

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllr T Barkley – Chairman
Cllr S Brown
Cllr S Gerrard
Cllr L Gillard
Cllr S Hampson
Cllr J Lucas
Cllr M McLoughlin
Cllr K Pacey
Cllr D Pepper
Cllr S Visavadia
Cllr P Walden

COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:

Cllr S Bradshaw - Charnwood Borough Council
Cllr J Poland – Leicestershire County Council

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms C Voyce – Town Manager
Ms U Southan – Deputy Town Manager
Mrs K Liqueorish – Snr Administrator
Miss S Brown – Assistant to Town Manager
Mr J Green – Facilities Manager
Five members of the public

The Chairman informed attendees that this meeting was recorded for Council use only, to assist with the minute taking. Under the local authorities (Executive arrangements) (Meetings and access to information (England) regulations 2012), other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting. The use of any images or sound recording was not under the Council’s control.

76/20 REFLECTION

Cllr T Barkley gave the reflection.

77/20 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr C Booth, Cllr M Carnell, Cllr J Gurney, Cllr P Knight and Cllr L Towell.

78/20 TO ACCEPT DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

The meeting would commence with a fifteen-minute adjournment for matters to be raised, if any, by the public.

Sam Chambers of Syston Town Juniors FC, represented the football team managers and said she had communicated to Council regarding the restarting of football matches at Memorial Park, she had also had contact with the Town Manager and Facilities Manager of STC. The FA

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had provided guidance on how to bring back the playing of football using Council facilities. She asked STC to consider in depth, ways to get the children back to playing football, and Syston Town Juniors would follow guidance.

A member of the public asked whether there would be an additional charge for room hire at the Community Centre to include the extra cleaning during the pandemic. TM advised that each room would be used once per day and cleaned and sanitised afterwards, the Community Centre and toilets were always cleaned daily and so there was no additional cost to the Community Centre room hire.

The Chairman advised that the Council had yet to make a decision on the playing of football matches at its parks, and that football teams had been made aware of this by the TM. STC were positively looking for a solution to allow football to be played and the use of the pavilion to be managed safely.

79/20 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Two wreaths would be laid at the War Memorial to commemorate VJ Day. One from Edward Argar MP and one from STC.

Cllr David Snartt was the new Mayor of Charnwood, Lady Mayoress was Mrs Joan Snartt. Their chosen charities were LOROS (end of life care) and Admiral Nurses (Dementia).

TM introduced Jason Green, the new Facilities Manager to Council. He commenced work on 29 June.

80/20 TO RECEIVE POLICE REPORT

The “beat newsletter” for July 2020, had been circulated prior to the meeting. One update; an assault had taken place on Central Park on Saturday 25 July at 3pm, police were investigating.

81/20 TO RECEIVE COUNTY/BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

CLLR T BARKLEY CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL

“Grant Funding for Community groups

The Charnwood VCS COVID-19 Recovery grant scheme is open to properly constituted community and voluntary groups for activities not conducted for profit.

The grant scheme will award organisations up to £5,000.

Applications for the Charnwood VCS Covid-19 Recovery grant scheme are now open and the deadline is Friday August 7.

Application forms and more information is available

at www.charnwood.gov.uk/recovery_grants, email: grants@charnwood.gov.uk or call 01509 634730.

Leisure Centres

The Loughborough, Soar Valley and South Charnwood leisure centres, which are operated on behalf of the Council by Fusion, have been closed since March due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Council is now carefully work through the guidance with its leisure partner on how and when it will be possible to safely reopen its leisure centres on a phased return.

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The guidance will change the way the centres operate and reduce their capacity, this will require careful consideration and could have a financial impact on the Council.

Summer Activities for Children

A virtual activity timetable will help families in Charnwood stay active this summer. The borough council's Active Charnwood team has worked with partners to put together a six-week timetable of online activities as an alternative to its usual summer holiday programme. The timetable which will go live on Monday July 13 includes a range of sessions for families to do at home including a daily challenge from Leicestershire Rutland Sport, love family fit with Tayplay, football skills with Leicester City Football Club and dance with Bhangra Fusion.

Coronavirus

District and borough councils in Leicestershire have distributed over £119 million of vital government coronavirus funding to thousands of local businesses in the county.

A further support package of £1.65 million is being shared by 185 Charnwood businesses struggling because of the pandemic and businesses not eligible under the first round have benefited

8000 Food parcels have been delivered by Community Action Charnwood to residents in the borough who are shielding and vulnerable. A huge achievement with supermarkets and charities donating supplies.

Lockdown has now been removed from Wanlip, Birstall and Thurmaston and all areas save for Leicester City and Oadby and Wigston. A very welcome announcement by the health secretary on Thursday 16th July 2020.

Finance

The impact of Coronavirus has been significant requiring a complete review of the budget for 2020/21 despite Government grants as the loss of income has outweighed the grants

CLLR T BARKLEY - LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Community Fund

A landmark fund helping community groups support vulnerable people during the pandemic is being expanded in county lockdown areas.

County Council has put another £100,000 into its communities' fund, which launched in March and to help voluntary groups deliver vital work.

*From Monday 13th July, community groups in **county lockdown areas** can apply for a share of the £100,000. The move is designed to support people who are vulnerable or shielding and bolster mental health and wellbeing support.*

Green Projects

Grants of up to £3,000 are available for community groups and organisations to develop 'green' projects through support from the county council.

The Shire Environment Grant scheme invites applications from groups and organisations who are looking at new, innovative projects to minimise household waste, reduce carbon emissions and improve biodiversity.

Finance

The impact of Coronavirus on the County Council Budget for 2020-2021 has been significant and will need the budget for 2020/2021 to be reviewed to take account of the loss of income despite government grants. “

Chairman

CLLR SIMON BRADSHAW – CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL

“Council Car Parks

Work is underway to make borough council car parks in Loughborough more Covid-19 secure. Charnwood Borough Council is installing contactless barriers and ticket machines at Beehive Lane and Granby Street car parks. The Council has also committed to supporting local businesses for longer by keeping parking free in all council-owned car parks until the end of July, after which parking charges will be re-introduced.

Introducing contactless barriers and ticket When combined with contactless payments, it means customers will not have to touch any buttons to enter the car parks or pay for parking at both Beehive Lane and Granby Street.

Social distancing requirements such as a one-way pedestrian system with signs, arrows and markings as we look to keep visitors, workers and shoppers using our facilities as safe as possible have also been introduced

The Council suspended parking charges in March when lockdown restrictions were brought in to make it easier for key workers to park. The Council has not reinstated parking charges to help support local businesses by providing free parking as part of the initial recovery process. However, the Council is losing around £75,000 a month in lost parking income. This funding is used to maintain the car parks and contribute towards other services including maintain our parks, street cleaning, enforcement, street furniture and environmental protection. These services have continued but income has dropped significantly. The Council has also lost funding from other sources, including leisure centres, the town hall and fees and charges.

Once contactless machines have been installed, the charges will be reinstated next month.

Loughborough Town Deal

Loughborough Town Deal has scored its first success after being awarded £750,000 of government funding to make the town better for everyone. The project is aiming to secure up to £25 million of government funding to transform the town and an investment plan is being put together.

However, the government has announced that it is awarding grants to all 101 towns in the Town Deal scheme, including Loughborough.

Loughborough Town Deal is being led by a board involving a range of organisations, including Charnwood Borough Council, Loughborough University, Loughborough College, Love Loughborough, Leicestershire County Council, the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership, Charnwood Together Economy and Skills Group, local businesses and Loughborough MP Jane Hunt

In a letter from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, to the Council, it says: “The Towns Fund is central to the government’s ambition to level up the country – creating jobs and building stronger and more resilient local economies and communities.

“In recognition of the importance of this fund and the pressing need in the towns that have been selected to benefit, government is bringing forward funding to this financial year to support projects that will make an immediate impact in towns.”

The funding can be used for a range of projects. Examples include:

- *improving or creating new parks and green spaces and sustainable transport links*
- *improving town centres, such as by repurposing empty commercial properties*
- *demolishing or remediating sites*

Other projects will be considered which are in line with the Town Deal Funds guidance.

A consultation on a draft investment plan for Loughborough Town Deal has recently been completed and a final investment plan will be finalised later this month

On a personal note I have continued to volunteer where needed and attend our regular Councillor surgeries on the first Saturday of every month, I am also dealing with a lot of casework relating to COVID-19 issues, the Leicester Lockdown and Small Business Grants

Cllr Bradshaw added an update – he welcomed Jason Green. Also he stressed how excellent the Neighbourhood Alerts were in highlighting issues in specific areas.”

CLLR J POLAND – LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

“Leicester lock-down

As of Saturday 18th July, all of Leicestershire that was previously affected by the Leicester lock-down (except Oadby and Wigston) has been lifted. In the lock-down area, non-essential shops re-opened on Friday 24th and there will be another review of the local lock-down the following week. The reason Oadby and Wigston has been kept in is because their infection rate is so much higher than the national average, and the rest of the county. Leicester and Leicestershire’s infection rate per 100,000 people is as follows:

<i>Area name</i>	<i>Cumulative lab-confirmed cases rate</i>
<i>England</i>	<i>449.3</i>
<i>East Midlands</i>	<i>463.1</i>
<i>Leicestershire</i>	<i>446.8</i>
<i>Oadby and Wigston</i>	<i>758.9</i>
<i>North West Leicestershire</i>	<i>312.4</i>
<i>Melton</i>	<i>309.2</i>
<i>Hinckley and Bosworth</i>	<i>476.8</i>
<i>Harborough</i>	<i>409.7</i>
<i>Charnwood</i>	<i>436.9</i>
<i>Blaby</i>	<i>494.9</i>
<i>Leicester</i>	<i>1249.7</i>

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£750k pot to support county businesses

Leicestershire County Council has launched a brand-new fund to help businesses get back on their feet. The £750,000 Leicestershire Business Recovery Fund is aimed at small businesses within the county to help them recover from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

From Thursday (16th July), applications can be made for grants between £2,000 and £10,000. Businesses can use the money to ensure their survival by, for instance, developing online selling and diversify into new product areas. The initiative is run by the council and funded through money secured from the Leicester and Leicestershire Business Rates Pool. Grants are open to businesses with 50 employees or less. For the full information and how to apply visit: www.oakleaves.org.uk/leicestershire-business-recovery-fund

All small businesses from every sector are encouraged to apply including those from the tourism, retail, agriculture, and creative sector. Businesses who apply will initially talk through their business plans with an advisor who will be able to assist with their application.

There is currently no deadline for applications, but businesses should apply as soon as possible as funding will be allocated at a first come first served basis.

Cllr Poland updated his report by welcoming Jason Green. “

CLLR K PACEY – CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllr K Pacey advised Council that he had stepped down as Chair of the Licencing Committee after 15 years' service, he would continue on the Licencing Committee as Vice-Chairman. There had been less activity for the Committee as there had been no objections raised. CBC staff were dealing with enquiries.

CLLR S GERRARD – CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllr S Gerrard had been delivering food parcels and shopping for vulnerable people in Syston. She continued to be a champion for the elderly and had been finding ways for them to continue with their hobbies to help with their mental wellbeing.

82/20 ANNUAL REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS

Councillors reviewed the Standing Orders as at July 2020.

It was proposed by Cllr T Barkley
and **Resolved** to approve Standing Orders.
All in favour.

83/20 FOOTBALL PITCH AND PAVILION HIRE

The Chairman gave assurance that STC wished to support football teams and look for a solution for matches to recommence, however, this needed to be carried out with everyone's safety in mind. STC were working with guidelines from both the FA and Government. Councils were obligated to provide toilet facilities with the football pitch hire; the challenge was in finding a safe way to do this, in terms of keeping the toilets sanitised and ensuring social

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distancing. The cost of staff to steward and clean the Pavilion throughout the weekend would need to be considered.

The FM had produced a report which outlined specific Government guidance on restarting sports and opening facilities. The report also outlined the assurances made by Syston Town Juniors FC regarding risk assessments and appointment of a Covid Officer.

Two members of STC staff had confirmed they would be willing to monitor and clean the Pavilion at weekends.

The Chairman acknowledged correspondence between Edward Argar MP and the TM as well as from Cllr James Poland.

It was agreed that the best way forward would be the formation of a working panel to look at the detail.

It was proposed by Cllr T Barkley

To delegate authority to the TM, FM, Chairman of STC, Chairman of Amenities Committee and a representative of the football clubs to work towards a solution to commence football at Memorial Park, with use of the toilet facilities, in a safe and acceptable way agreeable to all. This to be cost neutral to STC.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr J Lucas

To remove 'This to be cost neutral to STC'.

4 voted for

6 voted against

A vote was taken on the original proposal

6 voted for

3 voted against

1 abstention.

The original proposal by Cllr T Barkley was carried.

The results of the joint meeting would be reported back to Council in September. Sam Chambers of Syston Town Juniors FC agreed to represent the football clubs.

All members of public left the meeting at this point.

84/20 CIVIC RECEPTION DATE (PROVISIONAL) & CHAIRMANS CHARITY 2021

The 2020 Civic Reception had been cancelled due to COVID-19. It was hoped to hold the next Civic Reception in May 2021. The Chairman had nominated LWA (Living Without Abuse). A domestic abuse charity based in Loughborough, providing support for men and women whom were experiencing any type of domestic abuse, across Leicestershire, Rutland and Leicester City.

It was proposed by Cllr T Barkley

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and **Resolved** to hold the Civic Reception on Friday 14 May 2021.
All in favour.

The previous Chairman, Cllr K Pacey had nominated the Derbyshire, Leicestershire & Rutland Air Ambulance service as his charity. The cancellation of the 2020 Civic Reception had reduced the opportunity to raise funds for the charity. However, Officers had raised over £210 by holding a charity fashion show, Cllr K Pacey had personally matched this amount, and a donation of £420 had been made.

Cllr J Poland left the meeting at 20.18

85/20 TEMPORARY MEASURES TO SUPPORT SOCIAL DISTANCING – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SIGNAGE & SOCIAL DISTANCING PANEL

The panel met on 21 July and Councillors noted their report. The report was put forward for approval to allow the recommendations to be carried out. There was a grant of £10K available from Leicestershire County Council.

The full report had been circulated to Councillors. The recommendations contained in the report were as follows:

The recommended roads for temporary 20 mph speed restrictions were:

- Melton Road from the Doctors surgery to the Midland Railway Pub.
- High Street from the Queen Victoria public house to the mini roundabout
- Barkby Road from the Cemetery to the mini roundabout.

It was agreed to recommend the purchase of 30 temporary 20 mph signs to allow for five signs either side of each road.

Cost £50 per sign, total £1,500

Please Keep Distance – Social Distancing Signs

Social distancing signs may be of interest to local infant schools, in readiness for their return in September.

It was recommended to write to the schools in Syston to advise them of the funding and enquire if there was anything that they required in regard to social distancing signage.

Cost £80 per sign

Edging back of Over-grown Vegetation

There was one area of overgrown hedge already identified at Northfields. This had been instructed to be cut back by LCC. STC could approach LCC and ask to use part of the £10k funding to do this (Tindle Tree Care had been asked to quote for the work).

It was agreed to investigate which areas in Syston had overgrown foliage that obstructed footpaths and roads. Councillors were asked to identify areas in their Wards.

LCC would fund £100 for the first metre, £50 per metre thereafter.

Chairman

Pedestrian Guidance or One-Way System

Due to the potential of a second wave of Coronavirus in the Autumn and Winter of 2020, it was agreed that this would assist in keeping distancing measures in place in Syston, particularly in the main shopping areas. It was agreed that large public awareness signage would be more beneficial than arrows on the pavement.

It was agreed to look at prices of large Covid-19 social distancing signs for use in main parts of Syston and on Central Park.

Other

Applications to be submitted by 30 September at the latest. Evidence of a public consultation was required with applications.

It was agreed to advertise a consultation on the STC website, social media, notice boards and Syston Topic during the first two weeks of August. An application would be submitted in the third/fourth week of August.

It was proposed by Cllr T Barkley

and **Resolved** to accept the report and recommendations from the Signage & Social Distancing panel.

All in favour.

86/20 BEST PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS IN LOCAL GOVT ETHICAL STANDARDS

It was proposed by Cllr T Barkley

and **Resolved** to note this item and in due course integrate with STC Code of Conduct.

All in favour.

87/20 APPOINT A RECESS PANEL FOR AUGUST (URGENT ISSUES ONLY)

It was proposed by Cllr T Barkley

and **Resolved** to appoint a recess panel for August (comprising of Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees):

- Cllr T Barkley
- Cllr S Gerrard
- Cllr J Lucas
- Cllr M Carnall
- Cllr K Pacey

All in favour

88/20 COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEE

Newly appointed Cllr P Walden had attended each committee meeting and had elected to join the Development Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr T Barkley

and **Resolved** to appoint Cllr P Walden to the Development Committee.

All in favour.

Chairman

89/20 HORACE TAYLOR TRUST COUNCIL NOMINATION

Mrs Elaine Yarwood four-year term of office as an STC nominated Trustee of H A Taylor Trust would end in July 2020, she had confirmed that she would like to stand for a further four year term.

It was proposed by Cllr T Barkley
and **Resolved** to nominate Mrs Elaine Yarwood as a Trustee of the H A Taylor Fund for a further four year term.
All in favour.

90/20 AGREE THE MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 23 JUNE 2020

There was one amendment:

08/20 Membership of Cemetery Panel

Cllr K Pacey's name to be removed and replaced with Cllr T Barkley's name.

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council on 23 June 2020 were proposed by Cllr T Barkley and **Resolved** to accept and sign as a true record (with the above amendment).

All in favour.

91/20 RECEIVE MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- a) Development & General Purposes Committee 7 July 2020
- b) Amenities 14 July 2020
- c) Resources 21 July 2020

The Committee minutes were received by Council.

92/20 REVIEW OF OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

An update was given:

111/19 Bid to improve Syston brook – contact furloughed

261/19 Stiles – report by Cllr M Carnall awaited

337/19 Alternative waste processing – ongoing

341/19 Love Clean Street app – costs had been presented to Development Committee with some testimonials from other councils, this was due to be considered in more detail at the September meeting

627/19 Millstone Lodge – worktop purchased and due to be fitted by FM

585/19 Monthly H & S inspection – TM & DTM actioned some issues, remainder handed over to FM.

324/19 Local Council Award Scheme – evidence for Gold Award had been submitted to LRALC

601/19 Highways had refused a request to provide signage to the new Cemetery, a enquiry on how to arrange for our own signage on the high way had not received a response; CV to follow up

Chairman

93/20 QUESTIONS RECEIVED TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions.

94/20 TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

Councillors noted the Town Manager's report.

Updates:

- Office – now open five days a week, enquiries were mainly being dealt with via the intercom system. Telephone enquiries were reasonably busy.
- Facilities Manager (FM) – commenced employment on 29 June and was already making a significant contribution to the team.
- Public Toilets – additional mid-day clean by STC Cleaner, there had been no difficulties reported since re-opening.
- PDRs – had commenced, planned to complete by the end of August.
- Syston & District Cemetery – construction complete, a final financial assessment to be carried out to determine how much surplus could be put towards the Phase Two construction. A risk assessment for managing funerals at both STC cemeteries in line with new Government guidance on Covid-19 had been circulated to local funeral directors.
- Pavilion- TM had completed as much of the specification form as she could and had now passed it to the architect to complete, before uploading to national contractor website. Reports of youths climbing on the container roof and onto the the Pavilion roof had been reported to the police, anti-climb paint and associated signage had been re-applied; as the paint did not paint will be ordered.
- Playgrounds – a post had been removed from the palisade fencing at DeVille Park. The FM would be arranging to replace the post.
- VJ Day – the Chairman would lay a wreath at the War Memorial on behalf of STC and Edward Argar MP, on 15 August.
- Syston Topic – a special VJ Day edition was being prepared.
- CCTV Melton Road – all actions complete by STC, awaiting ADT to return from furlough. TM would follow up for an update.
- Spring Clean – advertised in national press as 11-27 September 2020, not confirmed by CBC yet.

Reports were also received from the DTM, SA and Asst to TM.

95/20 ON-GOING DEVELOPMENTS IMPACTING COUNCIL OPERATIONS (COVID-19)

Councillors noted the report for information.

96/20 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Councillors noted the report.

97/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Proposed by Cllr T Barkley and **Resolved**

Annual Town Meeting – 22 September 2020 at 7.00pm

Full Council Meeting – 22 September 2020 at 7.30pm

Chairman

Both to be held in virtual format with Zoom.
All in favour.

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 9 pm.

Chairman