

COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of South Norfolk District Council held at South Norfolk House, Long Stratton on Monday
19 February 2018 at 7.30pm**

Members Present: Councillors; Duffin (Chairman), Amis, Bell, Bendle, Bernard, Bills, Broome, Dale, Dewsbury, Easton, Ellis, Foulger, Fuller, Goldson, Gould, Gray, Hardy, L Hornby, Hudson, C Kemp, W Kemp, Larner, Lewis, Mason-Billig, Overton, Riches, Stone, J Savage, R Savage, Thomson, J Wilby, M Wilby, Worsley and (for parts of the meeting) Councillors; Edney, J Hornby, Neal, Pond and Thomas

Apologies: Councillors; Blundell, Fulcher, Kiddie, Legg, Minshull, Mooney, Palmer and Wheatley

Officers in Attendance: The Chief Executive (S Dinneen), the Director of Growth and Business Development (D Lorimer), the Director of Communities and Wellbeing (J Sutterby), the Assistant Director of Resources (P Catchpole) the the Head of Business Transformation (H Ralph), the Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer (E Hodds) and the Electoral Services Manager (J Tovee-Galey)

Also in Attendance: Mr R Foster and Mr J Halls (Petitioners)
The Press and 21 members of the public were also in attendance

3420 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

With reference to item 6, the petition (minute 3423) and item 7, the Community Governance Review and Recommendations from the Electoral Arrangements Review Committee (minute 3424) members declared the following interests:

Members	Pre-determination
Cllrs: Broome, J Hornby L Hornby Pond and R Savage	<u>Wymondham</u> Members declared that they were predetermined and did not take part in the debate or vote
Cllr Goldson	<u>Diss and Roydon</u> Member declared that he was predetermined and did not take part in the debate or vote
Members	Other Interests renewed from Meetings of the Electoral Arrangements Review Committee
Cllrs: C Kemp Easton L Hornby Stone Lewis and Bills	Link to the “Declarations of Interest” from the meeting of the Electoral Arrangements Review Committee Meeting held on 15 August 2017 Link to the “Declarations of Interest” from the meeting of the Electoral Arrangements Review Committee meeting held on 29 November 2017
Members	Other Interests - Lobbying
ALL	Lobbied by the petitioner and by Wymondham Town Council
Members	Other Interests The following members declared that they had attended town/parish meetings, as indicated below, but had not given any opinions and were able to take part in the consideration of these items with an open mind
Cllr Amis	Bawburgh and Costessey
Cllr Bills	Cringleford, Bawburgh, Hethersett, Colney and Keswick & Intwood
Cllr Dewsbury	Easton, Kimberly, Marlingford & Colton, Barford, Wrampingham and Wicklewood
Cllr Duffin	Ashwellthorpe, Tacolneston and Forncett
Cllr Easton	Bunwell, Carleton Rode, and Tibenham
Cllr Edney	Barnham Broom, Kimberley & Carleton Forehoe, Morley, Brandon Parva, Coston, Runhall & Welbourne and Wicklewood
Cllr Foulger	Bracon Ash, Mulbarton, Ketteringham, East Carleton, Flordon, Swainsthorpe, Wreningham, Newton Flotman and Swardeston

Cllr Fuller	Chaired meetings which were attended by most parish councils and sat as a member of the Electoral Arrangements Review Committee
Cllr Gould	Loddon and Chedgrave
Cllr Gray	Wortwell & Alburgh, Earsham & Denton, and attended meetings of the Electoral Arrangements Review Committee
Cllr Hardy	Newton Flotman, Flordon, Wreningham and Swainsthorpe
Cllr Hudson	Pulham Market, Pulham St Mary and Starston
Cllr C Kemp	Bawburgh, Colney, Cringleford, Keswick & Intwood and Little Melton (parishes in Cllr Kemp's ward - provided procedural advice only), and a number of other parishes outside of his ward (provided procedural advice only)
Cllr W Kemp	Aldeby, Burgh St Peter, Haddiscoe, Norton Subcourse, Thurlton, Toft Monks and Wheatacre
Cllr Lewis	Bixley, Caistor St Edmund, Dunston, Stoke Holy Cross, Trowse with Newton and Keswick
Cllr Mason Billig	Ellingham, Geldeston, Gillingham, Hales, Heckingham, Kirby Cane, Raveningham and Stockton
Cllr Neal	Poringland and Framingham Earl
Cllr Overton	Poringland and the Framinghams
Cllr J Savage	Harleston
Cllr Thomas	Long Stratton, Wacton, Tharston & Hapton, Tasburgh, Bedingham, Fritton & Morningthorpe, Hempnall, Shelton & Hardwick, Saxlingham, Shotesham and Woodton
Cllr Thomson	Bixley, Caistor, Poringland and the Framinghams
Cllr Worsley	Long Stratton with Tharston, Hapton and Wacton present

Cllr K Worsley then declared an interest in item 10 (minute 3427), the Monitoring Officer report, regarding Councillor absence. He did not partake in the discussion or vote on this matter.

3421 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 December 2017, were agreed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

3422 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman was sorry to report the passing of former district councillor, Dick Smith.

Cllr V Bell explained that it was with great sadness that she had learnt of the passing of Richard Smith (known as Dick) last December. He had been a member of both the district and town council from 1995 until 2003. He was a very kind and conscientious individual who always demonstrated great empathy for the frail and vulnerable. A real gentleman, and instantly recognisable by his colourful bow ties, he would be sadly missed by the Costessey community.

Members then stood and observed a minute's silence in memory of Mr Smith.

3423 PETITION – FORMATION OF A NEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR SPOONER ROW, SUTON AND WATTLEFIELD

The Chairman referred to the following petition received:

“That the recommendations of the Electoral Arrangements Review Committee NOT to allow the setting up of a separate community council is rejected by the Full Council and that the original proposal is reinstated and accepted. We ask that Full Council considers this matter again and please listen to its residents”

He referred members to the full statement of the petition, detailed at page 18 of the agenda, and then invited the lead petitioner, Mr R Foster to address the Council.

Mr Foster outlined the purpose of the petition, explaining that the residents of Spooner Row, Sutton and Wattlefield had not felt that the strength of feeling expressed by the community had been recognised by the Electoral Arrangements Review Committee (EARC), at its meeting on 29 November. He explained that the three villages formed a rural area currently governed by Wymondham Town Council, which many felt was neglected within the current arrangements. He referred to the overwhelming positive response to the proposal to separate the three communities from Wymondham Town to create a new Community Council. There had been 530 positive responses to this proposal across the two consultations, with 89% of respondents being in favour of the proposals. With regard to the first consultation, out of 631 responses received, 316 had been concerning the Wymondham proposal and Mr Foster explained that this equated to 50% of the responses being concentrated on only 0.5% of the total electorate of South Norfolk. Residents had been very disappointed, that following another positive response rate in the second phase of consultation, that the EARC had reversed their previous recommendation, without any supporting evidence. The second phase of the consultation process had attracted 312 responses, of which 160 were in favour of the proposals.

The petitioners had been disappointing to learn at the EARC meeting that at least two of the Council members had not read the responses received. The EARC had failed to provide any tangible evidence to reject the proposals and concerns regarding the

long-term sustainability of the proposals had been based upon assumption only. Mr Foster then referred to the ten letters of intent to stand as councillor (from residents in all three parishes), copies of which had been sent to all members.

Summing up, Mr Foster urged members to reconsider the EARC's recommendations, and to allow the three villages to take collective control of their own destiny, within their rural community, sharing local values and creating a better environment for all. He stressed that this was rural community that did not fit with the needs of Wymondham town and he believed that that there was little to be lost by taking forward the proposals.

The Chairman then moved that the petition be received, and this was seconded by Cllr J Overton, and agreed by Council.

Cllr C Kemp then moved that the petition be fully taken in to account during consideration of the Community Governance Review, (item 7 on the agenda) and this was seconded by Cllr T Lewis.

With 37 members voting for, 0 against and with 1 abstention, this proposal was carried.

It was

RESOLVED:	That the petition be fully taken into account during consideration of the Community Governance Review and the Recommendations of The Electoral Arrangements Review Committee.
------------------	---

3424 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Cllr C Kemp presented the recommendations of the Electoral Arrangements Review Committee (EARC), regarding the Community Governance Review, to Council.

He reminded members of the background to the proposals, explaining that legislation required the Council to undertake a Community Governance Review every 15 years. This was a statutory process governed by the Local Government and Public Involvement Act 2007 and Cllr Kemp drew attention to the requirements of the Council to ensure that community governance in the area of the review reflected the identities and communities in that area, and that arrangements were effective and convenient.

Cllr Kemp reminded members that they needed to have regard to the Government Guidance on how this should be applied, when making their decision. Drawing attention to section 102 of the Act, he referred to the need to consider the interests of the "whole area" of the District, not just individual settlements, and he then referred in particular to the need to consider the interests of the whole parish of Wymondham, not just those of Spooner Row, Sutton and Wattlefield.

Referring to the evidence submitted by all parties, he stressed the importance of quality of evidence over quantity, and he advised Council that should evidence be equal, then the status quo should prevail. Turning to the position regarding Wymondham, he explained that it had been his view at the last EARC meeting, that the evidence had been equal, and therefore he had supported a recommendation for status quo. He added that the Committee had not “changed its mind” as suggested by the petitioners. After the first round of consultation, the Committee had decided that the proposal was worthy of a second stage of consultation, however, he stressed that the Committee had not at this point decided to support the proposal.

Cllr Kemp then proposed the following amendment to ensure that the Chief Executive had sufficient delegated powers to implement the decision of Council, relating to changes to County division and District ward boundaries, should it be required.

To add at the end of recommendation 3 **“(including amendments to County Division and District Ward Boundaries)”**

This amendment was seconded by Cllr T Lewis and was then unanimously carried.

Cllr T Lewis then proposed the following amendment, seconded by Cllr M Gray:

“That whereas the Parish Councils of Caistor St Edmund and Bixley each

(a) assent to their Parishes merging, but

(b) judge that the proposed new Parish Council of 12 councillors is unnecessarily large, having regard to the current and forecast electorate, to official guidance on the size of Parish Councils and to the effective and economic delivery of local services, so that they

(c) seek that the new Parish Council should have nine councillors, six for the Caistor St Edmund ward and three for the Bixley ward, which will also more closely reflect the future electorates in each ward allowing for the separately proposed transfer of part of Bixley to Poringland,

South Norfolk Council amends its proposed Orders accordingly.”

Cllr C Kemp explained that he had been made aware of this proposed amendment and he fully supported it.

The amendment was then voted upon and unanimously carried.

Cllr R Savage, the Mayor of Wymondham, then addressed the meeting, representing Wymondham Town Council. He referred to the importance of the decision and stressed the need for careful consideration by members. He explained that historically the settlements of Spooner Row, Sutton and Wattlefield had been governed by various administrative bodies located in the town, going back 120 years. He referred to the background to the proposals and referred to a consultation exercise carried out last July, by residents in the three settlements, where 308 out of 531 residents had expressed a wish to form a Community Council. In response to this, the Town Council had distributed information regarding what these proposals would mean and held various drop-in sessions for residents. He explained that it was clear that a significant number of residents in Sutton did not support the proposal

for a new Community Council, and he felt that this may have been due to the location of the settlement, to the west of the A11 dual carriage way, completely cutting off Sutton from Spooner Row. He went on to explain that in October 2017, Wymondham Town Council had unanimously resolved to retain the villages within the parish of Wymondham, with town councillors expressing concerns that the separation would be detrimental to community cohesion given the divergence of views and the physical barrier of the A11 within a new parish. Over the last few days, local town councillors had canvassed opinion in the town, and the wider parish, and out of 300 electors interviewed, 80% were in favour of the settlements remaining within the parish of Wymondham. Residents had expressed concerns that the settlements were too small to break away, and that the proposal was a waste of public money. Referring in particular to responses in Sutton, he advised that residents in the village, on a ratio of 2:1, had indicated that they wished to remain in the parish of Wymondham. He then urged members to vote to retain the current boundaries, for reasons of community cohesion, reminding members that the interests of the whole community should be taken in to account.

Cllr J Hornby, also representing Wymondham Town Council, endorsed the views of Cllr Savage, explaining that there were some properties in both Sutton and Wattlefield that did not fit within the boundaries of the new proposals, and therefore the proposals would be splitting communities apart, not bringing them together. He felt that it was unfair of Spooner Row to include Sutton and Wattlefield in to the proposals, when it was clear that these settlements did not share the enthusiasm for change.

Cllr J Fuller then explained that although he was a member of the EARC, he had been unable to attend the meeting on 29 November. He had listened very carefully to the views expressed by the petitioners and those from Wymondham Town Council, and he had studied the evidence collected as part of both consultation exercises. He urged members to weigh up the evidence carefully and to remember that the quality of the evidence was important, as was the need to consider the extent of the wider area, including Wymondham. He stressed this was not a political issue and his Group had been advised that members were free to exercise a “free vote” on this matter.

Cllr M Gray explained that he had been in attendance at both EARC meetings (in August and November), as a local member, and that he had been very surprised at the final recommendation regarding Spooner Row, Sutton and Wattlefield, as the responses to the second consultation only reinforced the results from the first. The only justification given by committee members was about the future sustainability of a relatively small parish, but there appeared to be no evidence to back this up.

He informed members that he represented five villages, four of which were smaller than the combined size of Sutton, Spooner Row and Wattlefield, and that each did a fantastic job for their local community. He stressed the need for all local communities to be treated equally, and he felt it unfair to restrict these three settlements by insisting that they be governed by a town ten times its size. He urged members to do what was right and fair for the rural communities around Wymondham, and he was confident that these settlements would be able to better manage their own affairs, rather than being a very minor part of Wymondham Town Council’s core business. The petition had clearly demonstrated that the formation of a Community Council reflected the identities and interests of the local communities.

Referring to the reasons given by the EARC regarding future sustainability, he felt that this had been clearly undermined by the evidence submitted that there was a pool of members of the community willing to serve on the future Community Council. The submissions sent had demonstrated the quality of talent within these settlements, and this added to the argument that a Community Council would be more than capable of leading and determining its own priorities, rather than having to rely on neighbouring Wymondham to do so.

He drew attention to the Town Council's concern regarding the loss of precept from the 282 properties in the three settlements, but Cllr Gray referred to the hundreds of new properties to be built in the town.

Cllr Gray then moved the following amendment, which was seconded by Cllr V Bell:

“To grant Spooner Row, Sutton and Wattlefield the ability to manage their own affairs in their own community Council.”

Cllr J Fuller suggested that the amendment required some refinement, and with the agreement of both Cllrs Gray and Bell, the amendment was revised as follows:

“Spooner Row, Wattlefield and Sutton be separated from Wymondham Town Council and Spooner Row Community Council be formed as indicated in Map 14 (page 34 of the agenda papers), with 7 councillors. South Wymondham Ward to be amended as indicated in Map 14 and the number of councillors be reduced from 4 to 3”

Cllr K Mason Billig acknowledged that both the petitioners and Wymondham Town Council had gone to a lot of trouble to canvass the thoughts and opinions of residents, and she had listened to the arguments very carefully. She referred to Mr Foster's suggestion that nothing would be lost should the Community Council fail. She could not agree; the community was already partly divided and public funds would be required to set up the new governance arrangements. She referred to the need to ensure effective and convenient governance for all and that the arrangements were reflective of the identities and communities in the area. She was not convinced that this could be said for all three settlements. She reminded members that new boundary arrangements would be in place in the next couple of years, and these changes would see a fairer representation of these settlements on Wymondham Town Council. She was not persuaded that as it stood, the proposition was the right one, and could not support the amendment.

In response to a query from Cllr J Overton, Cllr J Hornby confirmed that the Town Council had delivered over 5000 leaflets, to every household in the parish. Cllr Overton was concerned as to why the Town Council had failed to follow up on this sooner, noting that it had canvassed residents as late as the previous weekend.

Cllr V Bell referred to the expressions of intent received from residents wishing to serve on the proposed new Community Council, and she was most encouraged by the commitment shown from residents of Sutton, Spooner Row and Wattlefield. She then expressed her support for the amendment.

Cllr T Lewis explained that the Liberal Democrats were also free to exercise a free vote on this issue. He felt it difficult to understand in real terms what the loss to Wymondham would be, should the three settlements break away. He understood that there may be residents in the town who would support the status quo, but their views could not be weighed any greater than those expressed wishes from the parishes who urged for change. He referred to the letter received from the Wymondham Town Clerk (sent to all members before the meeting), and he felt that this presented no arguments or evidence to suggest that the parishes should not break away.

Cllr C Kemp explained that he had listened carefully to the views of all parties and he still felt the decision to be a finely balanced one. He did accept that there was clear support for a separate Community Council from residents in Spooner Row, but he questioned whether this could also be said for both Sutton and Wattlefield. He referred to the expressions of intent from residents to stand for office on the newly formed Council, and he suggested that this added little value to the argument, as residents in 14 months' time might change their mind or move away. He had also noted that out of the ten expressions of interest, only two had been from Sutton and one from Wattlefield. He informed Council that although there appeared to be a case for Spooner Row to break away from Wymondham (without Sutton or Wattlefield), this was not an option for consideration that evening, as there had been no consultation regarding that proposal. He did however suggest that should this option be put forward in the form of a Community Governance Review Petition, it would receive early attention. He then urged members to reject the amendment.

Members then voted and with 16 votes in favour, 14 against and with no abstentions, the amendment was carried.

The Chairman then drew members' attention to all the recommendations and it was unanimously

RESOLVED:	To: 1. Approve the recommendations of the Electoral Arrangements Review Committee, held 29 November 2017 (appended to these minutes), except those decisions relating to Wymondham, Caistor St Edmund, Bixley and Diss and Roydon. 2. Approve the recommendations of the Electoral Arrangements Review Committee with regard to the parishes of Caistor and Bixley, except in so far as the new parish council be composed of 9 councillors (not 12 as recommended), 6 from Caistor St Edmund ward and 3 from Bixley ward. 3. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive for the creation of any Orders or the taking of any other steps required, for the implementation of those changes agreed and any consequential matters thereby required (including amendments to County Division and District Ward Boundaries). Reasons for Decisions 1. For the reasons given in the minutes of the Electoral Arrangements Review Committee (appended to these minutes), held 29 November 2017 2. The Council agrees to the creation of “Caistor St Edmund and Bixley Parish Council”, for the reasons given in the minutes of the Electoral Arrangements Review Committee, held 29 November 2017 (appended to these minutes), however, it is the view of the Council (having considered all the evidence submitted) that the composition of 9 parish councillors for Caistor St Edmund and Bixley, better reflects the identities and interests of this community and will put in place effective and convenient community governance within that part of South Norfolk.
-------------------------	--

With 20 votes in favour and 11 against, it was

RESOLVED:	To agree that 1. Spooner Row, Wattlefield and Sutton be separated from Wymondham Town Council and Spooner Row Community Council be formed as indicated in Map 14 (page 34 of the agenda papers), with 7 councillors. 2. South Wymondham Ward to be amended as indicated in Map 14 and the number of councillors be reduced from 4 to 3. Reasons for Decision The Council decided that, having regard to all the evidence submitted and recognising that the argument is finely balanced, this new Council will better reflect the identities and interests of this community, and will put in place effective and convenient community governance within that part of South Norfolk.
------------------	--

With 33 votes in favour, 0 against and with 2 abstentions, it was

RESOLVED:	To agree with the recommendations of the Electoral Arrangements Review Committee held 29 November 2017 (appended to these minutes), relating to Diss and Roydon. Reasons for Decision For the reasons given in the minutes of the Electoral Arrangements Review Committee, held November 2017 – that the existing boundary better reflects the identities and interests of the community and will continue to provide effective and convenient community governance.
------------------	--

3425 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET

i) Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework

Cllr Fuller introduced the recommendations from the Cabinet, regarding the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework. He explained that the document had been produced by all planning authorities in Norfolk, together with other relevant bodies, such as the

Environment Agency, Natural England and Local Enterprise Partnerships, and set out guidelines for strategic planning matters across the county and beyond, demonstrating how authorities would work together in an integrated approach, under the Duty to Cooperate requirement.

Cllr M Gray expressed his support for the document, stressing the importance of being able to demonstrate co-operation as part of the Local Plan process.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED:	To: a) Approve the Norfolk Strategic Framework (outlined at Appendix 1) and that the Council becomes a 'signatory' to it; b) Continue to support the Norfolk Strategic Planning Group to evolve the Framework and associated work, to ensure it remains up to date and relevant; and continues to fund the work necessary to keep the Framework up to date, including the project management support, for 2018/19 and 2019/20
------------------	---

ii) Greater Norwich Joint Infrastructure Investment Plan 2018/19 – 2022-23

Cllr J Fuller introduced the recommendations from the Cabinet, concerning the Greater Norwich Joint Infrastructure Investment Plan (IIP) 2018-19 – 2022-23.

Cllr Fuller reminded members that back in 2014 Broadland, Norwich City, and South Norfolk Councils agreed to pool receipts from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to create an Infrastructure Investment Fund (IIF), to support strategic infrastructure across the Greater Norwich area.

Members' attention was drawn to Appendix A of the IIP, which outlined those schemes supported within South Norfolk.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED: To approve the projects in South Norfolk to be included in the Greater Norwich Joint Five-Year Infrastructure Investment Plan 2018-19 to 2022-23 (Appendix 1), and endorse the draft programme for Greater Norwich, including the 2018/19 projects as the Annual Growth Programme, for consideration by the next meeting of the Greater Norwich Growth Board.

iii) REVENUE BUDGET, CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND COUNCIL TAX 2017/18

The Chairman proposed and the Council agreed that, in accordance with Standing Order D4.5, Group Leaders be permitted to speak for 15 minutes each on the budget.

Cllr J Fuller began by explaining that this was the tenth budget he had delivered as Leader, since the Conservatives took control of South Norfolk in 2007. In that time, the Conservative Group had created an enviable record of high performance, low taxation and a relentless focus on delivering more for residents and business, with the single aim of making South Norfolk one of the best places to live in the country.

He referred to the current uncertain financial environment for local authorities and how district councils had been hit hard by a system that transferred finance from New Homes Bonus to Adult Social Care. He felt it ironic that despite being one of the highest performing authorities on delivering homes, South Norfolk had been one of the hardest hit financially. He drew attention to the negative Revenue Support Grant that would next year result in South Norfolk tax payers subsidising councils in other parts of the country, and reminded members that this was the third of a four-year settlement, and that no one knew what lay ahead. He hoped that future change would result in a more simple and fair finance system for local government, but acknowledged that this could not be left to chance.

He stressed the need for a positive approach that he believed had become second nature to South Norfolk Council. He referred to the Council's focus on commercialisation, generating income to spend on those that needed it most, and the 10% challenge, which was currently ahead of track. He drew attention to the Council's website and IT infrastructure, which allowed nearly two thirds of service requests to be made on line, making considerable savings. These were examples of deliberate decisions, which were paying dividends at a time when money was needed the most.

Cllr Fuller suggested that commercialisation, trimming costs, reducing demand and growing the economy were the way forward if the Council was to remain sustainable, and he was proud that South Norfolk was already delivering this.

Turning to South Norfolk as a place to live, Cllr Fuller made reference to the investment in the Wymondham Leisure Centre and the increase in income, fitness membership, swim school membership and casual users. The Council's investment in these areas allowed more people to have the opportunity to get fit and healthy and pursue active lifestyles. He explained that the Council was on track to ensure 100% coverage of fast broadband throughout the District and he referred to how the Council was adapting residents' homes through Disabled Facilities Grants, to support people to live independently for longer. He made particular reference to the District Direct Hospital Discharge scheme in place to assist hospital patients get home quicker, and the excellent homelessness and housing advice service, provided by the Council.

He advised members that next month the Council would be investing in bin lorries, part of a comprehensive investment that had allowed the Council to have the highest recycling rate in Norfolk. He reminded members that new housing growth made this

investment all the more important. He went on to refer to the Council's developing relationship with Broadland Council and the opportunities this would bring, including savings and managing the housing and labour markets.

Cllr Fuller was very proud of what had been achieved, he referred to the various positions/ nominations received over the past year, suggesting that these selections demonstrated how the Council was strong and well regarded by its peers.

Turning to Council Tax, he explained that a £5.00 increase on a Band D property was necessary, honest and simple pricing. He reminded Council that council tax had been frozen for 8 years and was now a fifth less than inflation and reserves had never been healthier. He referred to the previous Liberal Democrat administration when council tax went up by 235% and was eight times inflation.

He then announced that as a result of a more favourable settlement which had seen an additional £69,768 come in to the Council, he had two projects to share with members. Firstly, he outlined plans to install electric car charging posts in all the market towns in the District, by Christmas and members noted that any funding provided by the Council would be matched by Government. He believed that this would encourage more visitors to the market towns, whatever their mode of transport, and he thanked Cllr K Worsley for his work in this area. Secondly, he announced an urgent £15,000 feasibility study to enable all parishes to express an interest in to whether residents feel that on street resident parking permits was an option in their settlements. He agreed that there were a few settlements in the District, where all day parking had got out of hand so that residents were unable to get in to their drives or industrial estates were over run with parking commuters.

Summing up, Cllr Fuller announced that the Council had a budget and capital programme that was affordable over the next 3 years. This proved that the Council was a forward thinking, organised, responsive and high performing. The Council was building better lives and stronger economies and he then commended the budget to members.

Cllr B Stone then explained to members how the Council had been able to deliver a balanced budget and an affordable capital programme long term. He explained that the Medium Term Financial Plan was balanced for the year ahead, with a small surplus in 19/20, and deficits for 20/21, 21/22 and 22/23 that were being addressed through a review of services. In terms of borrowing, he informed members that this would incur an estimated £1.2 million in costs. However, investments funded from borrowing had been budgeted to generate £1.4 M annually, which would more than offset the borrowing costs. Concerning income from commercial companies and wider commercial activities, such as building control, leisure centres, and garden waste, members noted that this had now been budgeted at £9m. He added that reserves remained healthy and he explained there were plans to use some of these to avoid borrowing, but revenue reserves would still total £10M by 22/23. Staffing costs had been addressed through the reviewing of vacancies and the removal of unneeded posts, and the 10% challenge was on track to be achieved, He was very proud that no redundancies had been necessary.

Turning to the capital programme, he stressed that this was affordable due to planned use of reserves and prudent borrowing. He referred to a £10M contingency, which was available for key infrastructure projects. He then explained to members that since the

capital programme had been drafted, a Housing Infrastructure Fund grant of £5.5 million had been awarded to the Council. It was anticipated that this grant funding would be received in tranches and transferred to Big Sky Developments to deliver infrastructure upfront for the development at Cringleford.

Cllr Stone then referred to the budget consultation exercise, which had received 113 responses, The results indicated that the Council listened to its residents and was in tune with their needs.

Finally, Cllr Stone thanked the staff in the Finance Team for delivering a workable, balanced budget, and he commended the budget to members.

Cllr T Lewis explained that the Liberal Democrat Group supported the budget, and agreed that there had indeed been many achievements that the Council should be proud of. He added that many of these initiatives had originated from the Liberal Democrat administration, such as brown bins and commercial investments. He agreed with Cllr Fuller on a number of issues concerning the need for fundamental change, with a simpler and more understandable finance system for local government and he felt that this clearly demonstrated how local government and national government were not so joined up. Whilst admiring the ambitions of some investments, he did highlight the huge risks involved; he had never known a capital programme so ambitious, and he stressed the need to keep a watchful eye as investments progressed.

On the whole, Cllr Lewis supported the budget, and he welcomed Cllr Fuller's announcement regarding parking permits for residents, although he suggested that the Council would need to proceed carefully as he suspected that Norfolk County Council would not be paying for the process. With regard to the plans to install electric car charging posts in all the market towns, he felt that the plans no doubt had some merit, but he suggested that Cllr Fuller was accelerating this a little too fast, and that there were far too many unanswered questions to progress further at this stage. He questioned whether these posts posed any danger to the public and whether this really was something that would benefit the majority of residents. Cllr Lewis then proposed the following amendment:

“That instead of setting up a £50,000 reserve against the future provision of electric vehicle charging points (section 2.2 of the Council Tax Resolution), this Council instead sets up a £50,000 reserve against the Council later deciding to enhance its community cohesion functions after the abolition of the PCSOs.”

Cllr Lewis expressed concern regarding the impact on South Norfolk residents, following the withdrawal of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). He explained that Scrutiny had agreed that it would consider the impact, some 6-9 months after the changes had been implemented, however, he felt it prudent to have in place a reserve to fund any functions the Council might choose to take on in future. He explained that other councils were already making arrangements to deal with the impact that the loss of PCSOs would have on the community.

In seconding the amendment, Cllr V Bell explained that several years previous, the County Council had withdrawn funding for youth officers, and Costessey Town Council had decided to provide a level of funding each year to ensure the service continued. This she said was an example of how services did not necessarily need to cease, should different organisations intervene and become more innovative with regard to how services were delivered. The proposed amendment was an opportunity to put something back, which all the community could benefit from. With regard to the installation of electric vehicle charging points, she was concerned that these plans were premature and she suggested that their installation would require planning permission.

Cllr C Kemp reminded Council that the decision to discontinue the use of these officers had not been taken lightly, and had only been made after much research and deliberation. One hundred and fifty PSCO jobs would be lost, but this would result in 81 new police officer roles which would assist in tackling crimes that required more complex investigation; crimes that were on the rise. He could not envisage how £50,000 would fill the gap, bearing in mind that this might only fund 1.7 PCSOs.

Cllr Y Bendle explained that one of the major partners in the Hub was the Police, and that officers already worked very closely with them on a number of issues. The Community Connectors already in place did an excellent job and liaised with the Police on a regular basis.

She went on to advise that much of the work of the Hub centred on prevention. Over the next 3 years, it was anticipated that the hub would support more than 6500 people resulting in an overall £2.4 billion fiscal benefit.

The pro-active multi agency approach to homelessness had reduced demand on temporary accommodation and other resources, keeping most residents in stable tenancies. This prevention approach was recognised in the LGA “Housing our Homeless Households” report, which featured the work of the Council’s FIRST Officers, based in the Hub.

Turning to affordable homes, she explained that over the last three years 1300 affordable homes had been delivered in the District, more than any other authority in either Norfolk or Suffolk, and she predicted that this figure would rise to 1500 over the next 3 years.

She referred to social prescribing, where Community Connectors were based at GP surgeries, offering non-medical solutions to social, emotional and practical issues that might be causing health problems or making them worse. In the first 6 months, 187 patients had benefitted from the scheme and records had shown that the Connectors were able to meet the needs of 45% of patients in the initial appointment, where they received tailored information and advice. This scheme had then led on to the District Direct scheme which had assisted people leaving hospital, getting back to their own homes quicker. This scheme had in its first 17 weeks, supported more than 130 patients, with 190 interventions, and provided wider information and advice. It had been recognised by NHS England and had so far saved nearly 400 bed days and £77,000.

Cllr K Worsley referred to the Council as a forward-thinking organisation, and he was disappointed that the electric vehicle charging points were not supported by the Liberal Democrat Group, given the Party’s support of the Green Transport Bill.

Cllr K Mason Billig considered the proposed amendment to be ill thought through. Through the installation of electric vehicle charging points in the District, residents would be encouraged to buy electric cars, and she urged members to support their installation.

Agreeing with Cllr Mason Billig, Cllr W Kemp was surprised at the lack of support from the Liberal Democrat Group, and he felt it absurd that it had been suggested that this initiative would only benefit the rich. He suggested that their installation would unlock other funding and would benefit the District widely.

Cllr Fuller was also surprised at Cllr Lewis' lack of support for electric vehicle charging points, and referred to the proposed £50,000 for community cohesion which was equivalent to the employment of only one full time PCSO. Referring to Cllr Lewis' point regarding caution being required concerning parking permits, he advised that South Norfolk and County would be working hand in hand on the project.

The vote on the amendment was then conducted as a roll call vote as follows:

Cllrs Bell and Lewis voted in favour of the amendment.

Cllrs Bendle, Bills, Broome, Dale, Dewsbury, Duffin, Easton, Ellis, Foulger, Fuller, Goldson, Gould, Hardy, L Hornby, Hudson, C Kemp, W Kemp, Larner, Mason Billig, Overton, Riches, J Savage, R Savage, B Stone, Thomson, J Wilby, M Wilby and Worsley voted against the amendment.

Cllrs Amis, Bernard and Gray abstained from the vote

The amendment was therefore lost.

The vote on the substantive was then conducted as a roll call vote as follows:

Cllrs Amis, Bell, Bendle, Bernard, Bills, Broome, Dale, Dewsbury, Duffin, Easton, Ellis, Foulger, Fuller, Goldson, Gould, Gray, Hardy L, Bendle, Bernard, Bills,,Dale, Dewsbury, Duffin, Easton, Ellis, Foulger, Fuller, Goldson, Gould, Gray, Hardy, L Hornby, Hudson, C Kemp, W Kemp, Larner, Lewis, Mason Billig, Overton, Riches, J Savage, R Savage, Stone, Thomson, J Wilby, M Wilby and Worsley voted in favour of the recommendations.

No members voted against and there were no abstentions.

It was therefore unanimously

RESOLVED: To

- (a) Approve the base budget; as shown in para 7.1, subject to confirmation of the finalised Local Government finance settlement figures which may, if significant, necessitate an adjustment through the General Revenue Reserve to maintain a balanced budget;
- (b) Approve the use of the revenue reserves as set out in section 15;
- (c) Agree that the Council's demand on the Collection Fund for 2018/19 for General Expenditure shall be £6,997,555 and for Special Expenditure be £78,662.17;
- (d) Agree that the Band D level of Council Tax be £145.00 for General Expenditure and £1.63 for Special Expenditure;
- (e) Agree that the assumptions on which the funding of the capital programme is based are prudent.
- (f) Approve the capital programme for 2018/19 to 2022/23, noting that a Housing Infrastructure Fund of £5.5 million has been awarded since the capital programme was drafted.

(iv) Treasury Management and Capital Strategy 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2021

It was unanimously

RESOLVED: To Approve

- a) The Treasury Management Strategy Statement for April 2018 to March 2021.
- b) The Capital Strategy outlined in section 3 and Appendix A of the report.
- c) The Prudential Indicators and Limits for the next 3 years contained within Appendix B of the report, including the Authorised Limit Prudential Indicator.
- d) The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement (section 9) that sets out the Council's policy on MRP.
- e) The Annual Investment Strategy 2018/19 (section 6) contained in the Treasury Management Strategy, including the delegation of certain tasks to the Section 151 Officer
- f) The Treasury Management Policy Statement (Appendix E).

3426 COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2018/19

The Chairman reminded members that a revised report had replaced that originally published in the agenda. This was due to an amendment following a request from Alburgh Parish Council to increase their precept.

The vote was conducted as roll call vote as follows;

Cllrs Amis, Bell, Bendle, Bernard, Bills, Broome, Dale, Dewsbury, Duffin, Easton, Ellis, Foulger, Fuller, Goldson, Gould, Gray, Hardy L, Bendle, Bernard, Bills,,Dale, Dewsbury, Duffin, Easton, Ellis, Foulger, Fuller, Goldson, Gould, Gray, Hardy, L Hornby, Hudson, C Kemp, W Kemp, Lerner, Lewis, Mason Billig, Overton, Riches, J Savage, R Savage, Stone, Thomson, J Wilby, M Wilby and Worsley voted in favour of the recommendations.

No members voted against and there were no abstentions.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED**

- 1) To approve the recommendations of the Cabinet meeting held 5 February 2018 relating to the Council Tax Base for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relates as in the attached Appendix B
- 2) The recommendations of the Cabinet meeting 5 February 2018 relating to the Revenue and Capital Estimates 2018/19, as amended to reflect the final local government financial settlement described in section 2 of this report, be approved.
- 3) That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2018/19 (excluding Parish precepts and special expenses) be calculated as £6,997,555.00.
- 4) That the Council Tax requirement for special expenses be calculated as £78,662.17.
- 5) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2018/19 in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Act.
 - a) £68,464,178.00 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils and any additional special expenses.

- b) £57,809,984.87 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- c) £10,654,193.13 being the amount by which the aggregate at 6(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 6(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the 1992 Act).
- d) £220.77 being the amount at 6(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts and special expenses).
- e) £3,656,638.13 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts and special expenses) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per attached Appendix B).
- f) £145.00 being the amount at 6(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 6(e) above by Item T (1 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the 1992 Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept or special expense relates.
- 6) To note that Norfolk County Council and the Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Act for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.
- 7) That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Act, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2018/19 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

	Valuation Bands							
Precepting Authority	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
South Norfolk Council	96.67	112.78	128.89	145.00	177.22	209.44	241.67	290.00
Norfolk County Council	881.82	1,028.79	1,175.76	1,322.73	1,616.67	1,910.61	2,204.55	2,645.46
Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner	152.76	178.22	203.68	229.14	280.06	330.98	381.90	458.28

Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements (excluding Parish Precepts and Special Expenses)	1,131.25	1,319.79	1,508.33	1,696.87	2,073.95	2,451.03	2,828.12	3,393.74
--	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------

- 8) The Council has determined that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2018/19, which reflects an increase of £5.00, is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Act.

As the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2018/19 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK of the Act.

3427 MONITORING OFFICER REPORT

Cllr J Fuller introduced the report of the Monitoring Officer, which sought approval to make amendments to the constitution, amongst other matters.

Referring to the recommendations regarding Homelessness Appeals, the Chairman of the Licensing, Appeals and Complaints Committee, Cllr D Goldson, confirmed his support for the proposals. He considered that the proposals would make the process more efficient and cost effective, whilst retaining input from members. Both Cllrs Gray and Bendle indicated their support for the proposals.

Cllr Fuller referred to the recommendation to excuse Cllr Worsley from meetings, following a serious operation in March, and on behalf of Council he wished him the best of luck and a speedy recovery. Cllr T Lewis also expressed his best wishes to Cllr Worsley.

It was then unanimously

RESOLVED:	To (a) Approve the changes to the constitution, as outlined in section 2 of the report; (b) Note the changes to the membership of the Development Management Committee and the Development Management Substitutes Pool
------------------	--

It was unanimously (Cllr Worsley did not partake in this vote)

RESOLVED:	To excuse Cllr K Worsley from attending meetings of the Council and the Committees on which he serves, until further notice, pursuant to Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972
------------------	--

3428 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2018/19

Members considered the report of the Payroll Manager, which presented Council with the annual Pay Policy Statement for 2018/19.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED	To approve the content of the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2018/19.
-----------------	---

3429 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMEN AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

a) Cabinet

There were no questions to cabinet portfolio holders

b) Scrutiny Committee

In the absence of Cllr G Minshull, the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, Cllr T Lewis (Vice-Chairman) informed members that the last two meetings of the Scrutiny Committee had considered the Business Plan and the Budget. The Committee had also been updated on the progress with the Council's collaboration with Broadland District Council.

c) Licensing Appeals and Complaints Committee /Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee

There were no questions to the Chairman of the Licensing Committee.

Cllr Goldson informed Council that a full meeting of the Licensing Committee had recently met to consider Doggy Day Care.

d) Development Management Committee

There were no questions to the Chairman of the Development Management Committee.

e) Electoral Arrangements Review Committee

There were no questions to the Chairman of the Electoral Arrangements Review Committee
Cllr Kemp informed members that the Committee would shortly be considering a review of Polling Districts and Polling Places.

3430 OUTSIDE BODIES – FEEDBACK FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr C Kemp presented his report to members, regarding the Police and Crime Panel for Norfolk. With regard to the transfer to the Commissioner functions of the fire and rescue authority, he explained that should the Commissioner decide to proceed to develop a full business case, there would be a consultation process with key stake holders, including South Norfolk Council. He suggested that this might be a role for the Scrutiny Committee.

With regard to the Broads Authority, Cllr V Thomson informed members that the Peer Review Report had been received and issues were around poor governance and communication with stakeholders and land owners. Discussions had already taken place regarding how to address these issues, and he would keep members informed on the progress made.

(The meeting concluded at 10.37 pm)

Chairman



ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Electoral Arrangements Review Committee of South Norfolk District Council held at South Norfolk House, Long Stratton on 29 November 2017 at 10:00am.

Committee Members Present: Councillors: C Kemp (Chairman), C Easton, K Kiddie and T Lewis

Apologies: Councillors: J Fuller and L Hornby

Substitute Members: Councillors: D Bills for J Fuller and B Stone for L Hornby

Other Members in Attendance: Councillors: For parts of the meeting: D Goldson, M Gray, J Hornby, L Hornby, G Minshull, J Overton, T Palmer, R Savage and V Thomson

Officers in Attendance: The Chief Executive (S Dineen) (for part of the meeting), the Electoral Services Manager (J Tovee-Galey), the Electoral Services Officer (N Tullock), the Deputy Monitoring Officer (E Goddard) (for part of the meeting)

Also in Attendance: David Johnson – NpLaw

The press and 63 members of the public were also in attendance

28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Member	Interest
Cllr Kiddie	<u>Diss / Roydon</u> Other Interest:- District Councillor for Diss, Town Councillor for Diss, and County Councillor for Diss and Roydon. Member stated that, although he did not consider himself to be predetermined, he declared that he had elected to leave the room when this item was discussed, to ensure public confidence in any recommendation made to Full Council. Cllr Kiddie withdrew from the room for this item, did not take part in the discussion, and did not vote.
Cllr Kemp	<u>Diss / Roydon</u> Other Interest:- Member had been lobbied by residents, and had been present at Roydon Parish Council meetings and other meetings with residents, where the Community Governance Review had been discussed, but he had provided procedural advice only. <u>Poringland</u> Other Interest:- Member had given advice on procedural matters only. <u>Wymondham</u> Other Interest:- Member had given procedural advice only to other Local Members. <u>Cringleford</u> Other Interest:- District Councillor for Cringleford. Member had taken part in discussions but had provided procedural advice only.
Cllr Easton	<u>Carleton Road / Bunwell</u> Other Interest:- District Councillor for Bunwell but representing both parishes. Member had been in discussions with residents and was present at Parish Council meetings where the Community Governance Review had been discussed, but no opinions or advice had been given.
Cllr Stone	Other Interest - County Councillor for Thurton and Ashby.
Cllr Lewis	<u>Poringland and Framingham</u> Other interest:- Member had attended several meetings in Stoke Holy Cross and Poringland but no opinions had been given. <u>Bixley and Caistor St Edmund</u> Other Interest:- District Councillor for Bixley and Caistor St Edmund. Member had presented information at meetings where issues had been discussed, but no advice had been given.
Cllr Bills	Other Interest:- District Councillor for Hethersett

29. MINUTES

Regarding Minute 27, at the paragraph detailing the consideration of Bunwell, the Committee agreed that the wording of the first line should be changed from, "*The Tacolneston Parish Clerk advised that....*" to "*A member of Bunwell Parish Council (who is also the Tacolneston Parish Clerk) advised that....*".

Subject to that amendment, the minutes of the Electoral Arrangements Review Committee held on 15 August 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

30. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Chairman and Chief Executive welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr Kemp summarised the aims of the Review and explained that the Committee would be considering the representations received before making its recommendations to a meeting of the Full Council to be held on 19 February 2018, where the Authority's final decision would be made.

The Chairman reminded members that the District Boundary Review had already taken place ahead of the Community Governance Review and that any proposed parish boundary changes would be required to respect current County, District and Parliamentary boundaries. Speakers were advised that the Committee could only consider those things set out in the relevant legislation and guidance and were unable to take into account any issues which might fall under the control of the District or Parliamentary Reviews.

It was noted that, during the first phase of consultation, the number of representations received from towns and parishes had been disappointingly low and it appeared that, where parishes and residents were content with current governance arrangements, they had made little representation during that phase. However, due to a significantly higher number of responses being received towards the end of the second phase, the Committee now considered they had a more accurate indication of the opinions and views of town/parish councils and residents.

The Committee was reminded of its obligation to ensure that, when considering each parish boundary, the proposals for change should be in line with the Terms of Reference of the Community Governance Review, and clearly support the aims of the Review; to improve community engagement and local democracy, to facilitate efficient, effective and convenient delivery of local services, and to ensure electors across the whole District are treated equitably and fairly. It was noted that, should these proposals not meet the aims of the Review, then the status quo should continue.

The following speakers addressed the meeting with regard to the various proposals:

Diss and Roydon	Ms D Sarson – Diss Town Council Mr P Curson – Roydon Parish Council Ms N Atkins – Residents' Group against recommendations Mr T Knights – Resident against recommendations Cllr T Palmer – Local Member for Diss Cllr D Goldson – Local Member for Roydon
Carleton Rode and Bunwell	Mr J Pennell – Bunwell Parish Council Dr B Slater – Carleton Rode Parish Council Mr A Hatcher – Resident against recommendations Mr L Elley – Resident against recommendations
Poringland and Framingham Earl	Ms L Brook – Framingham Earl Parish Council Ms J Sykes – Resident against recommendations for Poringland / Framingham Earl Cllr J Overton – Local Member for Poringland and the Framinghams
Wymondham	Cllr R Savage – Wymondham Town Council Cllr L Hornby – Wymondham Town Council Mr J Halls – Resident in favour of recommendations Mr S Ward – Resident in favour of recommendations Cllr J Hornby – Local Member for Wymondham
Earsham	Cllr M Gray – Local Member for Earsham
Costessey	Ms H Elias – Costessey Town Council
East Carleton with Ketteringham	Mr T Cave – East Carleton with Ketteringham Parish Council Mr P Riches – Resident against the recommendations
Ashby St Mary	Mr R Todd – Ashby St Mary Parish Council

The Committee considered each town/parish in the order indicated in the agenda and made its recommendations, as detailed below:

Diss and Roydon

Members voted 4-1 to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. having considered the relevant legislation, guidance, and representations made regarding Diss and Roydon, that it should **reject** the proposals and retain the parish boundaries as they currently exist;
2. the number of Councillors for Diss be increased to 14 and the number of Councillors for Roydon remains unchanged; and
3. the town/parish council names for both Diss and Roydon remain unchanged.

The reason for the decision

The Committee's decision was based upon the evidence before it. Members reached the conclusion that the existing boundary better reflects the identities and interests of the community and will continue to provide effective and convenient community governance.

Bunwell and Carleton Rode

Members voted 4-0 (2 abstained) to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. having considered the relevant legislation, guidance, and representations made regarding Bunwell and Carleton Rode, that it should **reject** the proposals and retain the parish boundaries as they currently exist;
2. the number of Councillors for Bunwell and Carleton Rode remain unchanged; and
3. the parish Council names for both Bunwell and Carleton Rode remain unchanged.

The reason for the decision

The Committee's decision was based upon the evidence before it. Members reached the conclusion that the existing boundary better reflects the identities and interests of the community and will continue to provide effective and convenient community governance.

Poringland

Members voted unanimously to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. having considered the relevant legislation, guidance, and representations made regarding Poringland and Framingham Earl, that it should **reject** the proposals and retain the parish boundaries as they currently exist;
2. having considered the relevant legislation, guidance, and representations made regarding Poringland and Bixley, that it should **agree** a boundary change, as indicated in map 11 on page 40 of the agenda, to move a part of Bixley into Poringland;
3. the number of Councillors for Poringland remains unchanged; and
4. the parish council name for Poringland remains unchanged.

The reason for the decision

The Committee's decision was based upon the evidence before it. Members reached the conclusion that the existing boundary better reflects the identities and interests of the community and will continue to provide effective and convenient community governance.

Framingham Earl

Members voted unanimously to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. having considered the relevant legislation, guidance, and representations made regarding Framingham Earl and Poringland, that it should **reject** the proposals and retain the parish boundaries as they currently exist;
2. the number of Councillors for Framingham Earl remains unchanged; and
3. the parish council name for Framingham Earl remains unchanged.

The reason for the decision

The Committee's decision was based upon the evidence before it. Members reached the conclusion that the existing boundary better reflects the identities and interests of the community and will continue to provide effective and convenient community governance.

Wymondham

Members voted 5-1 to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. having considered the relevant legislation, guidance, and representations made regarding Wymondham and the proposal that Spooner Row, Wattlefield and Sutton be separated from Wymondham Town to create a new community council, that it should **reject** the proposals and retain the parish boundaries, as set out in the Local Government Boundary Commission for England Order 2017;
2. Wymondham Town Council retain 5 Councillors in North Wymondham Ward, 5 councillors in Central Wymondham Ward, 1 councillor in East Wymondham Ward and 4 councillors in South Wymondham ward; and
3. Wymondham Town Council remain as set out in the Local Government Boundary Commission for England Order 2017.

The reason for the decision

The Committee's decision was based upon the evidence and arguments presented to the Committee and was finely balanced. The Committee consider that, on balance and due to the evidence submitted together with concerns regarding the long-term sustainability of the proposal, the existing boundary better reflects the identities and interests of the community and will continue to provide effective and convenient community governance.

Tivetshall St Margaret and Tivetshall St Mary

Members voted unanimously to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. having considered the relevant legislation, guidance, and representations made regarding Tivetshall St Margaret and Tivetshall St Mary, that it should **agree** the proposals and merge the parishes to create a parish with no wards called "Tivetshall Parish Council"; and
2. the number of Councillors for Tivetshall Parish Council be set at 7;

The reason for the decision

The Committee's decision was based upon the evidence before it. Members reached the conclusion that the amended boundary better reflects the identities and interests of the community and will put in place effective and convenient community governance.

Dickleburgh & Rushall and Burston & Shimpling

Members voted 5-0 (with 1 abstention) to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. having considered the relevant legislation, guidance, and representations made regarding Dickleburgh & Rushall and Burston & Shimpling, that it should **reject** the proposals and retain the parish boundaries as they currently exist;
2. the number of Councillors for Dickleburgh & Rushall and Burston & Shimpling remain unchanged; and
3. the parish Council names for Dickleburgh & Rushall and Burston & Shimpling remain unchanged.

The reason for the decision

The Committee's decision was based upon the evidence before it. Members reached the conclusion that the existing boundary better reflects the identities and interests of the community and will continue to provide effective and convenient community governance.

Cringleford

Members voted unanimously to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. having considered the relevant legislation, guidance, and representations made regarding Cringleford, that it should **reject** the proposals and retain the parish boundaries as they currently exist;
2. the number of Councillors for Cringleford remains unchanged; and
3. the parish Council name for Cringleford remains unchanged.

The reason for the decision

The Committee's decision was based upon the evidence before it. Members reached the conclusion that the existing boundary better reflects the identities and interests of the community and will continue to provide effective and convenient community governance.

Keswick & Intwood

Members voted unanimously to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. having considered the relevant legislation, guidance, and representations made regarding Keswick & Intwood, that it should **reject** the proposals and retain the parish boundaries as they currently exist;
2. the number of Councillors for Keswick & Intwood remains unchanged; and
3. the parish Council name for Keswick & Intwood remains unchanged.

The reason for the decision

The Committee's decision was based upon the evidence before it. Members reached the conclusion that the existing boundary better reflects the identities and interests of the community and will continue to provide effective and convenient community governance.

Denton and Earsham

Members voted unanimously to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. having considered the relevant legislation, guidance, and representations made regarding Denton and Earsham, that it should **agree** the proposals and amend the parish boundary (as indicated on Map 6 on page 49 of the agenda);
2. the number of Councillors for both Denton and Earsham remain unchanged; and
3. the parish Council names for both Denton and Earsham remain unchanged.

The reason for the decision

The Committee's decision was based upon the evidence before it. Members reached the conclusion that the amended boundary better reflects the identities and interests of the community and will put in place effective and convenient community governance.

Alburgh and Wortwell

Members voted unanimously to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. having considered the relevant legislation, guidance, and representations made regarding Alburgh and Wortwell, that it should **agree** the proposals and make a submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to request for the amendment of the district boundary, as indicated on Map 7 on page 50 of the agenda;
2. the number of Councillors for both Alburgh and Wortwell remain unchanged; and
3. the parish Council names for both Alburgh and Wortwell remain unchanged.

The reason for the decision

The Committee's decision was based upon the evidence before it. Members reached the conclusion that the amended boundary better reflects the identities and interests of the community and will put in place effective and convenient community governance.

It is noted that this recommendation would also require the agreement of the Local Government Boundary Commission as it affects a district boundary and would require the amendment of this district boundary.

Bawburgh

Members voted unanimously to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. having considered the relevant legislation, guidance, and representations made regarding Bawburgh, that it should **agree** the proposal to move Lodge Farm Ward from Bawburgh Parish into Costessey Town and that it should **agree** boundary changes between Bawburgh and Little Melton, as indicated on map 8 on page 51 of the agenda, and make a submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to request for the amendment of both the parish and County boundaries;
2. the number of Councillors for Bawburgh be set at 5; and
3. the parish Council name for Bawburgh remains unchanged.

The reason for the decision

The Committee's decision was based upon the evidence before it. Members reached the conclusion that the amended boundary better reflects the identities and interests of the community and will put in place effective and convenient community governance.

It is noted that this recommendation is subject to the agreement of the Local Government Boundary Commission as it affects “protected electoral arrangements” within the meaning of section 86 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Little Melton

Members voted unanimously to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. having considered the relevant legislation, guidance, and representations made regarding Little Melton, that it should **agree** boundary changes between Little Melton and Bawburgh, as indicated on map 8 on page 51 of the agenda, that it should **agree** boundary changes between Little Melton and Hethersett, as indicated on map 8 on page 51 on the agenda, and that it should make a submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to request for the amendment of both the parish and County boundaries between Bawburgh and Little Melton;
2. the number of Councillors for Little Melton remains unchanged; and
3. the parish Council name for Little Melton remains unchanged.

The reason for the decision

The Committee’s decision was based upon the evidence before it. Members reached the conclusion that the amended boundary better reflects the identities and interests of the community and will put in place effective and convenient community governance.

It is noted that this recommendation for the parish boundary between Bawburgh and Little Melton is subject to the agreement of the Local Government Boundary Commission as it affects “protected electoral arrangements” within the meaning of section 86 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Hethersett

Members voted unanimously to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. having considered the relevant legislation, guidance, and representations made regarding Hethersett, that it should **agree** the proposals and amend the parish boundary (as indicated on Map 8 on page 51 of the agenda);
2. the number of Councillors for Hethersett be increased from 13 to 14; and
3. the parish Council name for Hethersett remains unchanged.

The reason for the decision

The Committee's decision was based upon the evidence before it. Members reached the conclusion that the amended boundary better reflects the identities and interests of the community and will put in place effective and convenient community governance.

East Carleton and Swardeston

Members voted unanimously to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. having considered the relevant legislation, guidance, and representations made regarding East Carleton and Swardeston, that it should **reject** the proposals and retain the parish boundaries as they currently exist;
2. the number of Councillors for both East Carleton and Swardeston remain unchanged; and
3. the parish Council names for both East Carleton and Swardeston remain unchanged.

The reason for the decision

The Committee's decision was based upon the evidence before it. Members reached the conclusion that the existing boundary better reflects the identities and interests of the community and will continue to provide effective and convenient community governance.

Costessey

Members voted unanimously to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. having considered the relevant legislation, guidance, and representations made regarding Costessey, that it should **agree** the proposal to move Lodge Farm from Bawburgh Parish into Costessey Town, as indicated on map 10 on page 53 of the agenda, and make a submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to request for the amendment of both the parish and County boundaries;
2. the number of Councillors in the Costessey Parish be retained in the following wards; New Costessey Ward 8 Councillors, Old Costessey Ward (incorporating the Lodge Farm area) 6 Councillors, and 5 Councillors in Queen's Hill Ward; and
3. the parish Council name for Costessey remains unchanged.

The reason for the decision

The Committee's decision was based upon the evidence before it. Members reached the conclusion that the amended boundary better reflects the identities and interests of the community and will put in place effective and convenient community governance.

It is noted that this recommendation is subject to the agreement of the Local Government Boundary Commission as it affects "protected electoral arrangements" within the meaning of section 86 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Bixley

Members voted unanimously to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. having considered the relevant legislation, guidance, and representations made regarding Bixley and Caistor St Edmund, that it should **agree** the proposals and merge the parishes to create a parish called "Caistor St Edmund and Bixley Parish Council" with the number of Councillors for Bixley Ward to remain as 5 and for Caistor Ward to remain as 7; and
2. having considered the relevant legislation, guidance, and representations made regarding Bixley and Poringland, that it should **agree** a boundary change, as indicated in map 11 on page 40 of the agenda, to move a part of Bixley into Poringland.

The reason for the decision

The Committee's decision was based upon the evidence before it. Members reached the conclusion that the amended boundary better reflects the identities and interests of the community and will put in place effective and convenient community governance.

Caistor St Edmund

Members voted unanimously to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. having considered the relevant legislation, guidance, and representations made regarding Bixley and Caistor St Edmund, that it should **agree** the proposals and merge the parishes, (taking into account the recommendation above to move part of Bixley into Poringland), to create a parish called "Caistor St Edmund and Bixley Parish Council" with the number of Councillors for Bixley Ward to remain as 5 and for Caistor St Edmund Ward to remain as 7.

The reason for the decision

The Committee's decision was based upon the evidence before it. Members reached the conclusion that the amended boundary better reflects the identities and interests of the community and will put in place effective and convenient community governance.

Ashby St Mary and Thurton

Members voted unanimously to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. having considered the relevant legislation, guidance, and representations made regarding Ashby St Mary and Thurton, that it should **reject** the proposal to merge the parishes and retain the parish boundaries as they currently exist;
2. the number of Councillors for both Ashby St Mary and Thurton remain unchanged; and
3. the parish Council names for both Ashby St Mary and Thurton remain unchanged.

The reason for the decision

The Committee's decision was based upon the evidence before it. Members reached the conclusion that the existing boundary better reflects the identities and interests of the community and will continue to provide effective and convenient community governance.

Ditchingham

Members voted unanimously to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. the parish boundary for Ditchingham be retained as it currently exists;
2. the number of Councillors for Ditchingham be reduced from 11 to 9; and
3. the parish Council name for Ditchingham remain unchanged.

The reason for the decision

The Committee's decision was based upon the evidence before it. Members reached the conclusion that the existing boundary reflects the identities and interests of the community and will continue to provide effective and convenient community governance. The decision to decrease the number of Councillors was taken due to the difficulties experienced in appointing Councillors for this Ward.

Tasburgh

Members voted unanimously to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. the parish boundary for Tasburgh be retained as it currently exists;
2. the number of Councillors for Tasburgh remains unchanged; and
3. the parish Council name for Tasburgh remains unchanged.

The reason for the decision

The Committee's decision was based upon the evidence before it. Members reached the conclusion that the existing boundary reflects the identities and interests of the community and will continue to provide effective and convenient community governance.

Stratton

Members voted unanimously to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. the parish boundary for Stratton be retained as it currently exists;
2. the number of Councillors for Stratton be increased from 11 to 13; and
3. the parish Council name for Stratton be changed from "Long Stratton Parish Council" to "Long Stratton Town Council".

The reason for the decision

The Committee's decision was based upon the evidence before it. Members reached the conclusion that the existing boundary reflects the identities and interests of the community and will continue to provide effective and convenient community governance. The Committee agreed that, due to the future growth of Long Stratton, the number of Councillors should be increased in line with the recommendations of the National Associations of Local Councils in regard to the number of Councillors per electorate.

Easton

Members voted unanimously to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. the parish boundary for Easton be retained as it currently exists;
2. the number of Councillors for Easton be increased from 7 to 10; and
3. the parish Council name for Easton remains unchanged.

The reason for the decision

The Committee's decision was based upon the evidence before it. Members reached the conclusion that the existing boundary reflects the identities and interests of the community and will continue to provide effective and convenient community governance.

Hempnall

Members voted unanimously to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. the parish boundary for Hempnall be retained as it currently exists;
2. the number of Councillors for Hempnall reduce from 9 to 8; and
3. the parish council name for Hempnall remains unchanged.

The reason for the decision

The Committee's decision was based upon the evidence before it. Members reached the conclusion that the existing boundary reflects the identities and interests of the community and will continue to provide effective and convenient community governance.

Bressingham

Members voted unanimously to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. the parish boundary for Bressingham be retained as it currently exists;
2. the number of Councillors for Bressingham reduce from 9 to 7; and
3. the parish council name for Bressingham remains unchanged.

The reason for the decision

The Committee's decision was based upon the evidence before it. Members reached the conclusion that the existing boundary reflects the identities and interests of the community and will continue to provide effective and convenient community governance.

All Other Parishes

In addition to those mentioned above, members considered all other parishes as detailed from pages 87 to 97 in the agenda, and in each case voted to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

1. the parish boundary be retained as it currently exists;
2. the number of Councillors remains unchanged; and
3. the parish council name remains unchanged.

The Chairman thanked officers for their work and it was then **RESOLVED** that:

1. the recommendations, as above, be put forward for consideration by Full Council for its final determination;
2. Full Council be requested to delegate authority to the Chief Executive for the creation of any Orders, or the taking of any other steps required, for the implementation of those proposals which receive its support, and any consequential matters thereby required;

and

3. officers prepare the report for Full Council in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Electoral Arrangements Review Committee.

(The meeting closed at 4:27 pm)

Chairman