

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the

COUNCIL

**Held on Thursday, 15 September 2016 at 10.00 am in the
Anglia Room, The Conference Suite, Elizabeth House, Dereham**

PRESENT

Mr S Askew	Mr A.P. Joel
Mr S.G. Bambridge	Mr K. Martin
Mrs E J Bishop	Mrs S.M. Matthews
Mr W.P. Borrett (Chairman)	Mrs K. Millbank (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor C Bowes	Mrs L.H. Monument
Mr R F W Brame	Mr T F C Monument
Mr C G Carter	Mr M J Nairn
Councillor M. Chapman-Allen	Mr J Newton
Mr S H Chapman-Allen	Mr D R R Oliver
Mr H E J Clarke	Mr R. R. Richmond
Mr P.D. Claussen	Mr W. R. J. Richmond
Mr J.P. Cowen	Mr J.D. Rogers
Mr D M Crawford	Mr F.J. Sharpe
Mr P R W Darby	Mr W.H.C. Smith
Mr P M M Dimoglou	Mr A.C. Stasiak
Mr R.W. Duffield	Mr M Taylor
Mr P.J. Duigan	Mrs L.S. Turner
Councillor E. Gould	Mr M. A. Wassell
Mrs J Hollis	Mrs A M Webb
Mr T. J. Jermy	Mr P S Wilkinson

In Attendance

Julie Britton	- Senior Democratic Services Officer
Anna Graves	- Chief Executive
Suzanne Jones	- Interim Executive Director Commercialisation and s151 Officer
Helen McAleer	- Senior Democratic Services Officer
Mark Stinson	- Executive Manager Governance (Deputy Monitoring Officer BDC)
Rob Walker	- Executive Director Place

103/16 MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 1)

Subject to an amendment to mark Councillor L Monument as present and recording apologies for Councillor T Monument the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

104/16 APOLOGIES (AGENDA ITEM 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ashby, T Carter, Gilbert, Hewett, Jolly, Nunn, Robinson, Sherwood and Wilkin.

105/16 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (AGENDA ITEM 3)

No declarations were made.

Action By

106/16 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (AGENDA ITEM 4)

The Chairman introduced Lieutenant Commander Stuart Fidler, Chairman of SSAFA Norfolk. Mr Fidler gave a presentation to Members explaining the background, aims and functions of SSAFA (the Chairman's chosen charity for the year) which was now known as the Armed Forces Charity.

Councillor Sharpe had contacted SSAFA on behalf of a resident and they had helped by providing a motorised scooter.

Councillor Cowen had never heard of SSAFA before and Mr Fidler agreed that publicity was a problem. He asked Members to spread the word that the charity would help anyone that had served in any of the armed forces or reserves, and their families, no matter how short their service had been.

Councillor Wassell asked how the charity was funded and Mr Fidler said that they relied on fundraising and donations. The Norfolk branch cost £28,000 a year to run.

Councillor Wilkinson asked if support for Help for Heroes had reduced the amount of funding that SSAFA received. He was advised that in Norfolk the effect had not been noticeable. The charity received most donations when there was activity, like the Gulf War or the war in Afghanistan. When those stopped the donations did reduce.

The Chairman thanked Mr Fidler for his presentation.

He then presented the Chief Executive with the Investor's in People award which the Council had achieved.

Finally he drew attention to his list of engagements which included a visit to the ground-breaking ceremony at Narborough for 33 houses. He thanked the Council for releasing the covenant to enable the development for much needed rented accommodation.

107/16 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (AGENDA ITEM 5)

In the absence of the Leader, the Deputy Leader gave Members an update on the following:

- The Riverside Scheme – first stage on course for completion in the autumn;
- Breckland Bridge – nearing completion of 11 houses in Mileham, including four affordable homes;
- The Council was working in partnership with Flagship Housing on a new scheme for 33 dwellings in Narborough – 31 of which would be available for affordable rent;
- Local Plan workshops had been held around the District to receive comments on the draft documents which would go out to public consultation on 19 September;
- Devolution: the proposals for the Combined Authority had been submitted to the Secretary of State for consideration;
- Community: on 28 August over 300 runners had taken part in the Dereham 10k run. 5k and 1k fun runs had also taken place to encourage residents young and old to participate;
- Grants: Higher numbers and better quality applications were being received since the Norfolk Community Foundation began administering the Council's

- grant process.
- Garden Waste: the service had expanded and improved with the introduction of the improved on-line payment system. 1400 new subscriptions had been received and 38% of transactions were on-line with another 38% by card payment.
 - Business Rates: Two consultations for Members had taken place and the deadline for Member feedback was Monday 19 September.
 - Review of Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries: initial proposals had been published and Members were urged to read them and note the changes which would result in a few Breckland Wards moving from the South West Norfolk Constituency to the Mid Norfolk Constituency.

The following questions were asked:

On Devolution:

Councillor Jermy asked the Leader to call on Norfolk County Council to vote against the Devolution proposals, but the Deputy Leader said it was up to them how they voted. They should represent the view of residents.

Councillor Clarke asked if Breckland residents would have to provide a precept if they were not allowed to vote for the Mayor and it was confirmed that they would not.

Councillor Oliver asked if Breckland would receive a share of the transport budget which would be redistributed under the new agreement. When he was advised that it would not, he asked if the Council would make representation about that.

The Deputy Leader confirmed that representation had been made, but pointed out that the Council had made the decision not to be involved in the discussions.

On Narborough Housing:

Councillor Wilkinson expressed his appreciation for the work done by James Heaton, the Council's Housing Enabling Officer, on the Narborough scheme and the Deputy Leader endorsed those comments.

Councillor R Richmond was pleased the Council was helping to provide affordable dwellings. He asked for details of site value needed to enable affordable housing delivery.

The Deputy Leader did not have that information, therefore a written answer would be provided.

On Garden Waste/Recycling:

Councillor Taylor asked if the Council had a scheme to help people recycle large items as it would help to reduce fly-tipping.

Councillor Joel asked what the Council was doing to avoid fly-tipping following the closure of some recycling centres.

Councillor T Monument asked if the Council had considered food waste collections.

The Executive Member for Place advised that the Council constantly reviewed its service to ensure it was fit for purpose. It currently offered to remove three large

items for £30 and additional items for £5 each. She urged Members to encourage people to report fly tipping as soon as possible and the Council would prosecute those responsible when it was in the public interest to do so. Regarding food waste she advised that it was a costly scheme which could encourage people to waste more. The Council was looking at ways to reduce waste instead.

108/16 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER NO 6 (AGENDA ITEM 6)

No questions had been received.

109/16 QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER NO 7 (AGENDA ITEM 7)

Councillor Taylor asked the Executive Member for Place about improving fitness standards of bin men and she said that his comments were noted. She would discuss the issue with officers and if necessary with Serco.

Councillor Jermy asked the Executive Member for Income & Prosperity to confirm that the traffic flows, parking and signage would be adequate for the Riverside development when it opened.

Councillor Cowen confirmed that a meeting had taken place with Norfolk County Council to raise those issues. The Council was doing what it could. He did not know what Norfolk County Council was doing about road improvements and signage.

The Deputy Leader asked the County Councillors present to do all they could to urge NCC to drive those matters forward.

Councillor Wassell asked the Deputy Leader as Portfolio Holder for Transformation and the Executive Member for Income & Prosperity in view of the lack of transport budget for the District if the Council could pay for the road improvements.

Councillor Cowen said it was an issue because the Council had been disenfranchised by voting against devolution. It was up to Members if they wished to raise additional funds.

Councillor Oliver thought that even if NCC did not have a statutory duty they had a moral duty to support transport in Breckland. He asked if the Council would consider taking legal action against them if they did not provide funding on a fair and equitable basis.

Councillor Taylor noted that the traffic flows were a County problem, but that car parking was the District's responsibility and he asked if space at The Chase had been considered.

Councillor Cowen advised that a transport study was being undertaken to ensure that the carparks and roads met the needs of the Riverside Development. The Executive Director for Place confirmed that the Council had given feedback to County on their report and the Council's own study was still in progress. More information would be available in October/November.

110/16 CABINET MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 8)

- 1) Declaration of Interests (Minute No 88/16)

Councillor Dimoglou clarified that his declaration had been in relation to land he had submitted as part of the call for housing land, but it had not been identified as a preferred site.

2) Supporting Community Growth in Attleborough (Minute No 92/16)

(Fourth paragraph) Councillor Jermy noted that Councillor Robinson was not a member of the Greater Thetford Development Partnership. He also thought that Councillor Ashby's appointment should have been made by Council.

The Monitoring Officer advised that Cabinet could appoint to Outside Bodies for Executive functions.

3. Local Plan – Preferred Sites Consultation (Minute No 94/16)

The Deputy Leader confirmed that this Minute would be amended at the next Cabinet meeting following concerns raised by some Councillors.

4. Adoption

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 30 August 2016 be adopted.

111/16 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION (AGENDA ITEM 9)

RESOLVED that the now confirmed Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 21 July 2016 be adopted.

112/16 PLANNING COMMITTEE (AGENDA ITEM 10)

112 .a Confirmed minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 25 July 2016

RESOLVED that the confirmed Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 25 July 2016 be adopted, subject to an amendment to the spelling of Councillor Duffield's name in the last paragraph on page 86.

112 .b Unconfirmed minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 22 August 2016.

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 22 August 2016 be adopted.

113/16 SUPPORTING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING (AGENDA ITEM 11)

Councillor C Carter, Executive Member for Growth presented the report.

RESOLVED that the addition of 1.0 FTE to resource Neighbourhood Planning to the permanent establishment be endorsed.

114/16 APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM S151 CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER (AGENDA ITEM 12)

The Chief Executive presented the report.

RESOLVED that the appointment of Suzanne Jones as Interim s151 Chief

Finance Officer, with effect from 1 September 2016, be confirmed.

Suzanne Jones was invited into the room and introduced to Members.

115/16 GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT (AGENDA ITEM 13)

Councillor Wilkinson (Vice-Chairman of Governance & Audit Committee) presented the recommendation which sought approval for a new system for the appointment of external auditors.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the Council should join a national collective scheme, led by the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA); and
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Section 151 Officer (or deputy in their absence) to communicate the willingness of the Council to join the scheme, led by PSAA and to enter into the scheme after a satisfactory examination / negotiation of the proposed terms and conditions is concluded.
- (3)

116/16 NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE AND OTHER SEATS (AGENDA ITEM 14)

RESOLVED that Councillor L Monument should replace Councillor C Carter as the Council's Outside Body representative on the Internal Drainage Board.

117/16 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION (AGENDA ITEM 15)

RESOLVED that the minor amendments to the Constitution made by the Monitoring Officer be agreed.

118/16 ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT (AGENDA ITEM 16)

None.

The meeting closed at 11.05 am

CHAIRMAN