This LIS, aligned with the finalised SEP, will be more focussed on where and how future funding, predominantly in the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund, will be spent making it very important that our views are incorporated. The Shared Prosperity Fund will affectively replace the EU's ESIF funding, including the ERDF2 funding and ESF funding etc.

The Future High Street's Fund was announced in the last budget to help the LEP's Government contracts put together the guidance. D2N2 have been asked to suggest the types of town centre projects that might be considered

eligible for funding. The £8M N2 Town Centre Improvement Programme pulled together by the RSS and run by NCC has made the area a trusted expert in such things. Officers are currently pulling together a list of potential projects that might benefit from Future High Streets funding probably focused on Sutton in Ashfield.

Town Centres and Markets: a Winter 2018 Newsletter was circulated to all shops in the three town centres highlighting Small Business Saturday, social media skills training, free weekend parking in Council car parks throughout December, Christmas shop window competitions, tree lighting events and business grant funding.

The Take a Seat initiative was launched in Ashfield in partnership with Age Friendly Nottinghamshire with over 50 local retailers and businesses that signed up for over a three week period. Myself, County Councillor Samantha Deakin and the Chairman of that board at the County Council opened that in Idlewells in Sutton in Ashfield.

Idlewells Indoor Market is due to reach 75% of occupancy before Christmas with the introduction of a fruit and veg stall already in. The Artisan Cobbler and a fishmonger is in place, taking their stalls up now. The market has been supported and promoted through a number of events during the run up to Christmas and signage is due to be installed within the Idlewells and externally. Members will remember the dire state that market was in with just over 30% occupancy when I took over this portfolio.

It was in a terrible state, the market, it was just over 30% occupancy. We're very pleased that it's now at 75% and vibrant. I will inform Members that the tenacity of Trevor Middleton in that department and me personally negotiating a number of contracts with stalls has been successful.

Planning: We've now published our Local Development Scheme which sets out the timeline for producing the New Local Plan. Our next step is to issue a call to landowners to put forward sites they wish to be considered for inclusion in the New Plan. This will take place in January.

In the meantime, officers are working up a detailed timetable to work with Members to develop the new vision and options for future development and build a revised evidence base for the New Plan. The consultation on the new design guide for the conversion of retail premises into residential has now closed. The response to the consultation and any amendments will be reported in January.

The Hucknall Town Centre Conservation Area Consultation is due to close on the 7th January and will be reported in due course. Work is currently underway on the Sutton Masterplan which will also be reported in due course.

Finally, I've been working with officers to develop a response to the consultation to HS2. A response is shortly to be issued to HS2 which covers key concerns and the potential for mitigating the worst effects of development as well as the economic, social and environmental opportunities for this Council.

It's clear that some of our residents will be deeply affected by the HS2 proposals but we are working hard to influence how HS2 responds to those concerns and also helps Ashfield to capitalise on the available opportunities.

We continue to work to ensure that empty buildings are safe and secure and owners are being actively encouraged to bring back buildings into use. We would much rather work with owners on a voluntary basis, however, we will not hesitate to take enforcement actions where buildings are in a dilapidated or dangerous state.

That does now include the Police Station in Sutton in Ashfield, which we have been lobbying the Police and Crime Commissioner to get rid of as an eyesore in the public realm. At the last Police and Crime Panel which I attended and he announced that he is going to put that up for sale for residential use. So hopefully that place would be put back into space. I've attended all of mine rather than the eight months that were left by the previous Leader, Madam Chair."

Cabinet Member (Outward Focus)

"Thank you, Madam Chairman, I'll talk a little bit about the issues that I've been involved in.

First of all, Better Care Funding: Since September 2017 we have assisted 69 tenants to remain in their homes and live independently with the aid of additional assistive technology grants totalling £17,000. The types of sensors that have been fitted are fall detectors, smoke detectors, property exit sensors and bed occupancy sensors. Throughout the funding project we have received positive feedback from both the service user and their families that the equipment provided has given peace of mind and aided hospital discharges.

Tenants Roadshows: During October and November 2018 we held four Universal Credit Roadshows across the District to advise on the rollout of Universal Credit and to offer advice and assistance. In attendance were Welfare Reform staff, Housing, the DWP, Nottinghamshire County Council Welfare team, Ashfield District Ashfield Citizens' Bureau and our Revenues team. The roadshows were well received by tenants who attended these, with many of them thanking us for taking time to explain about UC and for offering to provide support and assistance. The roadshows also encouraged many tenants who couldn't attend to arrange home visits with us to discuss their individual circumstances.

Tenants Portal: As part of our digital service transformation a new Tenant Portal will be launched in the next few weeks which will fully integrate with our Housing Management System to offer customers a secure and seamless user journey and real time data such as rent account balances and repair tracking.

The new self-service online portal which is named the Tenant Portal will allow tenants to view their tenancy details and amend their contact information, view their rent account statements and current balance, request and view repairs, e-mail their assigned officers, contact us and make online payments. An engagement plan has been agreed with our Communications Team to maximum awareness and registration of the portal.

Homelessness Review and Strategy: The Council is working in partnership with Mansfield District Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council to review its homelessness service and devise a strategy that will help determine future priorities for the service. The review stage is nearing completion and the findings will be made available for consideration and comment in December.

The Council has successfully implemented the requirements of the new Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. The Act that came into effect in April 2018 has brought with it fundamental changes to the role and responsibility of the Council in assisting residents who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. The impact of these changes will form an important part of the revenue and the subsequent strategy document.

Winter Warmth Campaign: This winter the Council's Strategic Housing team in partnership with the Corporate Communications team will soon be launching a campaign aimed at keeping older and vulnerable residents warm this winter. In addition to focusing on those in need the campaign will seek to reach out to families, friends and the wider community. A key part of the campaign will be a series of winter pledges that we would encourage Members and residents to commit to.

Winter Homelessness Shelter: Once again this winter the Council will be working in partnership with Mansfield District Council to ensure accommodation is available for those who are homeless and rough sleeping. And like in previous years, the shelter will be open seven days a week this year running from the 1st of December through to March. The provision is over and above what the Council is duty bound to provide under the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol. The shelter will be located in Mansfield but transport will be provided for those who are referred and need assistance to get there.

Section 106 Properties: The Council has completed the purchase of nine properties on the Persimmon development at the former Rolls Royce site in Hucknall. All nine properties are now let and local residents in housing need have taken up residency. The Council continues to look for similar opportunities with a view to purchasing more S106 properties to add to the housing stock.

Procurement: The Housing and Assets Directorate have successfully procured the Property Health and Safety Check Partnership, that's gas, solid fuel servicing and electrical testing, which included the re-profiling of how this service was delivered to a rolling eleven month programme. This has realised both operational benefits for officers and support services while maintaining 100% compliance and has engineered a recurring saving to this Authority of £60,000 a year, year on year. With scope to make further saving throughout the duration of the partnership.

And finally, Apprentice Success: In October 2018 plumbing apprentice Keaton Pierce was entered into the D2N2 Public Service Compact Apprentice of the Year Awards and was selected as the overall winner of the Apprentice of the Year Award. A great acumen to the work that this Council is doing."

Cabinet Member (Joint Focus)

“Okay, just hopefully some nice brief updates.

The Council’s Community Safety team obviously continues to work tirelessly to keep the residents safe. We’ve got new patrol plans that have been developed to ensure good breadth of focus including patrolling schools, parks, town centres, estates, hot spot locations. CPO’s focusing on problem solving and prevention on the street. Enforcement and reporting issues to the right services with the majority of time now spent on foot.

Members may also be aware that one of our officers was injured in the line of duty at the weekend following an assault while addressing an off road motorcycle issue. Whilst the CPO was badly bruised they produced a statement and provided CCTV evidence to the Police and action will be taken.

We most recently had a possession of a Council property, having been granted, which has gone to the High Court and has been ongoing for several years, demonstrating the team’s dedication and perseverance to resolving anti-social behaviour. The warrant will be executed on the 5th of December for possession of that property.

The Council has led a multi-agency approach in addressing issues in Sutton town centre. Key issues including the scale of the problem impacted by Mamba users in the town centre, substance misuse options, housing provision and charitable offerings. Some of the key individuals are now in treatment due to the continuous efforts and work of the seconded Drugs Misuse Officer.

Work has taken place regarding the suitability of charitable offerings. Tenancy enforcement and management of individuals, custodial sentences, drugs intelligence being supplied. Ensuring the community and the traders are confident with using these areas.

We have had one of our ASB and Nuisance Officers threatened in Sutton town centre. Statements have been provided and the offender has been prosecuted at Court. We have had two injunctions granted to safeguard a vulnerable resident and both offenders have been issued conditions to not enter specific locations and to manage their behaviours.

Ashfield District Council are taking forward 16 days of activism on the White Ribbon Campaign from the 25th of this month so that’s ongoing. We’ve got events across Ashfield including Kings Mill Hospital, West Notts. College, Sutton Idlewells, Hucknall Broomhill Children’s Centre and Jacksdale Community Centre.

I’m sad to say that currently we have four domestic homicide reviews ongoing. Two are expected to be completed in the early new year.

From a community safety point of view, we have funding confirmation from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government securing finances for a dispersed refuge accommodation located within Ashfield until 2020. The Council will work with the provider to support the sustained services moving forward and I feel this is a great service for Ashfield.

Just want to come onto some important environmental health notices that I've got. The Environmental Health team and Legal have successfully prosecuted a case against Alliance Care Dale Homes Limited at Nottingham Crown Court. Alliance Care were ordered to pay a fine of £600,000 and costs totalling a £100,000 for failing to ensure health and safety of residents and employees of Kestrel Lodge Care Home in Kirkby in Ashfield. This is an extremely sad case.

The details first arose when Environmental Health Officers investigated a confirmed legionella case on the 6th of November, 2012. A 90 year old resident in good health when he entered the home some ten weeks before contracted legionella and died on the 15th of November, 2012. Ashfield Council brought the case because the company's failings had exposed vulnerable residents and staff to the home to very poor standards of care and serious risks in relation to their safety from the water management. I am delighted that as a Council we have demonstrated that we will not accept poor standards in this District.

I can also announce that we're holding a Healthy Options Takeaway event in the new year to showcase suggested ways of providing healthy alternatives and demonstrating the use of substituting ingredients. We're also pushing forward showing the actual healthiness of our takeaway outlets within the area. So if you ever want to go and have a look at how these are rated, not only on how good they are on the various apps that you can find them on but actually how their health is going, you can go to <http://ratings.food.gov.uk>. We put all of our outlets on that site and you can go on there, have a look and you can see actually how they rate on the healthy assessments. The scores are updated monthly. So obviously we keep it as up to date as we can.

And one nice bit of news, the Council has once again scooped top awards at the RSPC's Annual Community Animal Welfare Award for stray dog services. The Council has won three awards, Gold, Diamond and Platinum, which were presented earlier this week. We are only one of four authorities to win all three of these awards.

Despite this we are not resting on our laurels, stray dogs' protocols have recently been reviewed and our working with local vets continue to improve processes with reuniting pets and their owners as quickly as possible. The protocol is currently out to consultation with local vets and obviously we'll be getting that back soon and acting on it.

Finally, the study in relation to the Ministerial Direction air quality has been accepted and acknowledged for its good work by the Government and the air quality issues identified will be resolved sooner than anticipated.

I thank you for your time."

Deputy Leader of the Council (Inward Focus)

"Thank you, Madam Chair.

So obviously quite an exciting time in the Leisure and Activities portfolio. Particularly an update on Selston Leisure Centre transfer. The transfer operations to the Two Counties Trust is progressing on schedule. In regards

to the new Kirkby Leisure Centre, obviously with the swimming pool, site feasibility studies are in train and scheduled sites will be updated at the January's Cabinet.

Moving on, the Lammas Leisure Centre celebrated its 10th anniversary recently. It was a fantastic day of activity hosted by the Olympian and TV personality Colin Jackson. That took place obviously at the Lammas Leisure Centre on Saturday November the 3rd. Other celebrities on-site were Olly Hynd, Commonwealth World swimming medallist and Paralympic champion. Forest Glade Choir sang a Happy Birthday to Lammas Leisure Centre with a specially adapted song and there was a number of free activities along with raffles and free memberships that were won during that day.

Being Mobile with Everyone Active launch recently: Launch of a spectacular mobile app took place on Saturday the 10th of November at Sutton Lawn. We were joined by local families who took part in a number of fitness activities including a fitness trail along with Everyone Active's team. The launch is a start of a series of sessions which will lead to Everyone Active and Sutton Lawn at the Kings Mill Reservoir in the new year.

Of course we've had the fantastic event just down the road here with the poppy downfall on the 19th of November. We've had obviously the Remembrance Day Parades which were absolutely fantastic. We attended particularly the one in Huthwaite which I went to. There was easily twice as many people there as normal and it was, I know Councillor Anderson joined me there, it was absolutely fantastic and I've heard the one in Sutton was the busiest they've ever seen it as well and I only hope that can continue going forward.

Events to look forward to: the first Christmas event is the Kirkby Christmas Festival on Friday the 30th, 4pm until 8pm. Then we've got Sutton on the 1st of December, 10am until 4pm and then Hucknall on Wednesday the 5th, 4pm until 8pm and there's a number of other activities going off in December which again I'll circulate to Members.

And finally, and not by no means least, Ashfield Council are working in partnership with SureStart on local breastfeeding peer supporters and volunteers to encourage further sign-ups to the Breastfeeding Friendly Scheme with a particular focus on Sutton town centre and surrounding areas.

So that's kind of a brief update on my portfolio, Chair, and obviously with particular emphasis to developments in the leisure centre programme, it's fair to say it's quite an exciting brief to currently hold at this Council, Chair, thank you."

Deputy Leader of the Council (Outward Focus)

"Thank you, Chair, I will be brief, just a few things that I wanted to pick up on.

First of all, I'm happy to report that we're making good progress continuously on development and implementing a wide range of improvement projects with several projects completed already as part of the Greenspace Play Projects.

The Play Strategy: a number of projects were presented to Cabinet in October as part of the Play Strategy to invest up to a £120,000 in each of the four areas of the District over the next four years, with the Rurals area prioritised in year one, subject to approval at Council this evening.

The following projects will be progressed: Friezeland recreation ground, Underwood, outdoor gym and scooter park; multi-use games area at Jacksdale Recreation Ground and an extension to the main car park in Jacksdale. Proposals for a new play area in Broomhill Park in Hucknall are being progressed, the design and selection of the new equipment is now complete and quotations are being sought from local contractors for installation.

The new play provision is being developed in close consultation with local schools, community groups and local neighbouring residents. It is envisaged that the opening event will be held before the end of March once the works are complete. Works to replace old play equipment at Sutton Lawn, Morven Park and West Park in Kirkby are due to be completed by March next year. The Council is working with Sutton Junction Residents Association to complete the replacement of the play area at Roundhills Recreation Ground.

There has been a significant amount of money put into improvements to bowling greens within the District namely at Huthwaite, Sutton Lawn, Titchfield Park in Kirkby and at Kingsway Park. Kingsway Park works to improve the main grass football pitch on Kingsway Park have been completed. The new perimeter fence and spectator hardstanding area and barriers, improved access for spectators and players and new dug-out provided.

The Kings Mill Reservoir Heritage Project was presented to the Heritage Lottery along with a project tour in final preparation for the grants panel meeting on the 29th of November.

The group tour included the Leader and the Chief Executive of the Council along with the Environment Agency and Chair of Sherwood NHS Trust. Hosting the Heritage Lottery provided an opportunity to discuss how the project will improve local greenspaces and sustainability, support wider benefits to visitor economy and greater opportunities to improve health and wellbeing. If successful, the commencement of the improvements would start from January 2019.

Discover Ashfield is now showcasing the Council's town centres and beautiful parks and open spaces. This clean-up campaign shows residents that the Council remains committed to maintaining and developing these fabulous spaces in spite of the national conversation around reducing greenspaces.

Tackling fly tipping is a priority for the Council and residents will now start to see signage around the District highlighting our new CCTV cameras. Our Environmental Enforcement Officer is investigating all reports of fly tipping and working hard to gather evidence for prosecution. We urge all residents to report any fly tipping they see to environment@ashfield.gov.uk including details of vehicles or perpetrators if you have it.

Brierley Forest Visitors Centre has a new operator who will be moving into the site imminently. Once the legal documents are signed you will see the site open for traditional breakfast, a lunchtime offer, an afternoon tea offer and a new evening offer.

In Hucknall Titchfield Park, the Council has selected an operator to take over the running of Titchfield Park café in Hucknall. The current operator is due to move out on the 1st of December 2018 and the new operator will take over shortly after. The new operator will continue to work with the sports teams and park users at the site. Look out for exciting new menus to come.

Last few bits, Madam Chairman, around waste. Residents of Ashfield will have received their new calendars which highlights the Christmas collection dates. There's some information on the calendars to support residents with their recycling. We'll be also releasing information on how to have a sustainable Christmas by recycling as much as possible. Hints and tips will be released over the month of December. The Council remains committed to helping residents recycle as much as possible as we strive for the 50% target by 2020. Look out for our Waste Advisor at the local Christmas events who will be providing advice on what can be recycled and giving away goodies to help reduce waste.

We're gearing up for Christmas tree collections in January for those residents who prefer the real deal at Christmas. Look out for the collection information on our website which will also be on Facebook and Twitter.

And on the last note, it's just to remind residents that the first red lidded bin collection after Christmas, we will be accepting one bag of side waste also to help residents get through the busy period of Christmas.

Thank you, Madam Chairman."

(During the announcements, Councillors Lachlan Morrison and Keir Morrison left the room at 7.12 p.m. and 7.16 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 7.14 p.m. and 7.20 p.m. respectively. Councillor John Knight also entered the meeting at 7.08 p.m.)

C.53 Questions from the Public

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, the following questions had been submitted:-

Question 1

From Ms. Natalie Bryan:

"To the Portfolio Holder for Environment:

It has been revealed that during the 'Ashfield Big Spring Clean' that asbestos was dumped in the skip on Babbacombe Way (in Hucknall). Will the portfolio holder now accept responsibility for exposing the public, council workers and contractors to this hazardous, carcinogenic material?"

The Deputy Leader of the Council (Outward Focus) responded to the question as follows:-

“Thank you for your question Miss Byron. The Big Ashfield Spring Clean was a campaign run by this Council for three weeks throughout May and June this year which encouraged residents to clear out their waste. Skips and bin lorries were provided for residents use.

The campaign was a great success which enabled residents to dispose of over 80 tonnes of waste. In Hucknall, for instance, I was delighted to join Councillor John Wilmott, alongside local residents Rebecca Cullen and Lee Waters, in cleaning Titchfield Park before heading off into the Hucknall town centre.

Information received by both this Council and Councillor John Wilmott is that it was overwhelmingly welcomed by local people in Hucknall. Indeed, we look to next year, the day when the Spring Clean returns to Hucknall.

Back to your question about last year’s Spring Clean, the skips used for the campaign were provided by a specialist waste disposal contractor who was able to process all of the waste put into the skips.

In Hucknall on Babbacombe Way there was a small amount of construction waste, around 100 kilograms and that construction waste contained about 1% of asbestos. The equivalent of a bag of sugar. The specialist skip company using their own employees was able to remove the asbestos and dispose of it safely following their own internal risk assessments and policies.

Council crews carried out checks on the skip sites to ensure that any waste needing specialist disposal could be reported to the contractor. All necessary precautions were taken and there were no further incidents of asbestos waste identified. It’s important to note that no other asbestos was found in any other skips in the three weeks that our Spring Clean was carried out.

Due to the fact we collected fine grained data on the Spring Clean, opposition Members are aware of the issue regarding the small amount of asbestos. Members will also be aware that there are plenty of incidents where construction waste including asbestos is fly tipped by unscrupulous contractors for our environmental crews to pick up. Our crews are fully aware of protocols around finding asbestos as is the skip company which we used. You should also note that asbestos is not harmful if left untouched.

Regarding the Spring Clean, although skips were not manned they were monitored and all necessary precautions were taken. The skip company took full responsibility for the waste and dealt with it through their procedures.

Thank you.”

The Chairman then gave Ms. Bryan the opportunity to ask a supplementary question and she responded as follows:-

“Thank you. Given that there is no safe level of asbestos exposure and the detection was not actually until after ADC workers had cleaned around the skip site, will the Portfolio Holder and I think the Leader of the Administration, now

give a personal apology to both the ADC refuse workers and residents of Ashfield, in particular in Hucknall living on Babbacombe Way, for failing to anticipate the very real probability that hazardous waste, including asbestos, could have been dumped in unmanned skips. And will they further give a guarantee that they will not make the same mistakes in the future."

The Deputy Leader of the Council (Outward Focus) again responded to the supplementary question as follows:-

"Thank you for your question, Miss Bryan. I can guarantee that on any future project that procedures have been put in place to prevent it from happening again. I do feel that I did give a complete answer to your question within my previous answer.

However, I'm delighted to be able to take this opportunity to announce this week that the Cabinet have approved the Big Ashfield Spring Clean which will be taking place again next year. I'm thrilled that we can offer a service that will help all residents across the District. We'll be driving down every single street making it easier for residents to dispose of their rubbish and I know last year there was some residents that struggled to use the skips due to work commitments. This new approach will accommodate all residents.

We'll be running a free bulky waste collection service for the duration of the Spring Clean and we'll be working with local community groups and organisations to carry out community litter picks. It will be our staff collecting and disposing of the waste into the lorries. This will prevent any further trade waste from being disposed of in our skips in the future as part of our projects.

Thank you."

Question 2

From Ms. Lynda Mcleod, on behalf of Butlers Hill Project Community Group, Hucknall:

"To Councillor Helen-Ann Smith as the Portfolio Holder responsible for Parks and Open Spaces:

The proposed banning of dogs from Ashfield sports pitches & parks is a move which will punish responsible dog owners who clean up after their pets. Will the portfolio holder responsible confirm that these proposals will not go any further?"

The Deputy Leader of the Council (Outward Focus) responded to the question as follows:-

"Thank you, Ms. Mcleod, for your question. Firstly, I just want to condemn a leaflet that's been distributed throughout Hucknall and Harlow Wood and Sutton Junction on this issue. I have asked the Police to look into this as it's a breach of the Representation of the Peoples Act. Because it is a blatant lie. Can I say, Ms. Mcleod, that I'm sorry that a clear misrepresentation of the fact has been led to your question this evening. I hope that if you are contacted by the Police you can assist them in their enquiries.

The impact of the Labour Party deliberately misleading residents has an adverse impact on the delivery of the Council services in our District. Dozens of residents have contacted our Council's customer services for clarification on claims that as your question asks, we are proposing to ban dogs from Ashfield's sports pitches and parks. Let me make this quite clear, Ms. Mcleod, Ashfield District is absolutely not proposing to ban dogs from Council owned parks or open spaces.

The Council is looking at options to prevent dog fouling on sports pitches where children play as it is unacceptable for sports clubs to have to pick up dog faeces before they can enjoy a game of football. That is all. There will not be, nor has it ever been proposed, a ban on dogs from our parks. We are not targeting responsible dog owners. There will not, nor has it ever been proposed, a ban on dogs from our parks. We are not targeting responsible dog owners but committed to providing safe and clean recreational space for all residents to enjoy.

I was recently sent a picture from a mother in Leamington. Her son was playing football on the Twitchell Recreation Ground and came home covered in dog muck. The mother didn't want dogs banning from sports pitches, she just wanted dog owners to be more responsible.

At the Full Council in October there was a motion for the Council to consider banning all dogs from Council owned football and sports pitches. The decision which was taken was to further investigate the issue. There was no request to ban dogs from parks. Subsequent leaflets from the Labour Party picked this issue up as a community campaign.

The Council resolves ongoing complaints of dog faeces being left on sports pitches by irresponsible owners for those who then use the facility to have to clean up before they can play. Our investigations will explore this issue in more detail before coming to any conclusions. There is currently a Public Space Protection Order in place enabling enforcement action relating to a number of types of issues including dog fouling, not carrying a suitable receptacle to pick up dog faeces, maximum numbers of dogs on leads, maximum number of dogs on a lead by direction, dog exclusion areas for enclosed sports areas and enclosed children's play areas and parks.

Again I want to strongly reiterate that this Council does not want to discourage responsible dog owners from using our beautiful award winning parks across our District. Any other assertion on this issue from the Labour Party is simply a tawdry lie. Thank you, Madam Chairman."

The Chairman then gave Ms. Mcleod the opportunity to ask a supplementary question and she responded as follows:-

"If this ban does go ahead, how do you actually propose to put a stop to it? There doesn't seem to be any presence at the moment of PCSO's in the area or anything, so how is this actually going to work if it does go ahead?"

The Deputy Leader of the Council (Outward Focus) again responded to the supplementary question as follows:-

"I refer to my previous answer, there will be no ban on dogs on play areas. The only ban on dogs in play areas is enclosed play spaces. Like, for example, where you've got an enclosed children's park. But those bans are already in place.

We don't want to stop dog owners being able to walk their dogs, which is one of the reasons why this Cabinet have looked into different options and we're working with a company that's going to be providing, free to the Council, big noticeboards in all the parks in the District with free poo bags for people to collect them themselves. So we're not, we don't want to ban dog owners from parks.

We want to encourage dog owners to go to parks but we want to encourage them to be more responsible. This is just not true. What is true is that this Council will work with the residents, the communities, to make their lives better. To make the lives of children better. So children aren't walking into their house after playing football covered in dog faeces. We want to do the best for our residents and this is just scaremongering.

Thank you, Madam Chairman."

(At this point in the proceedings, a point of clarification was requested and following the response the meeting was adjourned at 7.45 p.m. and reconvened at 7.48 p.m.)

C.54 Petitions

No petitions were received for consideration.

(Councillors Chris Baron, Cathy Mason, Lauren Mitchell and Helen-Ann Smith returned to the meeting following the adjournment at 7.49 p.m.)

C.55 Report on Urgent Key Decision

The Leader of the Council advised as follows:-

"In accordance with Rule 17.2 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules it is necessary for me to inform the Council when an executive decision has been taken pursuant to Rule 16 (Special Urgency Provisions.)

I can confirm to the Council that one such decision has been taken by the Cabinet as a matter of urgency recently.

The decision related to the acquisition of a commercial investment property. The decision was key and contained exempt information but the full 28 days' notice could not be given due to the need to proceed with the transaction without delay.

The Rule 16 Notice and the non-exempt elements of the decision have been published."

C.56 Polling District and Polling Places Review

Council were requested to consider the proposals for revised polling districts and polling places following a periodic review required by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.

RESOLVED that

- a) the recommendations of the Review Working Group as set out in the minutes of the meetings held on 22nd May, 5th September and 7th November, 2018, as outlined at Appendices A, B and C, be approved;
- b) the final proposals report setting out the changes to the polling districts and polling places, as outlined at Appendix D, be approved;
- c) the Chief Executive be requested to formally publish the notice of conclusion of the review, its findings, the responses from consultees and all other relevant documentation;
- d) should a polling place be unavailable in the run up to an election, delegated authority be granted to the (Acting) Returning Officer to select an appropriate alternative with formal retrospective approval being sought from Council following the election should this be a permanent proposed change.

Reason:

To comply with the legislation requiring the Council to undertake periodic reviews of polling district and polling places.

(During consideration of this item, Councillor Cathy Mason left the room at 7.53 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 7.54 p.m.)

C.57 Recommendations from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees

In accordance with the Council Procedure Rule 2(ix), Council considered the following recommendations:-

Minute No. L.7

Licensing Committee – 8th November, 2018

Review of the Statement of Licensing Policy

RESOLVED

that the draft revised Statement of Licensing Policy (effective from 31st January, 2019), as presented, be approved;

Minute No. L.8

Licensing Committee – 8th November, 2018

Review of the Statement of Gambling Policy

RESOLVED

that the draft revised Statement of Gambling Policy (effective from 31st January, 2019), as presented, be approved;

Minute No. CA.52(d)
Cabinet – 26th November, 2018
Budget Monitoring (Position to September 2018) –
General Fund, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Capital Programme

RESOLVED

that the new capital schemes, as outlined in the Cabinet report as presented, be approved.

C.58 Notices of Motion 1

The Council received a notice of motion moved by Councillor Lachlan Morrison and seconded by Councillor Don Davis as follows:-

“Breaking Point campaign

This Council notes that many council budgets are now at Breaking Point. Austerity has caused huge damage to communities up and down the UK, with devastating effects on key public services that protect the most defenceless in society – children at risk, disabled adults and vulnerable older people – and the services we all rely on, like clean streets, libraries, and children’s centres;

- *Tory cuts mean councils have lost 60p out of every £1 that the last Labour Government was spending on local government in 2010;*
- *Councils had to spend an extra £800m last year to meet the demand on vital services to protect children by over;*
- *With an aging population and growing demand adult social care faces a gap of £3.5 billion – with only 14% of council workers now confident that vulnerable local residents are safe and cared for;*
- *Government cuts have seen over 500 children’s centres and 475 libraries close, potholes are left unfilled, and 80% of councils’ workers now say have no confidence in the future of local services;*
- *Northamptonshire has already gone bust due to Tory incompetence at both national and local level, and more councils are predicted to collapse without immediate emergency funding;*
- *Councils now face a further funding gap of £7.8 billion by 2025 just to keep services ‘standing still’ and meeting additional demand. Even Lord Gary Porter, the Conservative Chair of the Local Government Association, has said ‘Councils can no longer be expected to run our vital local services on a shoestring’;*

This Council condemns Chief Secretary to the Treasury Liz Truss for stating on BBC Newsnight on 1st October, 2018 that the government is “not making cuts to local authorities”, when all independent assessments of government spending show that this is entirely false; and that this Council further notes that Prime Minister Theresa May has also claimed that “austerity is over” despite planning a further £1.3bn of cuts to council budgets over the next year;

This Council agrees with the aims of the 'Breaking Point' petition signed by Labour councillors across the country, in calling for the Prime Minister and Chancellor to truly end austerity in local government by:

- *Using the Budget to reverse next years planned £1.3bn cut to council budgets;*
- *Immediately investing £2bn in children's services and £2bn in adult social care to stop these vital emergency services from collapsing;*
- *Pledging to use the Spending Review to restore council funding to 2010 levels over the next four years;*

This Council resolves to:

- *Support the 'Breaking Point' campaign, recognising the devastating impact that austerity has had on our local community;*
- *Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Prime Minister, and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government setting out the funding pressures faced by our local council, and calling on the Government to truly end austerity in local government."*

Councillor Jason Zadrozny moved an amendment to the motion, seconded by Councillor Tom Hollis with the meeting being adjourned at 8.20 p.m. and reconvened at 8.30 p.m. to enable due discussion to take place.

Having considered the suggested amendment, Councillors Lachlan Morrison and Don Davis, as the mover and seconder of the motion, duly agreed to the change of wording subject to a retraction of wording contained in bullet point 5.

Councillor Zadrozny then proceeded to read out the agreed amendment in the following terms:-

"Breaking Point campaign

This Council notes that many council budgets are now at Breaking Point. Austerity has caused huge damage to communities up and down the UK, with devastating effects on key public services that protect the most defenceless in society;

- *Local councils in England have seen an average cut to their budgets of almost 26% since 2010, taking inflation into account, according to the Institute of Fiscal Studies;*
- *Northamptonshire has already gone bust and more councils are predicted to collapse without immediate emergency funding;*

- *Councils now face a further funding gap of £7.8 billion by 2025 just to keep services ‘standing still’ and meeting additional demand. Even Lord Gary Porter, the Conservative Chair of the Local Government Association, has said ‘Councils can no longer be expected to run our vital local services on a shoestring’;*

This Council calls for the Prime Minister and Chancellor to truly end austerity in local government by:

- *Using the Budget to reverse next years planned £1.3bn cut to council budgets;*
- *Pledging to use the Spending Review to restore council funding to 2010 levels over the next four years;*

This Council resolves to:

- *Support the ‘Breaking Point’ campaign, recognising the devastating impact that austerity has had on our local community, and to support any campaign that fights for improved funding for Local Government, specifically District Councils;*
- *Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Prime Minister, and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government setting out the funding pressures faced by our local council, and calling on the Government to truly end austerity in local government.”*

(At this point in the proceedings and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 23 (Conclusion of Proceedings), a motion was moved and seconded to extend the conclusion of the meeting to 9.30 p.m. The motion was put to the vote and duly carried.)

Having been fully considered, the substantive motion was then put to the vote and it was

RESOLVED that

- a) the Council supports the ‘Breaking Point’ campaign, recognising the devastating impact that austerity has had on our local community and further supports any campaign that fights for improved funding for Local Government, specifically District Councils;
- b) the Leader of the Council be requested to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Prime Minister, and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government setting out the funding pressures faced by the local council, and calling on the Government to truly end austerity in local government.”

(During consideration of the motion, Councillors Nicolle Ndiweni and John Knight left the room at 8.42 p.m. and 8.52 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 8.44 p.m. and 8.53 p.m. respectively.)

C.59 Notice of Motion 2

The Council received a notice of motion moved by Councillor Mike Smith and seconded by Councillor David Griffiths as follows:-

“This council notes

- *Though slavery was abolished in the UK in 1833, there are more slaves today than ever before in human history. Figures from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) suggest that there are more than 40 million people in modern slavery across the world, with nearly 25 million held in forced labour.*
- *There were 3805 victims of modern slavery identified in the UK in 2016. A rising number but still well below the 10,000 and 13,000 potential victims estimated by the Home Office.*
- *Modern Slavery is happening nationwide. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment. This can include sexual and criminal exploitation.*

This council believes:

- *That action needs to be taken to raise awareness of modern slavery and the fact that it is happening all over the UK.*
- *That the current support for victims is not sufficient and needs to go beyond the 45 days they are currently given by the government.*
- *That councils have an important role to play in ensuring their contracts and supplies don't contribute to modern day slavery and exploitation.”*

This council resolves:

- *To adopt the Co-operative Party's Charter against Modern Slavery to ensure our procurement practices don't support slavery.”*

(Following a short debate and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.11(i) [Closure Motions), a motion was moved and seconded to proceed to the next business. The Chairman having duly indicated that she believed the item had been sufficiently discussed, the motion was put to the vote and carried.)

Having been sufficiently considered, the motion was then put to the vote and it was

RESOLVED

that the Council agrees to adopt the Co-operative Party's Charter against Modern Slavery thus ensuring that the Council's procurement practices do not support slavery.

(During consideration of the motion, Councillor Lauren Mitchell left the room at 9.07 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 9.09 p.m.)

C.60 Questions received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, the following questions were submitted:-

Question 1

From Councillor Lee Anderson:

"Could the council leader please advise on what damage, if any has been caused to our war memorials in Sutton and Huthwaite Cemeteries?"

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Jason Zadrozny, responded as follows:-

"Madame Chairman can I thank Councillor Anderson for his question. I know what a very keen interest he has taken in the War Memorials and their preservation particularly in Sutton and Huthwaite.

Councillor Anderson will be aware of the historic advice we've taken from the Conservation Officer that did show previous cleaning of the War Memorials had caused some damage. The damage, particularly where well-meaning people had used abrasive chemicals like turtle wax which bearing in mind the stone we've got, it's a porous type of stone, our Conservation Officer seems to think it absorbs into the stone and can degrade it from inside out so we've had to be extremely careful about the work we've done.

We've taken advice from the War Memorials Trust that said we shouldn't clean War Memorials unless the dirt is harmful to them for example hazardous fumes and things like that. However, that said, we did undertake to do some very light steam cleaning work and Councillor Anderson joined me as we watched it happen in Sutton and then onto Huthwaite. We undertook the most sensitive type of work we could do trying to make sure that the Armistice days were celebrated in the best way that we could.

It's too early to say if any damage was caused with that sort of cleaning but in order to avoid any damage, we were concerned that the least intensive methods were used so that meant no high pressure work, no detergents and no scrubbing.

We realised that people have an emotional family attachment to our War Memorials but we must remember that the War Memorials are nearly a hundred year's old and many are fragile so the cleaning has potential to damage them irreparably. This can happen by weakening the lead letters on names, by loosening the mortar leading to water ingress and frost damage, by exposing the stone surface pores meaning that they become dirtier quicker and by bronze staining from plaques etc.

Ironically, cleaning can make the situation become worse and more visibly damaging if it's not done properly. It is for those reasons we decided not to have an extensive programme for cleaning this year, on the basis of the advice of the Conservation Officer and the War Memorials Trust, and when they are cleaned it will be in an appropriate and gentle method carried out by specialists and in that way we can ensure that they are still around for the next hundred years.

Madame Chair, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Councillor Anderson particularly for the work he has done on raising this issue and making sure the Council has a sharp focus on it. We were all very disappointed when we had the very late advice from the Conservation Officer that we shouldn't do any work and so we scabbled around at the last minute to try and make sure we could do as much sensitive work as we could. That involved putting planters out, planting up with red flowers, primroses and rows of primulas, cleaning around the areas in the churchyard and cleaning the Memorials in the most sensitive way that we could.

Councillor Anderson I hope recognises the work that we did do and what I'd also like to say Madam Chairman that as you know and that all Members know across the Chamber, this year was an enormously special year. 100 years since the end of the First World War and all of our Armistice Day celebrations/commemorations across the District were attended by four or five times more people than they would normally be and that is a real testament to our community spirit.

The public have done us really proud remembering those who fell to make sure we can enjoy the freedoms we've got today and aside of working out what we are going to do with War Memorials I'm very proud that we supported the Poppy Downpour on the Regent Cinema. That was an outstanding piece of work that I've not seen anywhere else in the country and we also put decals on 11 of our roads and the tommy silhouettes also. I think we should make sure this Council does all it can to make sure we do keep remembering those who paid the ultimate sacrifice Madame Chairman, so thank you and thank you Councillor Anderson for your question."

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.5, Councillor Anderson was invited to ask a supplementary question but he duly declined.

Question 2

From Councillor Lee Anderson

"Could the council leader please advise why there has been an apparent lack of money spent of keeping all our War Memorials in good condition?"

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Jason Zadrozny, responded as follows:-

"I've got an answer from the officers that disagrees fundamentally with what I think, Councillor Anderson, so I'm going to read out the points they have written for me but then I'm going to tell you what I think is firmly the truth.

I do think there has been systemic underfunding of the things that are very important to us. This year was 100 years since the end of the First World War so we all had a sharp focus on it but next year is 80 years since the start of the Second World War and we should have an equally sharp focus on it.

I was really proud to stand with my grandad outside there, a former paratrooper, when we unveiled the tommy silhouette and a young guy from Kirkby who served in Afghanistan. We should never forget that we all stand here affording everything we have because of those people that gave an immense amount for our freedom so my answer written here says that it's not the case that they have been underfunded and the fact that Hucknall War Memorial had restoration work carried out on it as recently as 2005. Well that's not a great answer to me Madame Chairman.

I don't think I can stand by that because I think we should be doing more than that. When I was Leader in 2007 until 2009 there was a specific budget for War Memorials' maintenance and ongoing repair and restoration work. That budget stopped in 2009 so since then, of course, £180,000 pounds of investment never happened to those War Memorials and we've got dozens and dozens of them across the District. Councillor Sears-Piccavey has recently been walking around every single one of them; they are not all grand, big memorials but we've got lots and lots of various ones.

Shane, who Members will have now met, our new Scrutiny Research Officer, has been writing an extensive historical document for us all to be able to look at that lists all of our War Memorials across the District and their history. It will include who's listed on them, wars that they fought in, what stone they are made of, what condition they are in and what we need to do.....and so I think we need to do a damn sight more.

We should be incredibly proud of Ashfield and the Sherwood Forest regiments and all those things we've got. Ashfield does not sing about its history enough and we have a damn proud one and I have already worked with Councillor Sears-Piccavey to be making sure that a budget line is back in next year's budget. We will be having a small restoration budget, £10,000 to £20,000 each year to ensure that small works can be done, year after year after year, so we are never in this place again.

So that the lead letterings are back, so that the families who contacted me saying their grandfathers' names had eroded out of the sandstone, that the lead lettering had fallen out.... I was embarrassed when I had those phone calls this year and I don't think it is fair or right and I've got shivers now because I remember some of the phone calls, people crying to me that they've come over here to remember their family at a really important time and they weren't there. What a horrific indictment on this Council, that those people who fell for us, that their names are literally washing away with time.

We should never forget them and I don't think this is a political thing, I just think I was never really on it and now its back I don't think we'll ever forget it again. So again, I thank you for reminding us with these questions but look.....whoever's here in whatever form of local government we've got in 100 years, I want to make sure those names are still there and that nobody ever forgets.

The one thing I was incredibly proud about at the Armistice Day parades, I hope you had it in Sutton as we had in Kirkby, was the immense amount of children, scouts and schools that came and were taught about local history and they remembered. I think that was the most wonderful part of it, that we are passing on that baton and that hopefully, someone will always be there to remember Madame Chairman and that's the only beautiful thing we can hand on and I really think we should. So thank you Councillor Anderson."

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.5, Councillor Anderson was invited to ask a supplementary question but he duly declined.

Question 3

From Councillor Keir Morrison:

"Given that Cllr. Wilmott was the deputy leader of the council at the time the decision was taken to close Hucknall's public toilets, could he inform the council when new public toilets will be built in Hucknall?"

The Cabinet Member (Outward Focus), Councillor John Wilmott, responded as follows:-

"First of all can I thank Councillor Morrison for his question and giving me the opportunity to search a number of issues over the past few years and they'll be very interesting to read indeed.

Yes, I was Deputy Leader of the Council when the decision was first made by the Labour Party to close the facility on the 20th February, 2014, although I was not the Cabinet Member with executive responsibility at that time. This followed a programme of closures that the Labour Party wanted to do which saw every Council run toilet closed in the entire District, including Kirkby, Sutton Station, two in Skegby and one in Huthwaite.

At that time the ruling group were informed that the Authority was facing a serious financial position and for those that were on the Labour Group and the Council at that time they would remember that several were put before us as possible savings to balance the books. The decision to close the toilets was made by the Labour Group as one of the options that was put before them and then it was endorsed by full Council later.

Members in the Labour Group will know what a lively debate took place in the group's meetings before all these decisions were made in fact then, a further report by the then Deputy Leader, Councillor Cheryl Butler, on her report to the full Council on the 8th October, 2014 said 'that following a public consultation in budget savings/priorities undertaken in late 2013, the decision was taken by Cabinet on the 20th February, 2014 and approved by Council on the 3rd March, 2014 to close the public facilities across the Ashfield District.' That was almost eight or nine months after the first decision.

Councillor Butler continues saying 'Hucknall and Kirkby which were the last two facilities to be closed were finally closed on the 6th June, 2014 and were boarded up with the exception of one cubicle of the Hucknall toilet made available for use by market staff on a temporary basis.' After these reports

became public, the Council received an enormous amount of criticism, particularly from residents in Hucknall, where there are fewer private establishments where people could access a convenience.

In May 2015, I stopped being a Councillor on this Authority and it was at this time that members of the public were pleading with the then Labour Administration to re-open Hucknall toilets. Their requests were ignored and a report to Council on the 10th December 2015, put forward by Hucknall's Councillor Nicole Ndiweni in her report to full Council, said that 'the Hucknall public toilet building was subject to a planning application to demolish the building and landscape the area and make good the Church boundary wall.' It was anticipated that subject to planning application approval and Council approval of revised capital budgets, the work would commence in Spring 2016, two years after the original decision with completion of the project in the Summer of 2016.

Councillor Ndiweni in the report also went on to say that the Council also sought out arrangements for nearby facilities that could be used as an alternative....the H2O bar, the Half Moon Public House and the John Godber centre had stated that their toilet facilities could be used by traders but no mention of the residents, or elderly people or people with disabilities, no mention whatsoever.

This was over two and a half years ago after the decision to close the facility so the Labour Party had considerable time to change the decision if they were so inclined to do so. They chose not to.

Whilst I was on the County Council, I obtained a petition to have the toilet facilities in the public library as well as in all other libraries in Nottinghamshire. That facility at the time...hundreds of thousands of pounds were being spent on the renovation of the Hucknall library so it was an opportune time. On the 26th November, 2015, I presented a petition with 1416 signatures to the full County Council meeting begging the Council to create public toilet facilities for Hucknall people.

Guess what? Whilst I was fighting on behalf of the residents I represent, the Labour run County Council chose to ignore the people of Hucknall's request. I am told that the staff in the library, at their discretion, will allow the elderly and disabled to use the toilet facilities but all over the country it seems public toilets are being closed at a rapid rate but in the end, it would be nice to see a facility at Hucknall. I will therefore continue to look at possible options to increase public conveniences in my town."

Prior to Councillor Morrison being invited to ask a supplementary question and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.3, the Chairman advised that due to the lateness of hour and the fact that there was insufficient time for any further questions to be asked, all responses would be duly provided to Members in writing.

(During questions from Members, Councillors Cathy Mason and Helen-Ann Smith left the room at 9.14 p.m. and 9.17 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 9.17 p.m. and 9.18 p.m. respectively.)

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Chairman.