

Minutes of a meeting of the **Council** held at Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich on **Tuesday 17 September 2019** at **7.00pm** when there were present:

Mrs K A Vincent – Chairman

Mr N J Brennan	Mrs N C Karimi-Ghovanlou	Mr S Riley
Mr P E Bulman	Mr K S Kelly	Mr D Roper
Mrs B Cook	Mr D King	Ms C E Ryman-Tubb
Mrs J K Copplestone	Mrs J Leggett	Mr M D Snowling
Mr A D Crotch	Mr K G Leggett	Mrs L A Starling
Mr J J Emsell	Mr I J Mackie	Mr D M Thomas
Mr R R Foulger	Mrs T M Mancini-Boyle	Miss J L Thomas
Ms R M Grattan	Mr M L Murrell	Mr S A Vincent
Mrs S C Gurney	Ms J A Neesam	Mr S C Walker
Ms N J Harpley	Mr G K Nurden	Mr J M Ward
Mrs L H Hemsall	Mr G Peck	Mr F Whymark
Ms S I Holland	Mrs S M Prutton	

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

## **50 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER PROCEDURAL RULE NO 8**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Minute No &amp; Heading</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>
Mr F Whymark	57 Cabinet – (Minute no: 38 – Options for Council Owned Land)	Other interest – Norfolk County Councillor for Aylsham
Mr S Riley		Other interest – District Councillor for Aylsham

## **51 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A D Adams, Ms S J Catchpole, Mr S M Clancy, Miss S Lawn, Dr K E Lawrence, Mr I N Moncur and Mr N C Shaw.

## **52 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**53 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members noted the civic engagements undertaken by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council since the last meeting.

The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Excellence (Mrs Leggett) reported that Members had received a very interesting and enlightening presentation from Dr Pinto at the recent Environmental Excellence Panel meeting, on climate change and its impact on health.

In response to a question, the Portfolio Holder for Transformation and Organisational Development (Mr J Emsell) confirmed that recent meetings of the Service Improvement and Efficiency Committee had been cancelled as it was not the right time for the Committee to be reviewing improvements and efficiencies whilst the Council was undertaking the consultation on the staffing review arising from collaboration with South Norfolk. There would be work to be done by the Committee in the near future, particularly having regard to the 2017 State of the Nation report.

**54 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

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

**55 PUBLIC SPEAKING**

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

**56 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 30 July 2019, 13 August 2019 and 27 August 2019 were received.

**57 CABINET**

The Minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 6 August 2019 and 3 September 2019 were received.

*6 August 2019*

Minute no: 27 – Household Wheeled Bin Charging for New Properties

The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Excellence invited Members to support the proposal to charge for household waste bins for new developments with

the charge falling to the developer. Most other Norfolk local authorities had already adopted a scheme of charging in accordance with the legislation permitting such charges. The proposal was in accordance with the aims of the Council's business plan to effectively manage its finances and increase financial resilience and capacity and to improve services and deliver savings and efficiencies. The cost of providing two bins to each new household was increasing with the growing number of new houses and would only continue to increase. The cost of bins for social housing would fall to the registered provider. Food waste caddies would continue to be provided free of charge. In response to questions, the Portfolio Holder commented that there was no real increase in costs to administer the charging scheme and, whilst the additional income was relatively modest in terms of the Council's overall budget, the costs would only increase over time and the proposal would avoid the increased costs and generate income. Reference was made to concerns expressed at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee about the impact of the proposals.

### **RESOLVED**

to charge for the provision of waste bins to new properties at cost plus an additional 10 percent surcharge to build resilience into the price, by agreeing to the use of the enforcement powers available under the EPA 1990 to require householders to use the specified types of wheeled bin or be refused a waste collection.

*3 September 2019*

Minute no: 37 – Joint Inclusive Growth Strategy

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Wellbeing (Mr F Whymark) invited Council to adopt the Inclusive Growth Framework as a Council Strategy. The Framework set out the evidence base around inclusive growth and social mobility with the aim of improving the health, wellbeing and social mobility of residents. The 2017 State of the Nation report showed Broadland and South Norfolk to be the best performing local authorities in Norfolk for social mobility but the two Councils were aspiring to improve their National standing. By working jointly, and with other Norfolk partners, there was an opportunity to build on the current position and improve social mobility across the county.

Reference was made to the ongoing issues with cuts to some rural bus services and the question raised as to what actions the Council would be taking in relation to public transport and what level of discussions had taken place with public transport providers to protect rural transport services. It was suggested that representations should be made to the County Council that there should be no further cuts in subsidies to bus services but that they should indeed be increased. There was also a need for partnership working across the whole county and not just with South Norfolk.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning (Mrs L Hempsall) responded that she was a representative on the Transforming Cities Panel which was currently looking at public transport issues in and around the city following the announcement that funding would be available from the Transforming Cities Fund to promote intra city connectivity and make it easier for people to access jobs, training and retail. Whilst this work would not directly cover the hinterlands of Norwich, she hoped it might free up funding to help support public transport provision in outlying villages. She undertook to raise the issues mentioned with the County Council at the next opportunity.

Members noted that improvements in rail services on both the Wherry and Bittern Lines were imminent, following the recent launch of new trains by Network Rail, together with the signalling improvements which were now due for completion in February 2010 following delays.

Members were reassured that the Strategy identified a set of aims and ambitions for the two councils to feed into a Norfolk-wide project to improve social mobility for the whole area and to focus how resources could be directed to achieving a bigger and better outcome for Norfolk.

In response to a comment that there was a need to ensure these high level ambitions were translated into reality and to track progress, the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Wellbeing undertook to ensure Members were updated on progress with the Strategy.

### **RESOLVED:**

to adopt the Inclusive Growth Framework as a Council Strategy to allow officers to direct resources and continue to develop action plans, in consultation with respective Portfolio Holders.

Minute no: 38 – Options for Council Owned Land

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development (Mrs J Copplestone) invited Council to support the recommendations of Cabinet to retain the freehold asset of the Bure Valley Railway and Path. The railway and the path formed part of the green infrastructure plan. Following recent events and the fact that £1.2m of funding had been secured by the County Council for investment into the project, it was considered that the asset should be retained. Members supported the proposal and it was

### **RESOLVED:**

to

- (1) retain the freehold asset of the Bure Valley Railway and Path;

- (2) enter into negotiations to establish a partnership agreement with BVR Ltd and Norfolk County Council, having regard to the aspirations and common goals of all three organisations.

Minute no: 39 – Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework – June 2019 Update

The Portfolio Holder for Planning invited Members to support the recommendation to sign up to the updated Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework (June 2019). The Framework enabled the Council to demonstrate its Duty to Cooperate under the Localism Act 2011 and meet the National Planning Policy Framework requirement to have a Statement of Common Ground. In response to a question regarding where information would be sought to provide evidence on older people's accommodation and support needs, the Portfolio Holder confirmed that the Central Norfolk Strategic Housing Assessment would provide the latest source of information and she undertook to share this with the Member.

**RESOLVED**

to

- (1) agree to be a signatory to the updated Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework (June 2019);
- (2) support the continued work of Members and officers to ensure that the NSPF remained up to date.

**58 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The decisions of the Planning Committee meetings held on 10 July, 7 August and 4 September 2019 were received.

**59 LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE**

The non-exempt Minutes of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee meetings held on 31 July 2019 and 28 August 2019 were received.

**60 AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 25 July 2019 were received. The Chairman of the Audit Committee thanked the staff concerned for the tremendous amount of work undertaken to complete the Statement of Accounts in time and in challenging circumstances. The Council was one of the only councils in the consortium of local authorities audited by Ernst Young who had

been able to complete their statement of accounts in time and with no issues.

In answer to a question regarding the amount of surplus in the accounts, the Director of Resources advised that these related to S31 monies reimbursed by the Government mainly for grants given out for business rates. In addition, a sum of money had been allocated for the Better Broadband for Norfolk project which would be drawn down soon. Work was being undertaken to better estimate the provision for business rate grants in the future.

## **61 POLLING DISTRICT AND PLACES REVIEW 2019**

Members considered the report setting out the process and decisions required for the 2019 Polling District and Places review. The Leader reported that there had been no recorded issues or complaints regarding the Polling District and Places arising from recent elections. There had, however, been a number of suggestions made arising from the consultation undertaken as part of the current review and some alternative arrangements proposed which needed to be considered. It was felt that this could best be undertaken by a small Committee of Members rather than the Council. He therefore proposed that Council endorse recommendations (1), (2), (5) and (6) set out in the report and that the Electoral Arrangements Committee proposed at recommendation (5) determine the matters recommended at (3) and (4). Members supported this approach and it was thereupon

### **RESOLVED**

to

- (1) note the outcome of the consultation of the review of polling district and places;
- (2) note the representations received for alternative proposals and the responses made by the Acting Returning Officer (ARO);
- (3) give delegated powers to the Acting Returning Officer to designate alternative polling places where polling places become unavailable between compulsory reviews;
- (4) delegate Council's responsibility for polling district and community governance reviews, by appointing an Electoral Arrangements Committee to deal with such matters (terms of reference attached at Appendix 1 to the signed copy of these Minutes) and membership to comprise 8 Members (6 Conservatives, 2 Liberal Democrats) with names being supplied to the Monitoring Officer;

- (5) agree that recommendations (3) and (4) in the report be considered by the Electoral Arrangements Committee – namely to decide on the most appropriate polling districts and polling places and to consider keeping existing arrangements in place except for the following areas, where it is suggested further investigations and possible further consultation are necessary:

HE3 (Sprowston West) – investigate whether there are any alternative polling places within the polling district.

HF1 (Sprowston Central) – if a new polling place can be found for HE3, investigate further whether this polling district could be split so that the Cricket Pavilion be used as a second polling place in the polling district.

HG2 (Sprowston East) – to see whether it is practicable to split the polling district by investigating if there are any alternative buildings in the polling district that are available and suitable to be used as a polling station.

HK1 (Thorpe St Andrew NW) – investigate whether there are any alternative polling places within the polling district.

HL1 (Thorpe St Andrew SE) – make a small change to the southern boundary of the polling district so that it includes the Dussindale centre and the small row of houses before the railway line. This would mean that electors could vote at the Dussindale centre rather than Roxley Hall.

## **62 MONITORING OFFICER'S REPORT**

Members considered the report of the Monitoring Officer.

### **RESOLVED:**

to

- (1) note the Labour appointments to the Council's Panels

Economic Success Panel – Ms N Harpley (sub Mrs B Cook)  
Environmental Excellence Panel – Mrs B Cook (sub Ms N Harpley)  
Member Development Panel – Mrs B Cook (sub Ms N Harpley)  
Place Shaping Panel – Ms N Harpley (sub Mrs B Cook)  
Wellbeing Panel – Ms N Harpley (sub Mrs B Cook)

- (2) note the updated position on the national scene with regards to Standards in Public Life.

**63 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

It was noted that there had been no questions received from Members.

**64 FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

**65 MOTIONS**

It was noted that there had been no motions received from Members.

**66 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:**

to exclude the Press and public from the meeting for the following item of business because otherwise, information which was exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, would be disclosed to them.

**67 EXEMPT MINUTES**

The exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

*The meeting closed at 7:52pm*