



This information is available free of charge in electronic, audio, Braille and large print versions on request.

For assistance in understanding or reading this document or specific information about these Minutes please call Christine Laver on 01629 761300 or e-mail [committee@derbyshiredales.gov.uk](mailto:committee@derbyshiredales.gov.uk)

## **COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a Council Meeting held on Thursday 15 January 2015 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock at 6.00 pm.**

### **PRESENT**

Councillor Geoff Stevens, MBE - In the Chair

Councillors Jacque Bevan, Steve Bull, Sue Burfoot, David Burton, Bob Cartwright, Albert Catt, David Chapman, Tom Donnelly, Ann Elliott, David Fearn, Steve Flitter, Neil Horton, Cate Hunt, Tony Millward, Jean Monks, Garry Purdy, Irene Ratcliffe, Mike Ratcliffe, Lewis Rose, OBE, Peter Slack, Jacquie Stevens, Colin Swindell, Philippa Tilbrook, Barrie Tipping, Judith Twigg, Carol Walker and Jo Wild.

Dorcas Bunton (Chief Executive), Paul Wilson (Corporate Director), Steve Capes (Head of Regeneration and Policy), Karen Henriksen (Head of Resources), Christine Laver (Democratic Services Team Leader) and Jackie Cullen (Committee Assistant).

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jennifer Bower, Richard FitzHerbert, David Frederickson, Chris Furness, Andrew Lewer, Andrew Shirley and Andrew Statham.

### **226/15 – MINUTES**

It was moved by Councillor Geoff Stevens, MBE, seconded by Councillor Tony Millward and

**RESOLVED** That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 20 November 2014  
(unanimously) be approved as a correct record.

The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

### **227/14 – CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Carol Walker, Chairman of the District Council of the Derbyshire Dales, reported on her attendance at recent civic engagements, and made particular mention of the Mercian Regiment Freedom Parade on Sunday 29 November. Councillor Walker reminded Members of the upcoming charity dinner at Hassop Hall on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

## **228/14 – COMMITTEES**

It was moved by Councillor Tom Donnelly, seconded by Councillor Steve Bull and

**RESOLVED** That the reports of the Committees listed in the Minute Book for the  
(unanimously) period 11 November 2014 to 18 December 2014 be received.

## **229/14 – QUESTIONS (RULE OF PROCEDURE 15)**

**Councillor Mike Ratcliffe asked the following question of Councillor Lewis Rose, OBE, Leader of the Council:**

*“Given that we may again experience severe winter weather in 2015, would the Leader of the Council please tell us what precisely are the responsibilities of DDDC in respect of gritting services and snow clearance across the Derbyshire Dales?”*

Councillor Rose replied that the District Council was only responsible for gritting and clearing snow on land that it owns and maintains, such as car parks, cemeteries, parks, ABC and leisure centres, to ensure that it is safe. Prior to any snow fall the grit boxes on these sites will be filled with rock salt. Once the snow has fallen, staff will be assigned to these areas to manually clear snow and grit. The District Council’s tractor and ride-on mower can be adapted and fitted with ploughs to help clear large surface areas such as car parks.

In addition, the District Council has an agreement with the County Council that when possible we will provide staff to clear footpaths in the four major towns in accordance with the County’s agreed Snow Plan. This involves deploying usual street cleansing crews in Town Centres to manually clear snow from footpaths, and grit. The resource available depends on the numbers of staff that have been able to get into work.

The District Council is not responsible for gritting highways; this is a County Council function.

### **Supplementary Question from Councillor Ratcliffe:**

Councillor Ratcliffe asked whether Councillor Rose felt we had adequate preparation in place to be able to make a proactive response, especially with regard to clearing pavements and icy conditions in public spaces.

Councillor Rose referred Councillor Ratcliffe to his previous response, and reiterated that the District Council would help where it could.

**Councillor Colin Swindell asked the following question of Councillor Lewis Rose, OBE, Leader of the Council:**

*“Does Councillor Rose feel that SERCO do a good job in carrying out refuse collections for Derbyshire Dales District Council?”*

Councillor Rose replied that he did think SERCO did a good job in normal circumstances, but felt it was understandable that they suspended collections in bad weather with a view to catching up once the bad weather had passed.

### **Supplementary Question from Councillor Swindell:**

*'At what point will Councillor Rose tell SERCO to 'sort out or go'?'*

Councillor Rose replied that no such action was contemplated at the current time.

**Councillor Colin Swindell asked the following question of Councillor Lewis Rose, OBE, Leader of the Council:**

*'Does Councillor Rose not feel that Members of the Council should have had a vote on whether or not to accept the 2.2% increase in Members' allowances?'*

Councillor Rose advised Councillor Swindell that a unanimous decision had been taken in the Council meeting dated 25 September 2008 to fix Members' remuneration at the same rate of increase as members of staff, but reminded Councillor Swindell that it was open to individual Members not to accept an increase.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Swindell**

*"Would Councillor Rose have voted in favour of an increase had it been put to the Council?"*

Councillor Rose declined to answer a hypothetical question.

### **230/14 – LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT FOR 2015/16**

Council considered a report that informed Members of the proposed changes to, and sought approval to adopt, the local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for the financial year 2015/16.

The local Council Tax Reduction Scheme must be reviewed annually and any changes made approved no later than 31st January in the financial year preceding that for which the changes were to have effect. No technical changes were proposed to the scheme to be adopted for 2015/16 and so no new consultation with the public or with precepting authorities had been necessary.

The complete proposed local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2015/16 was included as a background paper to this report and was available to Members on request. The final adopted scheme for 2015/16 would be published in full on the Council's website by 31st March 2015.

It was moved by Councillor Jo Wild, seconded by Councillor Steve Bull and

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

1. That under section 13A (1)(a) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2015/16 as detailed in the report be approved.
2. That a maximum total amount of £15,000 be set provisionally for all hardship relief applications under Schedule 11 of the scheme for 2015/16 (with any additional requirement to be the subject of a further report to Council should the need arise).

### **231/14 – PROVISIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT 2015/16**

Council considered a report that informed Members of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2015/16, together with its implications for the Council's finances.

The provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2015/16 was reported to Parliament on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and was accompanied by a consultation paper on the general nature of the basis of distribution of Revenue Support Grant and the basis of calculation of “tariff” and “top-up” payments, with a deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015. In view of the short timetable, a response was submitted in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council. A copy of the response was circulated at the Council meeting.

The key points of the provisional settlement were set out in the report, including a reduction in Settlement Funding Assessment for Derbyshire Dales District Council of 13.78% in 2015/16, and the reduction in spending power for this Council of 3.1% for 2015/16. The method of calculation of this rate was illustrated in the report.

The District Council’s funding entitlement following the provisional Settlement was tabled in the report.

It was moved by Councillor Albert Catt, seconded by Councillor Jacquie Stevens and

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

1. That the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2015/16 be noted.
2. That the response to the Consultation Paper, as given in Appendix 1, be noted.

## **232/14 – PROPOSED DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY: CONSULTATION**

Council considered a report regarding the proposal of a new Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority. It was felt that this would improve economic decision making in Derbyshire and would benefit Derbyshire Dales businesses and residents. The report recommended a response to a consultation on the proposal to create a Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority.

At the Corporate Committee meeting on 11 December 2014, it was noted that the D2 Joint Committee had undergone a governance review during the past year; the outcome was that the Joint Committee was now proposing to reconstitute itself as a Combined Authority, initially covering economic development and transport matters.

The proposed Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority would consist of ten local authorities, working together on economic development and transport matters, as listed in the report.

If a Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority were to be created, the District Council would subsequently need to consider whether to join and a decision at full Council would be required.

A public consultation on the creation of the proposed Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority was running from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015, and the District Council was invited to respond. A draft consultation response was discussed with leaders of each political group prior to being presented to members in an updating report at the meeting.

Information about the consultation on the proposed Combined Authority was on the Derbyshire County Council microsite - [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/CA](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/CA) - and a letter from the County Council giving further information was appended to the report, together with the draft Combined Authority Scheme setting out the constitution of the proposed authority.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose, OBE, seconded by Councillor Albert Catt, and

**RESOLVED** That the District Council's response to the Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority consultation be sent, as set out in the Updating Report circulated at the meeting.

**Voting**

<b>For</b>	23
<b>Against</b>	4
<b>Abstentions</b>	1

**233/14 – SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

It was moved by Councillor Judith Twigg, seconded by Councillor Carol Walker and

**RESOLVED** (unanimously) That the Common Seal of the Council be fixed to those documents, if any, required to complete transactions undertaken by Committees or by way of delegated authority to Officers since the last meeting of the Council.

**234/14 – EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

It was moved by Councillor Geoff Stevens, MBE, seconded by Councillor Carol Walker, and

**RESOLVED** (unanimously) That any members of the public or press be invited to leave the meeting for the remaining item of business for the reason shown below:

*“This report contains information which is commercially sensitive and legally privileged and which may disadvantage the District Council in contractual negotiations, if released to the public.”*

**235/14 – EXEMPT MINUTES TO BE RECEIVED**

Council were asked to consider receiving Minute No. 221/14 of Environment Committee, from their meeting dated 18 December 2014.

It was moved by Councillor Albert Catt, seconded by Councillor Judith Twigg and

**RESOLVED** (unanimously) That the exempt reports of the Committees listed in the Minute Book for the period 11 November 2014 to 18 December 2014 be received.

**MEETING CLOSED 7.09PM**

**CHAIRMAN**