



UTTOXETER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 27 JULY 2026 IN THE BALLROOM, UTTOXETER TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 6.30PM AND THERE WERE PRESENT:

Chair and Town Mayor - Councillor Z Krupski

Councillors: T Ashby, D Boot, J Glandfield, R Hawkins, B Houlihan, A Johnstone, C Lancaster, C Sylvester, L Sylvester P Krupski, C Wain
Officer in attendance – T Jeffery (Town Clerk/RFO)

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME

The Chair welcomed members and members of the public to the meeting and he provided a brief on the provisions of the Filming of Meetings as in accordance with "The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014", reminded that the Council had Signed up to the Civility and Respect Pledge, use of mobile phones during the meeting and the evacuation procedure in the event of a fire. Council was advised that the Clerk and Councillors Ashby and Boot were the Council's trained Evac Chair Operators.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- (a) The Clerk reported receipt of approved apologies for absence from Councillors D Holland, A Mansfield (Deputy Mayor), A Noyes and S Page.

RESOLVED that the same be accepted and approved.

- (b) To minute the names of Councillors who are absent and apologies have not been received.
None.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In accordance with Standing Order 3(e-h), the meeting be adjourned for up to 15 minutes to allow for public participation where members of the public may make representations, ask or answer questions and give evidence at a meeting which they were entitled to attend in respect of the business on the Agenda. The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting as in accordance with standing order 3(e) shall not exceed (3) minutes unless directed by the Chair of the meeting. It was noted that Members of the public may not take part in the Council meeting itself.

It was noted that no members of the public were in attendance in the meeting.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declaration of any disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting, and which is not included in the register of interests. Members were reminded that they were required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the register of members' interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer.

None received.

5. DISPENSATION PROCEDURE

To consider and approve dispensation requests as in accordance with Standing Order 13(d), that all Dispensation requests shall be in writing and submitted to the Clerk as soon as possible before the meeting, or failing that, at the start of the meeting for which the Dispensation is required. Council will decide whether to grant the dispensation at the relevant meeting. Unless Council grant the relevant delegated power to Committee, it was Council that decided whether to grant the dispensation.

None received.

6.

COUNCIL IN PRIVATE – PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the above Act it was requested that the public and press were not present due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and were asked to withdraw.

RESOLVED that the same be accepted and approved.

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR)

Council gave consideration to the following:

- (a) The Clerk reported receipt of an email on 16 July 2026 from SPCA's County Executive Officer, as forwarded to Members, advising Council that:
- *The Government has just made its decision on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).*
 - *As you will be aware, the Government is dissolving County Councils and District/Borough Councils and replacing them with Unitary Councils. This brings to an end a system that has operated in Staffordshire since 1974.*
 - *The Government has decided that the District/Borough Councils and Staffordshire County Council will be reorganised into the following unitary councils –*
 - *Southern and Mid Staffordshire Unitary consisting of Cannock, Stafford, South Staffordshire, Lichfield, Tamworth, East Staffordshire.*
 - *North Staffordshire Unitary consisting of Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire Moorlands.*
 - *Further details are available via <https://staffordshirestokelgr.org.uk/>*
 - *The new councils will take over services on 1 April 2028, following Unitary Council Elections in May 2027.*
 - *SPCA will arrange an online briefing ASAP to further dissect this announcement and what it means to your Council. Details will be circulated soon.*

It was noted that Uttoxeter would form part of the Southern and Mid Staffordshire Unitary consisting of Cannock, Stafford, South Staffordshire, Lichfield, Tamworth, East Staffordshire and not within the North as initially supported by the Town Council. It was noted that Council discussed a number of matters including process going forward, services, asset transfers, funding, etc, which at this stage, the majority was unknown.

The Clerk reported that SPCA had advised that the SPCA LGR Briefings would take place on 5 August 2026 at 10am and 6 August 2026 at 5.30pm. She reported that she would be attending the 5 August 2026 session and she encouraged Members to attend either session if possible. Council's instruction was sought. Following due debate, it was

RESOLVED that the same be noted.

- (b) The Clerk reported receipt of an email on 16 July 2026 from Jacob Collier MP providing Council with a copy of the response he had received from The Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness in response to the letter issued to The Secretary of State regarding LGR, outlining the concerns that were raised to the MP by local Parishes during the LGR meeting held on 3 June 2026, as forwarded to Members. Council's instruction was sought. Following due debate, it was

RESOLVED that the same be noted with thanks.

- (c) Council gave consideration to the next steps on LGR and liaison/meeting with other relevant Authorities. Council's instruction was sought. Following due debate, it was

RESOLVED that:

- (i) In the first instance, Borough Councillors P and Z Krupski liaise with ESBC to seek an update on potential discussions on asset transfer.
- (ii) Upon receipt of (i) as above, the Clerk write to ESBC's CEO to:
 - (a) Reiterate the Council's primary concern is to maintain and protect the level and quality of the services currently provided by ESBC and SCC throughout the town.
 - (b) Express the Council wishes to protect the following high priority assets within the Town; the refurbished Bradley Street toilets, the new Changing Places facility and the Heath Community Centre.

- (d) Council gave consideration to the Town Council facilitating a LGR Parish Council Meeting with surrounding Parish Councils who have a similar set of interests to the Town Council. Council's instruction was sought. Following due debate, it was

RESOLVED that the Clerk and Chair be tasked with contacting:

- (i) Uttoxeter's neighbouring Parishes (Blithfield, Croxden, Denstone, Draycott in the Clay, Ellastone, Kingstone, Leigh, Marchington, Mayfield, Rocester, Stanton, Uttoxeter Rural, Wootton) to:
 - (a) Progress initial engagement with an invitation to a LGR Parish Forum meeting to be held at the Town Hall, mid-September, to discuss common interests in LGR.
 - (b) It will be proposed at the Forum that it meets on a 6-monthly basis.
- (ii) The larger Councils, in light of the recent LGR Announcement, who are similar in size to Uttoxeter (including Cannock, Great Wyrley, Hednesford, Lichfield, Perton, Rugeley, Stone, Wombourne) to meet (mid-September) to discuss how collectively the group of larger Council's maintain a strong voice for the small/medium towns going forward within a new Unitary Authority.

The Chair reported that a further Extraordinary Council Meeting may need to be convened over the coming weeks. The meeting was closed at 7.40pm.