

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee of South Norfolk District Council held on Thursday 13 October 2022 at 9.30am.

Committee Members Present: Councillors: J Hornby (Chairman), Y Bendle, B Bernard, J Halls, J Rowe and J Overton

Apologies for Absence: Councillors: T Holden, T Spruce and J Worley

Portfolio Holder Present: Councillor: L Neal

Officers in Attendance: The Place Shaping Manager (P Harris), the Senior Community Planning Officer (R Squires), the Senior Governance Officer (E Goddard) and the Committee Officer (J Hammond)

Also in Attendance: On behalf of Wymondham Town Council:
Mr Gurney – Clerk of Wymondham Town Council
Town Councillors S Nuri-Nixon and R Savage

1318 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T Holden, T Spruce and J Worley.

1319 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

With respect to minute number 1321, Cllr J Halls declared an 'other' interest as a member of Wymondham Town Council. He advised that had not been involved in the formation of the Neighbourhood Plan submission. He declared that he would not take part in the consideration of this item and stepped down from the Committee for the duration of the item.

1320 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4 August 2022, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

1321 WYMONDHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SUBMISSION

Cllr J Halls stood down from the Committee for the duration of this item

The Chairman introduced the report advising the Committee that they had been asked to consider the recommendations to Cabinet within the Committee report and make its recommendations to Cabinet regarding:

- Whether the Committee considers that the Wymondham Neighbourhood Plan meet the requirements of Part 6 of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990
- Whether the Plan can proceed to consultation
- Whether the Committee supports the proposed response detailed in appendix 3 of the report

The Senior Community Planning Officer informed the Committee that Wymondham Town Council had re-submitted its proposed Neighbourhood Plan, along with necessary supporting information to South Norfolk Council for agreement by Cabinet to progress the proposed Plan through to the next stages of consultation and independent examination.

Members were advised that Wymondham Town Council had originally submitted its proposed Neighbourhood Plan to South Norfolk Council in late February 2022. At its meeting in April 2022, Cabinet agreed to refer the Plan back to the Town Council with a number of specific issues highlighted, on which members felt the Plan could be more explicit. The Senior Community Planning Officer outlined the revisions made to the Neighbourhood Plan since its original submission.

One member queried whether any of the assessment criteria had not been met by the Neighbourhood Plan. The Senior Community Planning Officer confirmed that officers considered that all assessment criteria had been met. He then referred members to section three of the report which outlined both the criteria itself, and how it had been met by Wymondham Town Council.

In response to a further question, the Senior Community Planning Officer explained that, as set out in Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, if approved by Cabinet the Wymondham Neighbourhood Plan would be published for a period of six weeks, with the public, stakeholders and previous consultees invited to comment. The Reg.

16 publication period would be followed by an independent examination, carried out by an accredited Neighbourhood Plan examiner. The examiner would then produce a report recommending one of three options:

1. That the Plan should proceed to a referendum without modifications
2. That the Plan should proceed to a referendum with certain modifications
3. That the Plan was not ready to proceed to a referendum

Following the examiners report, South Norfolk Council would decide, at a meeting of its Full Council, whether or not to approve the examiner's recommendations.

Members further discussed Wymondham's Neighbourhood Plan and it was unanimously

RESOLVED

To recommend to Cabinet that it agree:

1. That the submitted Wymondham Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements of Part 6 of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
2. That the Neighbourhood Plan can therefore proceed to consultation, in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, and subsequently to an independent examination
3. That the proposed South Norfolk Council response, as detailed in Appendix 3, be formally submitted as part of the Regulation 16 consultation

1322 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME, TRACKER AND CABINET CORE AGENDA

The Committee noted the Work Programme, Tracker and Cabinet Core Agenda.

The Chairman reminded members that the next meeting of the Committee would take place at Thorpe Lodge on 17 November 2022.

(The meeting concluded at 9.56 am)

Chairman