

Minutes of a remote **Extraordinary meeting of the Council** held via video link on **Tuesday 30 June 2020** at **7.00pm**.

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

Cllr K A Vincent – Chairman

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

Also in attendance were the Managing Director, the Director of Resources, the Assistant Director Governance & Business Support (Monitoring Officer), the Assistant Director Finance (Section 151 Officer), the Governance Manager and the Committee Officer (DM).

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the protocol for management of the meeting. She added that the meeting had been called as the recommendations from the Cabinet meeting on 16 June needed to be considered before the next scheduled meeting of the Council.

**145 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

<b>Member/Officer</b>	<b>Minute No &amp; Heading</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>
Cllr Catchpole Cllr Lawrence Cllr Riley Cllr Wymark Cllr Copplestone Cllr Harrison Cllr Lawrence Cllr Wymark	147 – Review of 2020/21 Budgets	Local Member for one of the areas through which the Bure Valley Railway passed – non disclosable local choice interest
Cllr Beadle Cllr Copplestone Cllr Grattan Cllr Moncur Cllr Ryman Tubb Cllr Thomas		Recipient of Government business support grant arising from the COVID-19 crisis.
Cllr Hemsall		Director of Broadland Growth - non pecuniary interest

**146 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr B Cook, Cllr R R Foulger, Cllr S Lawn and Cllr I J Mackie.

**147 REVIEW OF 2020/21 BUDGETS**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance (Cllr T Mancini Boyle) invited Council to consider the recommendations from Cabinet at its meeting on 16 June 2020 regarding proposals to mitigate the financial impact of Covid-19 on the Council's budget. Members had received a copy of the report which was considered by the Cabinet. The Portfolio Holder outlined each of the recommendations which had been considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet and she proposed, (duly seconded) that Council endorse the proposals contained therein. She thanked officers for the report and their efforts at estimating the financial impact of Covid-19 on the budget for 2020/21. Further changes would be necessary as the year progressed and the implications became clearer.

In response to a question, the Portfolio Holder confirmed that the work on collaboration was not driven by the need to find savings and this approach would continue despite the current pressures. Attention was drawn to references in the recent budget report to South Norfolk Council on 15 June to shared service arrangements delivering significant savings over a 5 year

period and the potential to accelerate these or find further savings by progressing to a full merger, requesting a boundary review to potentially reduce the number of wards and members, and expanding the partnership beyond a 2 way shared service. Having regard to this, the Portfolio Holder was invited to reaffirm that this was not the approach that Broadland was taking. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that, whilst these matters had been part of the report to South Norfolk Council, South Norfolk had been advised that they would not form part of the budget report to Broadland Council; the Councils remained two autonomous Councils.

In response to a question regarding progress on resolving the challenges experienced by the system suppliers in administering the £150 reduction to working age claimants in relation to council tax, it was now anticipated this matter would be tested by the second week of July. In the interim, Members were reassured that those affected would continue to be protected and not adversely affected. The Portfolio Holder undertook to update Members on progress on this matter.

Reference was made to the potential bid to the CIL infrastructure fund for further investment in Broadband and the need to progress this and it was noted that this matter was being considered by the Economic Success Panel at its next meeting on 22 July 2020 and Karen O'Kane (Better Broadband for Norfolk) would be invited to attend.

In seconding the proposal, the Leader expressed his appreciation of the work of officers in preparing the report and supported the earlier comments of the Portfolio Holder. The Council's finances were continuing to be effectively managed in a particularly difficult environment.

The Portfolio Holder and the Assistant Director - Finance were thanked for their efforts in preparing an open and transparent report which provided much clarity on the evolving financial impact of Covid-19 and the Council could continue to be confident in its financial position.

Members then voted on the recommendations contained in the report by way of a roll call and it was, unanimously

**RESOLVED** that Council endorses:

- (1) the proposed changes to the 20/21 income budgets, as set out in the table at paragraph 2.2;
- (2) the proposed changes to the 20/21 expenditure budgets, as set out in the tables at paragraph 3.3 and 3.11;

- (3) the request for additional funding – Hardship Payments (£150 Council Tax Support) (£100,000);
- (4) the retention of the 20/21 estimated surplus of £62,000 as a contingency for any additional spending pressures;
- (5) the proposed in year savings, as set out in paragraphs 9.4 and 9.8.

*The meeting closed at 7:30pm*