

SPECIAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a Special meeting of South Norfolk District Council held at South Norfolk House, Long Stratton on Monday 15 July 2019 at 8.00 pm

Members Present:	Councillors: Overton (Chairman for the meeting), Amis, Bendle, Bills, Blundell, Brown, Burrill, Clifford-Jackson, Curson, Dearnley, Dewsbury, Duffin, Easter, Edney, Elliott, Elmer, Francis, Fuller, Glover, Hornby, Hurn, Kemp, Kiddie, Knight, Laidlaw, Legg, Mason Billig, Neal, Nuri, Ridley, Rowe, J Savage, R Savage, Spruce, Thomas, Thomson, M Wilby and Worley
Apologies:	Councillors: Bernard, Ellis, Halls, Holden, Hudson, Minshull and J Wilby
Officers in Attendance:	The Managing Director (T Holden), the Director of People and Communities (J Sutterby), the Director of Place (P Courtier), the Assistant Director, Governance and Business Support (E Hodds) and the Assistant Director, Chief of Staff (H Ralph)
Also in Attendance	Mrs. V Bell, Mr. D Goldson, Prof. M Gray, Mrs. S Thomson, Mr. G Wheatley Nine members of the public

3503 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

In the absence of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, it was proposed by Cllr V Thomson, and seconded by Cllr D Bills, that Cllr J Overton be appointed as the Chairman for both the special and ordinary Council meetings to be held that evening.

In the absence of other nominations, ***it was RESOLVED*** that Cllr J Overton be appointed as Chairman for both the special and ordinary meetings of the Council, to be held that evening.

3504 APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMEN

The Chairman outlined the agreed criteria for the enrolment of Honorary Alderman and referred to those who currently held the title. He also made reference to those Honorary Aldermen who had passed away since their appointment.

He was sad to report the recent passing of former councillor and Honorary Alderman, Mr John Halliday.

Cllr V Clifford-Jackson paid tribute to Mr Halliday, advising that he had been the South Norfolk member for the Beckvale Ward, from 1995, to 2007. He had been portfolio holder for the Economy from 2000, until 2005, and was involved in establishing the Hethel Engineering Centre, and the Bio-incubator at the Norwich Research Park. He had held leading roles in a number of projects such as Leader Plus and Visit Norwich and served on numerous committees. He had loved science, the countryside and poetry and was known for his great wit and sense of humour. On behalf of the Council, she expressed her sadness on his passing and forwarded condolences to Mr Halliday's family.

Council then stood and observed a minute's silence in memory of Mr Halliday.

The Chairman then referred to the list of nominations for Honorary Aldermen, recommended by the Aldermanic Review Panel, and invited members to speak on each nominee.

Mrs. V Bell
Mr. David Goldson
Mr. Colin Gould
Prof. M Gray
Mrs. S Thomson
Mr. G Wheatley

(a) Mrs. V Bell

Cllr L Glover outlined some of Mrs. Bell's achievements during her time as councillor at South Norfolk Council. Mrs. Bell had served as a District Councillor for Costessey for 16 years, from 2003 until 2019. During this time, she sat on numerous committees, including Licensing, Scrutiny and Standards and Ethics, and chaired the Culture and Learning Policy Development Panel during her first term on the Council. She had also been a member of the Council's Planning and Area Planning Committees for over twelve years and had been involved in the production of the Local Plan, serving on the Local Planning Steering Group for a period. Mrs. Bell had worked tirelessly for the community of Costessey, representing her constituents with energy, care and positivity. She was very well known locally and had spearheaded the change in Costessey Parish Council to Town Council status, a body on which she had served for many years and chaired for four. She always demonstrated good will, high spirits and humour, even during the most difficult of times, and was always willing to help those in need, and work collaboratively for the good of all.

(b) Mr. D Goldson

Cllr J Fuller outlined some of Mr. Goldson's achievements during his time as councillor for South Norfolk Council. He explained that during Mr. Goldson's early career, he had served in the Royal Navy, as an engineer officer, in nuclear submarines, retiring in the rank of Captain. During his time as a councillor, he had represented the Roydon ward from 2007, until 2019, when he stood down. He served on numerous committees, chairing the Loans and Grants Panel and the Licensing Committee and was Chairman of the Council during 2014/15. He was heavily involved in the local community, serving also as a member of the parish

council and Governor of Roydon Primary School. He was proud to have led litter picks, footpath working parties and been part of the Brewers Green Committee restoring this valued asset for residents. He was known for his tenacity and dry sense of humour and had celebrated a milestone birthday with a Sky Dive to raise funds for young people in the County.

(c) Mr. C Gould

Cllr K Mason Billig referred to Mr. Gould's achievements during the 28 years he had spent as a District Councillor for the Loddon Ward, from 1991, until his decision to stand down in 2019. He had been very involved in the local community, and had served on numerous committees, serving as Chairman of the Council during 2013/14 and was Vice-Chairman of Planning, Licensing and Appeals, and the Local Development Framework Steering Group. He had also represented the Council on the Greater Norwich Development Partnership. Mr. Gould was actively involved in local matters, assisting people with planning applications and housing matters, and the application of "Restorative Justice" to provide resolution to problems.

(d) Prof. M Gray

Cllr C Brown outlined Prof. Gray's achievements during the 28 years he served as a District Councillor. He had represented the Earsham ward from 1991, until his decision to stand down in 2019. During this time he had served on a huge number of committees, including the Planning and Area Planning Committees which he had chaired for a period. He served his local people with exceptional energy and determination, assisting, campaigning and advising, helping people find the support they needed.

Prof. Gray had led the Liberal Democrat Group for a number of years and was also a member of the Broads Authority, chairing that body's Planning Committee with distinction. He had also a successful academic career, having trained as a glacial geomorphologist and he still travelled the world giving conference presentations as a leading international expert on geodiversity. This had culminated in his conferment as an Honorary Professor of Geography earlier in the year.

(e) Mrs. S Thomson

Cllr L Neal outlined Mrs. S Thomson's achievements during her time as councillor for South Norfolk Council. Mrs. Thomson represented the Rockland ward from 2003 until 2015, when she decided to stand down. She was a committed community champion, not afraid to stand up and speak out on the real issues that mattered to her residents. She was committed to socially responsible and economically feasible solutions and was an advocate for truly affordable local housing in the rural communities.

Mrs. Thomson sat on numerous committees, including Scrutiny Committee, and the Joint Consultative Committee, and had chaired the Licensing Committee for a period. She served as Chairman of the Council in 2011-12.

(f) Mr. G Wheatley

Cllr Y Bendle outlined Mr. Wheatley's achievements during his time as councillor for South Norfolk Council. Cllr Wheatley was councillor for the Cringleford ward for 16 years, from 2003 until he stood down in 2019. Mr Wheatley served as cabinet member for finance and resources for eight years, and under his careful and astute guidance, council tax was frozen, and reserves increased. He served on numerous other committees, such as the Finance, Resources, Audit and Governance Committee, Development Management Committee and he chaired the Joint Consultative Committee for a time. He served as Chairman of the Council during 2016/17.

The Chairman then drew attention to the recommendations from the Aldermanic Review Panel, and it was unanimously

RESOLVED: That Mrs. V Bell, Mr. D Goldson, Mr. C Gould, Prof. M Gray, Mrs. S Thomson and Mr. G Wheatley be appointed as Honorary Aldermen of South Norfolk Council, in recognition of the eminent service they have rendered to the Council as former members.

Prof. M Gray, on behalf of all those newly appointed Honorary Aldermen, thanked Council for the great honour that had been bestowed upon them, and thanked members and officers for a most enjoyable evening.

(The meeting concluded at 8.39 pm)

Chairman