

COUNCILLORS:

Cllr T Barkley – Chairman
Cllr J Lucas – Vice Chairman
Cllr S Brown
Cllr S Gerrard
Cllr L Gillard
Cllr P Knight
Cllr M McLoughlin
Cllr K Pacey
Cllr D Pepper

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS:

Cllr S Bradshaw
Cllr K Pacey
Cllr S Gerrard
(Cllr T Barkley Borough and County Councillor)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Catherine Voyce - Town Manager
Ursula Southan - Deputy Town Manager
Kay Liquorish – Senior Administrator
Sophie Brown – Assistant to the Town Manager
Phil Walden

01/20 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND TO SIGN DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillors had been invited to nominate a Councillor (with their consent) or self-nominate for the position of Chairman of the Council.

Nominations and self-nominations were to be received by the Town Manager no later than 5pm on Monday, 22 June 2020.

In line with Standing Orders, Councillors were invited to submit a video to promote their suitability for Chairman.

The deadline for voting was 7pm 23 June 2020; one nomination had been received for Chairman.

Cllr T Barkley was proposed by Cllr J Lucas and seconded by Cllr K Pacey. All in favour.

Cllr T Barkley was duly elected as Chairman and would be invited to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in witness of the Town Manager.

Cllr T Barkley thanked Council for their support.

02/20 THE REFLECTION

The Chairman gave the reflection.

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Chairman

03/20 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Councillors had been invited to nominate a Councillor (with their consent) or self-nominate for the position of Vice Chairman of the Council.

Nominations and self-nominations were to be received by the Town Manager no later than 5pm Monday, 22 June 2020.

In line with Standing Orders, Councillors were invited to submit a video to promote their suitability for Vice Chairman.

The deadline for voting was 7pm Tuesday, 23 June 2020; one nomination had been received for Vice Chairman.

Cllr J Lucas was proposed by Cllr T Barkley and was seconded by Cllr K Pacey. All in favour.

Cllr J Lucas was duly elected as Vice Chairman and would be invited to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in witness of the Town Manager.

Cllr J Lucas thanked Council for their support.

04/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received and accepted from County Cllr J Poland and Cllr L Towell.

05/20 TO ACCEPT DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS WHETHER PERSONAL AND/OR PREJUDICIAL

There were no declarations.

06/20 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Phil Walden was welcomed by the Chairman in respect of Item 7 on the Agenda.
- CCTV cameras for the Skate park on Central Park were now working.
- Government announcement today introduced further relaxation of the lockdown rules. From 4 July pubs, restaurants and hairdressers were to open along with community centres, playgrounds and libraries.
- Social distancing reduced to one metre plus.
- Good news for Syston and also STC, Council would be looking at how to begin to bring operations back to some sort of normality.
- Facilities Manager Jason Green would start his employment with Council from Monday 29 June 2020. CV was meeting with him prior to 29 June, to prepare for his new role.

07/20 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR(S)

Vacancies in the following Wards:

Merton Ward- two vacancies

St Peter's East Ward- Full

St Peter's West Ward- one vacancy

New Barkby Ward- one vacancy

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Chairman

Phil Walden introduced himself; he was not a resident of Syston but was currently in the process of opening a shop in the Town Square, Syston. His motivation to be a Councillor was to give more to the town. He was also a volunteer with Royal British Legion.

It was proposed by Cllr T Barkley and
Resolved to accept Phil Walden to be co-opted onto the Council.
All were in favour.

It was proposed by Cllr T Barkley and
Resolved for Phil Walden to serve Merton Ward.
All were in favour.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Walden onto the Council and a Declaration of Office would be sent out for him to sign.

08/20 TO APPOINT COMMITTEE/PANEL MEMBERSHIP

Membership of Committees

Development & General Purposes Committee was appointed as follows:

*Cllr S Brown, Cllr M Carnall, Cllr S Gerrard, Cllr P Knight, Cllr J Lucas,
Cllr M McCloughlin, Cllr K Pacey, Cllr D Pepper, and Cllr H Sreaton.*

Amenities Committee was appointed as follows:

*Cllr S Brown, Cllr M Carnall, Cllr L Gillard, Cllr J Lucas, Cllr M McCloughlin, Cllr K Pacey,
Cllr D Pepper, and Cllr H Sreaton, Cllr S Visavadia.*

Resources was appointed as follows:

*Cllr T Barkley, Cllr S Brown, Cllr S Gerrard, Cllr S Hampson, Cllr J Lucas, Cllr M
McLoughlin, Cllr K Pacey, and Cllr D Pepper, Cllr S Visavadia.*

Phil Waldron was invited to attend all committees to see which, if any, he wanted to become a member of.

It was proposed by Cllr T Barkley and
Resolved to accept the Committee membership as listed with the addition of Cllr S Visavadia on Amenities and Resources Committees.
All were in favour.

The Committee Chairs would be selected at their respective meetings in July.

Membership of Panels

Cemetery Panel

*Cllr D Pepper, Cllr S Gerrard, Cllr S Hampson, Cllr J Lucas, Cllr T Barkley and
Cllr S Brown.*

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Chairman

Tree Panel

Cllr J Lucas, Cllr M Carnall, Cllr P Knight and Cllr D Pepper.

Pavilion Panel

Cllr S Hampson, Cllr J Lucas, Cllr D Pepper and Cllr K Pacey.

Christmas Event Panel

Cllr J Lucas, Cllr L Gillard, Mrs F Henry, Mr P Henry, Mrs S Smith and Mrs S Portsmouth.

Churchyard Panel

Cllr P Knight, Cllr J Lucas and Cllr H Screaton.

Bowling Club Liaison Panel

Cllr J Lucas, Cllr K Pacey and Cllr H Screaton.

Biffa Liaison Panel

Cllr K Pacey, Cllr D Pepper and Cllr J Lucas.

Partnership Panel

Cllr T Barkley, Cllr S Gerrard, Cllr J Lucas and Cllr K Pacey.

It was Proposed by Cllr T Barkley and
Resolved to accept all the above Panel memberships.
All were in favour.

09/20 CHRISTMAS EVENT 2020 – DECISION

A decision was required on the feasibility of holding the Christmas Event on the first Sunday of December 2020. This was a large event with a road closure and attracted large numbers of people. Council considered the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the health and safety of the community and stall holders. It was agreed that social distancing was unlikely to be reduced enough by December to allow the event to be held safely.

It was proposed by Cllr T Barkley and
Resolved to cancel the Christmas event this year and to work towards putting on a full show next year.
All were in favour.

It was agreed that shop owners could be still encouraged to decorate their windows with festivities and the Christmas tree and lights would still be displayed.

10/20 THE LISTING OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS ON DEVELOPMENT & GP AGENDA

At a recent Councillor surgery, a resident had complained that a planning application had been discussed at the last Development meeting, which had not been listed on the agenda. (This was a late application and the agenda had already been published).

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Chairman

It was agreed in future to print the detail and planning link of individual planning applications on the agenda.

It should be made clear that STC were not decision makers and could only comment and support objections/comments. Any planning applications submitted after the agenda had been published, would be deferred until the next Development meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr J Lucas and

Resolved to list the planning applications and links to the CBC Planning Portal on all future Development & GP agendas.

All were in favour.

11/20 TO AGREE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 26 MAY 2020

Minutes of the meeting of Full Council on 26 May 2020 were proposed by T Barkley and **Resolved** to accept and sign as a true record.

All were in favour.

12/20 TO APPROVE THE INTERNAL AUDIT FOR 2019/20

The Internal Audit Statement as part of the AGAR had been circulated with the agenda together with a detailed Internal Auditors Report. Minor recommendation had been suggested; this did not detract from the quality of work carried out by Officers.

It was proposed by Cllr T Barkley and

Resolved to accept the Internal Audit AGAR Report for 2019/20.

All were in favour.

13/20 TO APPROVE AND SIGN OFF GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR 2019/20

The Governance Statement was circulated with the agenda. This report identified the measures put in place to ensure the Council operated efficiently and legally. There were no areas for concern.

It was proposed by Cllr T Barkley and

Resolved to accept and sign the Annual Governance Statement for 2019/20.

All were in favour

The Annual Governance Statement for 2019/20 would be signed by the Chairman and the Town Manager after the remote meeting.

14/20 TO APPROVE AND SIGN OFF THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS FOR 2019/20

The Accounting Statements were sent out with the agenda 14 days prior to the meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr T Barkley and

Resolved to accept the Accounting Statements for 2019/20

All were in favour

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Chairman

The Accounting Statements for 2019/20 were signed by the Responsible Financial Officer before the meeting and by the Chairman after the remote meeting.

15/20 TO AGREE MEETING DATES FOR 2020/21

The meeting dates for the next twelve months were considered. There was no change to the previous year apart from the two meetings of the Development & GP Committee and Amenities Committee to be held on 1 December 2020 and the two meetings of these Committees to be held on 12 January; this was due to the Christmas and New Year festive holidays.

It was proposed by Cllr T Barkley and

Resolved to accept the recommended meeting dates for 2020/21.

All were in favour.

To post on STC Website.

16/20 ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS FOR FULL COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

The Annual Schedule of Business set out the items to be discussed each month by each committee and Full Council (excluding the regular agenda items).

It was proposed by Cllr T Barkley and

Resolved to accept the Annual Schedule of Business for 2020/21.

All were in favour.

To post on STC website.

17/20 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

An update was given:

- submission for the Local Council Award would be submitted ASAP.
- Highways had not replied to a request to arrange our own signage to the Syston & District Cemetery.

18/20 TO RECEIVE THE POLICE REPORT

A summary report was sent out with the agenda

Beat priorities were:

- anti -social use of motor bikes on Barkby Thorpe Lane in Thurmaston
- increased ASB incidents on Brighton Avenue.
- continuing to work on dealing with drug dealers, vehicle crime prevention, burglary prevention, speeding concerns and to provide a visible policing team.

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19/20 TO RECEIVE COUNTY/BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

County and Borough Councillor Report – June 2020 – Tom Barkley

Charnwood Borough Council

Community Action

“During the pandemic Community Action Charnwood in Conjunction with John Storer House has delivered 5000 food parcels, throughout the Borough, to the most vulnerable people in our community. The help of local volunteers and redeployed Charnwood Borough Staff and Borough Councillors have been utilised in the effort. Among the groups locally to name but a few , Age Concern Syston, Syston, District Volunteer Centre, University of the Third age, the local churches and individual people have made a huge contribution in different ways, to support the vulnerable and isolated in our community. Local firms have made contributions for food parcels along with National Supermarkets. The Community effort in Syston has been fantastic. A community pulling together in a crisis to overcome adversity.

Help for Businesses

Charnwood has distributed 29.46 million of funds to 2,442 businesses who qualify for assistance under government rules, helping them survive during this crisis. An additional 1.6 million has been made available to other businesses that did not qualify and have been severely impacted. It is hoped that with non-essential businesses being opened from 15th June, gradually matters will improve for all businesses.

Mental Health Awareness Campaign

Charnwood has supported the Mental Health awareness campaign. We can all contribute.

Running from 18 to 24 May, the national awareness week promoted and highlighted mental health and mental health problems to tackle stigma and promote positive mental wellbeing. This year’s theme is kindness.

Spreading kindness can be done at home, while out and while working. Here are some simple things you can do that will spread kindness and a little bit of cheer.

- *Call someone you haven’t spoken to for a while*
- *Tell a family member how much you love and appreciate them*
- *Arrange to have a cup of tea and virtual catch up*
- *Arrange to watch a film at the same time as a friend and video call*
- *Tell someone you know you are proud of them*
- *Send a motivational text to a friend who is struggling*
- *Send someone you know a joke to cheer them up*
- *Offer support to vulnerable neighbours*
- *Donate to foodbanks*
- *Donate to a charity*
- *Reach out to call a friend, family member or neighbour who is experiencing loneliness or self-isolation*

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Chairman

- Offer to skill share with a friend via video call
- Lend your ear – call a colleague and ask how they’re finding the change in routine
- Give praise to a colleague for something they’ve done well”

Leicestershire County Council

“Along with other Councils, home working has been a necessary and important response and is likely to continue for some time whilst still delivering vital services. At County level from the front line to Chief Officers, County Council is working with NHS Colleagues, the Police, emergency services, other councils and the local resilience forum to provide vital services, distributing Personal Protection Equipment and monitoring with local health experts the impact of the pandemic , providing Adult and Children’s services and community teams. Leicestershire County Council are providing a leading role in these areas in the County. The extra effort is likely to impact through lost income and additional cost to an additional £56 million to the budget and reserves held for just such an emergency will have to be used. 160 Community groups in the County have benefited from £1.5 million from the Communities fund including some in Syston.

Councillor Duties

At all levels County, Borough and Town necessary decision-making meetings are being carried out on Skype, Teams or Zoom. The pressures caused by the pandemic have required a lot of commitment from the councillors to assist residents and the various departments and officers within the councils. The role of a Councillor to serve the community has never been highlighted so clearly and the number of enquiries and request for assistance have increased substantially. By keeping the vital services running, it has enabled councillors to provide appropriate assistance to residents and businesses.

Emerging from the Pandemic

The Councils play a big role in assisting residents and businesses from emerging from lockdown and enabling businesses to continue to operate, by providing grant funding and reduce the number of job losses in our community. I stand willing and able to assist our residents in these unprecedented times.

The Future

Whilst the future is going to be different and the way we provide services and live will be different, I hope that we can emerge from lockdown and the pandemic in the coming months, without reigniting this terrible pandemic and life and community activity can safely return. The spirit and cohesion of our community has been tested and not found wanting, the same will hold true as we emerge from this crisis and adapt.””

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Chairman

Cllr James Poland Leicestershire County Council Report System TC - June 2020

County Council makes lockdown-easing plans

"The County Council has outlined some of the highways and transport measures it is taking to coincide with the easing of the lockdown during the coronavirus pandemic. From Monday (8 June), concessionary travel on public transport will revert to pre-lockdown arrangements which allow free travel for bus pass holders between 9.30am and 11pm (Monday - Friday), all day Saturdays, Sundays and Bank holidays. During the lockdown, concessionary passes could also be used for free travel before 9.30am so that older and disabled people had access to supermarkets and other essential shops that specifically opened earlier for them.

The easing of lockdown means more people will be using public transport for work and school during the morning peak hours, so the change is considered necessary to ensure bus users will be better able to follow government social distancing guidelines.

By reverting to the original times, this allows for social distancing guidelines to be more easily adhered to, while ensuring that the most vulnerable members of our communities are still able to get essential items. People travelling by bus are being urged to check if operators have any special rules and arrangements before travelling, to practice social distancing while on board and to wash their hands or use hand sanitiser when they leave public transport.

Summer edition of Leicestershire Matters magazine is now out

The latest edition of Leicestershire Matters - our residents' newsletter - is out now. It focuses on our extensive efforts to protect and support residents during the coronavirus outbreak. The front page is a letter to residents from our council leader, thanking people for heeding national advice and protecting key workers.

Inside the 16-page newsletter, you can also read about:

- *our thanks to staff and volunteers for their dedication and hard work*
- *how our teams are working 24/7 to keep people safe and support schools*
- *a landmark £1.5m scheme supporting communities during these testing times*
- *a recruitment drive for new care staff*
- *help and advice for people looking for mental health support*
- *information on how you can enjoy our museums and heritage sites **online***

Leicestershire Matters is delivered to homes from Monday, 8 June.

The County works closely with a delivery company to monitor delivery rates, but please let us know if you become aware of any issues by contacting our Communications Team":

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Chairman

- By calling 0116 305 6274
- Sending an email to: pressoffice@leics.gov.uk

CLlr Simon Bradshaw - Borough Councillor Report June 2020

“As the lockdown seems to be easing Charnwood borough Council has been assisting our High Streets to get ready to trade again,

Various methods are being employed to help people stay safe. They include:

- *the installation of floor markings, barriers and signage to support social distancing*
- *addition of hand sanitizer stations in some areas*
- *staff or volunteers being present in some shopping areas in Leicestershire to assist people and monitor the situation*
- *issuing of guidance to traders in some areas to help them protect customers and employees inside their premises*
- *introduction of one-way systems for pedestrians and traffic*
- *suspension of some parking bays to provide more pedestrian space*
- *closure of some streets*

Business Grants

Charnwood Borough Council has already received more than 200 applications for the discretionary grant fund for companies that have previously been unable to claim government financial support.

The deadline for applications is 8am on Monday, 22 June

Applications can be submitted online and will be assessed after the deadline on 22 June. Grants will be paid to qualifying businesses from 29 June.

The Government has provided an initial set of criteria which says the fund is open to charities, businesses in shared business spaces and market traders.

The Council also has some discretion about which businesses it can fund and will look to distribute funding to businesses that support employment in Charnwood, deliver health, welfare or community support services or have relatively high on-going fixed property costs.

On a personal note I have continued to volunteer when required, and assist residents with any enquiries, we continue to hold our Councillor Surgery but via Zoom rather than face to face, my wife and I developed our Hand creams for Heroes idea and have supplied both Loros and John Storer House with a considerable amount of hand creams thanks to the kind Donations of Individuals within the Charnwood area”

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Chairman

Cllr S Gerrard

Cllr Gerrard had reported speeding cars along Central Avenue and the police were now investigating. She had also reported an increase of rats on Goodes Avenue to Pest Control at CBC. Cllr Gerrard continued to work with improving the lives of the elder across Charnwood.

Cllr K Pacey

There was currently nothing coming through other than standard procedures regarding licences. Cllr Pacey's involvement was with appeals not standard applications.

20/20 TO AGREE MINUTES OF THE DEVELOPMENT MEETING HELD ON 2 JUNE 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Development Committee held on 2 June 2020 were received.

21/20 TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES MEETING HELD ON 9 JUNE 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 9 June 2020 were received.

22/20 TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES MEETING HELD ON 16 JUNE 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Resources Committee held on 16 June 2020 were received.

23/20 TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

This report had been circulated with the Agenda and updates were as follows:

- The Office was currently manned over four days but from 1 July 2020 it would increase to five days per week.
- CV and Cllr T Barkley were meeting with new Facilities Jason Green to introduce him to his role on 24 June.
- CV met with Ideverde Manager for assistance with Spring bedding planning, a quotation on recommended plants was being drawn up.
- CV would chase up the Skate Park Lighting Company who are stalling as they have had a deposit of £2,375 paid by S106 monies.
- all Office staff have had their PDR's and invitations had been circulated to Grounds and Cleaning staff.
- A Cemetery Panel meeting had been held today and the minutes would go to July Amenities meeting.
- CV had re-registered for the Contractor website and would be working on the tenders for the Pavilion.
- there would be a Tree Panel meeting in late July to coincide with the end of the bird nesting season.
- playgrounds were due to re-open on 4 July and new social distancing signage would be displayed from Friday, 3 July.

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Chairman

24/20 MEMBERS QUESTIONS RECEIVED TO THE CHAIRMAN

A question has been received asking when and how the community centre will be returning to normal operations.

Two parts to this question – staff returning to the office and the hire of community centre rooms – how would this be implemented?

From 1 July the office would be manned from 9 am to 4.30 pm, Monday to Friday
Two Officers would be working in the office most days and two home-working.
Screens had already been placed between desks and sanitisers were in ample supply.

The community centre would remain locked; the bell and intercom system would be used to deal with enquiries where possible. Only one member of the public per time would be allowed to enter the building. Signage re hand washing and sanitiser was in place.

The disabled toilet facilities would be used for hand washing.

There would also be a hand sanitiser station by reception.

Outside the community centre, distance markers for queuing were in place.

The holes at the screen of the reception would be covered with cling film.

Signage and hand sanitiser stations were installed in all Council buildings.

CV had asked CBC for advice regarding the re-opening of the public toilets.

Room booking enquires were starting to increase, and people were being advised to call back after 4 July.

25/20 COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE YEAR END REPORT 2020/21.

A year-end report had been produced for Councillor information.

Congratulations to Cllr J Lucas for achieving the best attendance record for last year, having attended 58 meetings including Committees and Panels, and had 94% attendance overall.

26/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was 28 JULY 2020

It was proposed by Cllr T Barkley and resolved that the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be discussed. All in favour.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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Chairman