

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the

COUNCIL

**Held on Thursday, 12 July 2018 at 10.00 am in the
Anglia Room, The Conference Suite, Elizabeth House, Dereham**

PRESENT

Mr T. J. Ashby	Mr R.G. Kybird
Mr S Askew	Mr K. Martin
Mr S.G. Bambridge	Mrs S.M. Matthews
Councillor C. Bowes	Mrs L.H. Monument
Mr R. F. W. Brame	Mr T. F. C. Monument
Mr M. P. Brindle	Mr M. J. Nairn
Mr T. R. Carter	Mr J. Newton
Councillor M. Chapman-Allen	Mr J.W. Nunn
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 M. S. Robinson
Mr D. M. Crawford	Mr J.D. Rogers
Mr P. R. W. Darby	Mr F.J. Sharpe
Mr P. M. M. Dimoglou	Mr W.H.C. Smith
Mr R.W. Duffield (Chairman)	Mr A.C. Stasiak
Councillor E. Gould	Mrs L.S. Turner (Vice-Chairman)
Mrs T. Hewett	Mrs A. M. Webb
Mrs J. Hollis	Mr N.C. Wilkin
Mr T. J. Jermy	Mr P. S. Wilkinson
Mr A.P. Joel	

In Attendance

Maxine O'Mahony	- Executive Director of Strategy & Governance (Monitoring Officer)
Mark Stinson	- Executive Manager Governance (Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Rob Walker	- Executive Director Place
Julie Britton	- Democratic Services Officer

Minutes Silence

A minute's silence was held in memory of former Councillor Cliff Jordan.

Members paid tribute to former Councillor Jordan, and acknowledged his service to the area. Councillors Crawford, Bambridge, Joel, Jermy, Matthews, Wilkin and Nairn paid individual tributes and relayed treasured memories of former Councillor Jordan.

The Chairman reminded councillors that a new Members' Room had been established, and felt that it would be appropriate to name it the Jordan Room. Members unanimously agreed with this suggestion.

86/18 APOLOGIES (AGENDA ITEM 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Borrett, Gilbert, Paul Hewett, Millbank, Sherwood, Taylor and Wassell.

Action By

87/18 MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 2)

The Minutes of the Annual meeting held on 17 May 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

88/18 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (AGENDA ITEM 3)

a) Agenda item 10: Planning Committee 4 June 2018: Minute No. 64/18(1)

Councillor Claussen declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this item due to it being his own application.

b) Agenda item 17: Breckland Bridge Business Plan update

Councillor Cowen declared an interest in this item due to him being a Director of Breckland Bridge. He would not take part in any debate if the matter was discussed.

89/18 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (AGENDA ITEM 4)

The Chairman had thoroughly enjoyed all of the events attended since his inauguration in May, particularly the Lord Mayor's celebrations in Norwich on 7 July 2018.

90/18 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (AGENDA ITEM 5)

The Leader provided Members with updates on the following matters:

- Leisure provision – the Leisure Centres based in Dereham and Thetford had already increased participation by another 3½% this year by offering special rates to residents of Breckland.
- The Glutton waste vacuum cleaner was being used to support the Market Town Initiative. Members were reminded that the Council had committed another £250k to that Initiative this year to further help and support their efforts in dealing with what was a national problem of closures in the market towns. The Council needed to focus on smaller bespoke businesses and provide them with as much support as possible such as reduced business rates. He hoped that this would continue.
- Garden Waste collections – there were now 23,500 subscribers to the garden waste scheme and nearly all subscribers were now paying on-line. It was noted that the Council was in discussion with two of its neighbouring authorities on waste services re-procurement, which would help to ensure that best value was maintained. Serco continued to do a sterling job for the District and he hoped that the new contract, whoever it might be awarded to, would provide great value for money for the authority.
- EcoTech/Green Britain Centre, Swaffham – this, in his opinion, was a beautiful building in Swaffham. The Leader reported that the current tenant had given notice to the Council that it would not be renewing its lease of the property. Enquiries from a variety of other businesses were already being received. A report would be brought back to Full Council in due course.
- Thetford 'Music on the Green' – the Greater Thetford Development Partnership Board had established this event which was a great initiative. The Leader said that he could remember speaking to the Town Council about this vision many years ago for a café culture in Thetford alongside the river which now seemed to be coming to fruition. Hopefully, Button Island together with all other green spaces as far as Three Bridges would be tidied

up leading to further improvement in the profile of the area. This was great news and a great piece of work that was still on-going that would eventually bring the Thetford community together. He congratulated all concerned.

Councillor Wilkin asked the Leader to join him in congratulating the people of Thetford who volunteered their services to litter pick and weed etc. He was well aware that the Council, along with others, took care of general street cleaning but a lot of the towns around the district had their own volunteers to clean and look after the other areas. The Leader agreed. He knew of many volunteers across the District who were prepared to give up their own time to carry out this work and all should be congratulated. It was a great opportunity for people to come together for the good of their village or town.

Councillor Brindle mentioned the 'Music on the Green' in Thetford and pointed out to the Leader that the correct name for the Three Bridges was in fact Nunn's Bridges.

Councillor Crawford also referred to Thetford and was pleased to announce that at one of the town's access groups a regular litter pick was being organised which would hopefully bring all groups/volunteers under one umbrella.

Councillor Matthews mentioned a member of staff who had recently left the Council. Dr Zandra Waterford had given many years of good service and Councillor Matthews wished to thank her for all the work she had done.

Councillor Robert Richmond mentioned the various community sports projects that encouraged youngsters to get outside and play. He congratulated the Communities Team on the concept of the two grants awarded for such projects.

91/18 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER NO 6 (AGENDA ITEM 6)

None.

92/18 QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER NO 7 (AGENDA ITEM 7)

Councillor Jermy asked the Leader what the Council was doing to address the rising cost of fly-tipping which now stood at £250,000. The Leader pointed out that there had been a drop in fly-tipping in May compared to the previous year. However, fly-tipping sadly had always been an issue for the community and was an inconsiderate act by a minority. In terms of cost, he hoped that the Council would continue to prosecute the persons involved but he had his doubts that the cost would come down. He was saddened by the amount of rubbish dumped in the countryside and felt that education was key and by teaching individuals from a young age that it was not acceptable to dump waste/rubbish for others to clear up behind them.

Councillor Clarke asked if prosecutions were the best way to address this issue. The Leader said that he would be most content to see this Council prosecute where sufficient evidence enabled this. In such a rural district, the eyes and ears of the public and of Members were needed to catch the people responsible to be able to prosecute.

Councillor Hollis asked if anything was being done about fly-posting. Members were informed by the Executive Director of Place that the removal work formed part of the Council's contract with Serco.

Councillor Nairn pointed out that the public could now use the Breckland website to report any fly-tipping. He had been promoting the website to all residents in his Ward.

On the matter of litter picking, Councillor Joel suggested writing to all Town & Parish Councils informing them that Breckland Council had litter pick equipment to loan. The Leader said that letters were previously sent informing them that kits were available but as a reminder letters would be issued (again). Councillor Robert Richmond asked if drones could be used to gain the evidence required in relation to fly-tipping. The Leader felt that this would be an impossible task due to the size and demographics of Breckland.

93/18 CABINET MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 8)

- a) Financial Out-turn 2017-18 (Minute No. 63/18)

RESOLVED that:

- 1) the capital budgets (and associated funding sources) of £1,694,731 be carried forward in 2018-19 to support projects in progress; and
- 2) the final capital out-turn and funding for 2017-18 as detailed in appendix B of the Cabinet report be approved.

- b) Community Reserve Protocol (Minute No. 65/18)

RESOLVED that the sum of £250,000 be ring-fenced from the Community Reserve to be used by the Market Town Initiative and this to be agreed in line with the Council's Financial Regulations.

- c) Breckland Bridge Business Plan update (Minute No. 68/18)

RESOLVED that the updated Breckland Bridge Ltd Business Plan for 2018-2023 be approved.

- d) Adoption

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 12 June 2018 be adopted.

94/18 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION (AGENDA ITEM 9)

- a) Broadband in Breckland (Minute No. 57/18)

RESOLVED that work be undertaken to establish the broadband speeds of Breckland properties not covered by the BBfN programme and to consider what further options to investigate.

- b) Adoption

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 31 May 2018 be adopted.

95/18 PLANNING COMMITTEE (AGENDA ITEM 10)

- (a) Confirmed Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 8 May 2018

RESOLVED that the confirmed Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 8 May 2018 be adopted.

- (b) Confirmed Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 4 June 2018

RESOLVED that the confirmed Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 4 June 2018 be adopted.

96/18 GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE (AGENDA ITEM 11)

RESOLVED that, subject to Cabinet's approval to the recommendation in relation to the Risk Management Policy (Minute No. 28/18 refers) at its meeting on 24 July 2018; and, subject to the word 'complaints' being added to last paragraph at Minute No. 26/18, the unconfirmed Minutes of the Governance & Audit Committee meeting held on 12 June 2018 be adopted.

97/18 NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE AND OTHER SEATS (AGENDA ITEM 12)

RESOLVED that:

- 1) Councillor Theresa Hewett be appointed to the Overview & Scrutiny Commission in place of Councillor Lynda Turner.
- 2) Councillor Trevor Carter be appointed as substitute on the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Sub Panel

98/18 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION (AGENDA ITEM 13)

The Executive Manager for Governance presented the amendments to the Constitution.

RESOLVED that the amendments to paragraphs 14 and 15 under Part 3 Section F1 of the Constitution be approved as per the underlined text as follows:

"14. Any officer with delegated power has power to authorise staff within his/her control to carry out powers delegated to him/her, subject to any conditions or provisos which are imposed. For the avoidance of doubt wherever an officer delegates a function under this paragraph, or any other paragraph of this Constitution, this power shall include the power to appoint the relevant officer as an "Authorised Officer" or an "Inspector" or such other title as may be required by legislation."

"15. Each Chief officer shall have the following general powers, and for the avoidance of doubt each Chief Officer is hereby appointed as an "Authorised Officer" or an "Inspector" or any other relevant title where legislation requires such appointment in order to undertake the following functions"

Action By

**99/18 ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT
(AGENDA ITEM 14)**

None.

100/18 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (AGENDA ITEM 15)

RESOLVED that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as contained in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

**101/18 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMISSION (PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL
MINUTES) (AGENDA ITEM 16)**

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed private & confidential Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 31 May 2018 be adopted.

102/18 BRECKLAND BRIDGE BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE (AGENDA ITEM 17)

Noted.

The meeting closed at 10.50 am

CHAIRMAN