

Minutes of a meeting of the **Council** held remotely on **Thursday 14 January 2021** at **7.00pm**.

A roll call was taken and the following Members were present:

Cllr K A Vincent – Chairman

Cllr A D Adams	Cllr D Harrison	Cllr G Peck
Cllr S C Beadle	Cllr L H Hemsall	Cllr S M Prutton
Cllr N J Brennan	Cllr S I Holland	Cllr D Roper
Cllr D J Britcher	Cllr N C Karimi-Ghovanlou	Cllr C E Ryman-Tubb
Cllr P E Bulman	Cllr K S Kelly	Cllr N C Shaw
Cllr S J Catchpole	Cllr D King	Cllr M D Snowling
Cllr S M Clancy	Cllr S Lawn	Cllr L A Starling
Cllr J K Copplestone	Cllr K E Lawrence	Cllr D M Thomas
Cllr A D Crotch	Cllr J Leggett	Cllr J L Thomas
Cllr J J Emsell	Cllr K G Leggett	Cllr S A Vincent
Cllr J F Fisher	Cllr T M Mancini-Boyle	Cllr S C Walker
Cllr R R Foulger	Cllr M L Murrell	Cllr J M Ward
Cllr R M Grattan	Cllr J A Neesam	Cllr F Whymark
Cllr S C Gurney	Cllr G K Nurden	

Also in attendance were the Managing Director, the Director of Resources, the Director of Place, the Director of People and Communities, the Assistant Director Governance & Business Support (Monitoring Officer), the Assistant Director Finance & Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer), the Governance Manager and the Democratic Services Officers (DM & LA).

214 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER PROCEDURAL RULE NO 8

No declarations were made.

215 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr B Cook, Cllr N J Harpley, Cllr I J Mackie, Cllr I N Moncur and Cllr S Riley.

216 MINUTES

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 17 December 2020 were, by way of a roll call, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

217 MATTERS ARISING

No matters were raised.

218 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that she was sad to inform Council of the recent death of Mike Britch who was well known to Members as a former director of the Council's Joint Venture Company, Broadland Growth Ltd. Council joined the Chairman in a moment of silence and reflection.

Members noted the civic engagements undertaken by the Chairman of the Council since the last meeting. The Chairman drew attention to the Business Awards and the opportunity taken to acknowledge and showcase the diversity of businesses across the district. It had been her pleasure to present the awards and congratulate the businesses particularly in the very challenging current circumstances.

The Vice Chairman of the Council shared with Members his recent experience of receiving his coronavirus vaccinations. The process had been well organised and he had no adverse reaction to the vaccinations. He urged everyone to take up the offer of the vaccination when offered it.

The Leader of the Council (Cllr Vincent) also urged everyone to take up the vaccine as this was vitally important in the fight to overcome the pandemic. He again wanted to take the opportunity to thank staff for their continued hard work and commitment to supporting residents at this difficult time, in particular the vulnerable. It was heart-warming to see the good work ongoing.

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development (Cllr Copplestone) reported that businesses in the district had been receiving local restriction grants when in tier 2 and then tier 4 restrictions and these had now closed. The Government had announced a further £4.6 billion for business lockdown payments which would be mainly available for businesses in the hospitality, retail and leisure industries who would receive a one-off payment of £4k, £6k or £9k based on their rateable value. This grant was in addition to the tier 4 scheme and, where businesses had already received grants, it was anticipated these additional payments would be made without the need for a further application. Broadland had also received an additional £1.4m for

additional restrictions grants which opened on 15 January to support small businesses and the self-employed who had not previously received grant support. An expression of interest form was on the Council's website. The Portfolio Holder expressed her deepest thanks to staff in Economic Development and Finance for the continued efficient administration of the grant schemes during the ongoing pandemic which was much appreciated by all Councillors and by the district's business community.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance (Cllr Mancini-Boyle) reported that the Community Lottery had successfully been launched that week and tickets were selling well. She encouraged Members to purchase tickets to help support good causes. It was still possible for new good causes to register to join the lottery. The first draw was due to take place on 27 February 2021.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning (Cllr Hemsall) reported that the Greater Norwich Local Plan was going forward to publication and consultation from 1 February to 15 March, with submission to the Inspector in July 2021 with a view to formal adoption by September 2022.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Wellbeing (Cllr Wymark) reported that £120k of additional funding had been made available to the Council by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to support disabled facilities grants and other capital social care projects such as works to enable the discharge of people from hospital and provide adaptations for terminally ill patients and those suffering from COVID. There was additional funding to help people with mental health problems and for family carers. Money was also available to support fuel poverty and the Council had helped to secure an additional £1.4m of funding for the Norfolk Warm Homes Partnership which it was hoped would support improvements to 180 homes across the County to improve their energy efficiency.

The Managing Director added his heartfelt thanks to staff. Over the Christmas and New Year period staff had been working directly to support communities and in the New Year would be helping with track and trace and the roll out of vaccinations. Staff had been engaged as community wardens, were supporting the NHS and continued to support businesses and the vulnerable. He reiterated his sincere thanks to staff who were working long hours and selflessly to continue to deliver support during the pandemic. He urged everyone to stay safe in these difficult times.

On behalf of Members, the Chairman thanked the Managing Director and staff for all that they were doing during these challenging times and asked him to pass on these thanks.

219 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

It was noted that there had been no questions from the public.

220 PUBLIC SPEAKING

It was noted that there had been no requests for public speaking.

221 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 1 December 2020 and 5 January 2021 were received.

222 CABINET

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 8 December 2020 were received. (It was noted that the matters referred to Council at minute nos: 171 and 173 had been resolved at the extraordinary meeting on 17 December 2020.)

The decisions of the Cabinet meeting held on 12 January 2021 were also received and the following matter considered:

Item no 13: Update to Local Development Scheme

The Portfolio Holder for Planning advised Council of the need to update the Local Development Scheme to reflect changes to the emerging Greater Norwich Local Plan timetable and she invited Members to support the Cabinet recommendation.

It was then, by way of a roll call,

RESOLVED

to approve the proposed amendments to the current Local Development Scheme as attached at Appendix 1 to the signed copy of these minutes.

Item no 12: Greater Norwich Local Plan – Regulation 19, Pre Submission Publication.

With regard to the Cabinet decision to publish the Greater Norwich Local Plan under regulation 19 of the Town and County Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, (item 12 in the Cabinet decision list), a Member asked what assurances could be given that proper consultation would be carried out mindful of the fact that some sites had changed significantly since the Regulation 18 publication. The Portfolio Holder for Planning reiterated that the Regulation 19 consultation would take place from 1 February to 15 March and any site specific queries could be referred to the team as part of that consultation. She understood that sites included in the Regulation 18

consultation would also form part of the Regulation 19 consultation which would allay any concerns. If there were any other issues, these could be raised with her as Portfolio Holder or with the Greater Norwich Local Plan team.

223 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The decisions of the Planning Committee meetings held on 2 December 2020, 17 December 2020 and 6 January 2021 were received.

224 AUDIT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 26 November 2020 were received. The Chairman of the Audit Committee highlighted that the final statement of accounts for 2019/20 had been signed off and he commended the efforts of the Finance Team in finalising the accounts. He also highlighted that the external audit report had not raised any material matters and that the risk register had been approved but that it would receive further consideration by the Committee in consultation with the Portfolio Holder prior to referral to Cabinet in March.

225 MONITORING OFFICER REPORT

Members considered the report of the Monitoring Officer. The Leader of the Council invited Members to support the recommendations regarding changes to the Constitution in relation to the Terms of Reference of the Appeals Panel. The changes would enable the Appeals Panel to meet in accordance with Covid restrictions if necessary. The Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Chairman of the Appeals Committee commended the work of officers in reviewing the current practices to ensure the Panel could continue to meet effectively and continue to reflect the ethos of Member engagement with residents. It was then, by way of a roll call

RESOLVED

to amend the Constitution in respect of the Terms of Reference of the Appeals Panel (a copy of the amended terms of reference attached at Appendix 2 to the signed copy of these minutes).

226 OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS – FEEDBACK FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Members received and noted the feedback from Members on Outside Bodies.

227 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

The following question was received in accordance with Procedural Rule 12.4.

Cllr D Roper

“Has there been any indication from government about whether elections scheduled for 6th May 2021 will still take place on this date or of any possible change in arrangements. Secondly, what would be the financial implications for Broadland District Council if these elections were conducted entirely through postal votes?”

Response by the Leader

The Leader confirmed that there had been no indication from government that the elections scheduled for the 6 May would be cancelled or postponed or moved to all-out postal vote elections at this stage. Also there had been no confirmation on the funding arrangements should the elections change to an all-out postal vote election. The Council would continue to plan for the election until clarification on any changes was received from Government.

Supplementary Question from Cllr Roper

Would the Leader be making any representations to the Government about whether the elections should take place and how they should be conducted?

Response by the Leader

Representations had been made and would continue. His preference would be to see the election held later in the year.

The Managing Director added that representations had been made through the District Councils' Network and that feedback was awaited. Parliament had confirmed the previous day that the election was still scheduled for 6 May but would continue to be kept under review.

228 MOTIONS

No motions were received under Procedural Rule 13.

The meeting closed at 7:55pm