

Report on County Council Matters to North Nibley Parish Council

12th April 2021

Cabinet meeting, 24th March

You may recall that at the county council's budget meeting in February the Lib Dem group had put in an amendment to increase the council's cabinet recommendation of £10k per councillor for Highways Local to £30k, which resulted in an increase in the approved budget to £20k per councillor.

At the next meeting of the council's cabinet, they announced that they had found the money to increase this to £30k per councillor!

County Council meeting 17th March

The motions debated and their outcomes were:

Equalities (Labour)

Called on the council to undertaking an equalities audit when services are designed and commissioned to remove access barriers for all groups. Also, to ensure that Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people* are always short listed and interviewed when middle and senior management vacancies occur.

*In speaking to this the proposer added in "who have appropriate qualifications". A supportive Conservative procedural motion referred this to the council's Equalities Working Group to ensure the legality of the proposal.

Special Schools (Conservative)

To note the valuable role these schools play and the capital investment being made into them.

Electioneering, it went on to refer to "the misguided actions of previous councils in seeking their closure". This refers to a situation 20 years' ago when it was felt that more children in special schools would be better placed in mainstream schools and the numbers in special schools were decreasing. The vote was won, with many abstentions.

Response to Covid-19 pandemic (Conservative)

This thanked the NHS teams leading on vaccination in the county, and the firefighters, other council staff and volunteers who support them, for their exceptional work in delivering the vaccine across our county.

Words were added by a Lib Dem amendment and agreed by the Conservatives to support the campaign to increase the proposed one per cent pay rise for frontline workers and calling on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to follow the recommendations given by the NHS pay review body instead. The amended motion was passed unanimously.

Social care funding (Lib Dem)

This noted that next year, at £157 million, adult social care is the single largest item of county council expenditure and represents nearly one third of all spend and will increase. The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated many of these problems.

The Conservative Government pledged that it would act on adult social care funding and committed to publishing a Green Paper on this in the 2017 Spring Budget. This has still not been published despite many subsequent promises that it was about to appear.

It asked the Council to write to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, expressing the Council's extreme frustration that the Government has failed to produce any long-term plan for a system creaking under unsustainable

pressure and asking them to urgently publish the social care green paper, and to include a proper consultation on funding options.
This motion fell with most Conservatives voting against.

Covid-19

Please see attached report on Gloucestershire.

Finally

Thank you all for your work for the parish and best wishes for the future, particularly to Ken after his time at the helm. Many thanks for your card on my retirement. It was much appreciated.

I will send a report for your Annual Parish Assembly. This clashes with Wotton's planning committee which I shall have to attend, so I probably won't make it to your meeting.

John

John Cordwell

(GDPR health warning:) If you no longer wish to receive this report please let me know.