

**BRECKLAND COUNCIL**

**At a Meeting of the**

**COUNCIL**

**Held on Thursday, 20 September 2007 at 10.30 am in  
The Anglia Room, Committee Suite, Elizabeth House, Dereham**

**PRESENT**

Mr P.S. Francis (Chairman)	Mr I.A.C. Monson
Mr S. Askew	Mrs L.H. Monument
Mrs J. Ball	Mr D.G. Mortimer
Mr S.G. Bambridge	Mr J.W. Nunn
Mr A.J. Byrne	Mr J.D. Rogers
Mrs M.P. Chapman-Allen	Mr B. Rose
Mr P.D. Claussen	Mr F.J. Sharpe
Mr J.P. Cowen	Mr I. Sherwood
Mr P.J. Duigan	Mr W.H.C. Smith
Mr M. Fanthorpe	Mr A.C. Stasiak
Mr K.S. Gilbert	Mrs A.L. Steward
Mr R.F. Goreham	Mr D.R. Williams JP
Councillor E. Gould	Mrs K. Millbank
Mr J.R. Gretton	Mr S.H. Chapman-Allen
Mr M.J. Griffin	Mr G.P. Balaam
Mrs T. Hewett	Mr W.P. Borrett
Mrs S.R. Howard-Alpe	Councillor Claire Bowes
Mr A.P. Joel	Mrs D.K.R. Irving
Mr R. Kemp	Mr M.A. Kiddle-Morris
Mr R.G. Kybird	Mr D.S. Myers
Mr J.P. Labouchere (Vice-Chairman)	Mrs P. Quadling
Mr K. Martin	Mrs L.S. Turner

**In Attendance**

Andrea Long	- Environmental Planning Manager
Ray Johnson	- Acting Operations Manager (Commercial Services)
John Chinnery	- Solicitor & Monitoring Officer
Keith Stevens	- Acting Business Transformation Director
Mark Stokes	- Operations Manager (Cabinet Office) & Acting Deputy Chief Executive
Ian Vargeson	- Democratic Services Manager
Julie Britton	- Committee Services Officer

**91/07 MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 1)**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 August 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, following the addition of Mrs K Millbank to the list of those present.

**92/07 APOLOGIES (AGENDA ITEM 2)**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Childerhouse, Lady Fisher, Mr P Hewett, Mr C Jordan, Mrs S Matthews, Mr M Spencer, Mrs P Spencer, Mr N Wilkin and Mr T Holden, Chief

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Executive.

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**93/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (AGENDA ITEM 3)**

The following declarations were made:

Mr R Kybird, Mrs P Quadling, Mr D Mortimer, Mrs M Chapman-Allen and Mr S Chapman-Allen declared personal interests in Minute No. 35/07 of the Standards Committee meeting held on 11 September 2007.

Mr P Cowen declared a personal interest in Minute Nos. 127/07 and 141/07 of the Development Control Committee meeting held on 3 September 2007 and Council Agenda item 6, Thetford – Programme of Delivery by virtue of his architectural profession.

Mr Bambridge declared a personal interest in Minute Nos. 127/07 and 147/07 of the meetings held on 13 August and 3 September 2007.

Mrs C Bowes and Mr M Kiddle-Morris declared a personal interest in Minute No. 132/07(b) of the Development Control Committee meeting held on 13 August 2007.

Mrs C Bowes declared a personal interest in Minute No. 132/07 (i) of the Development Control Committee meeting held on 13 August 2007.

Mr S Askew declared a personal interest in Minute No. 141/07 of the Development Control Committee meeting held on 3 September 2007 by virtue of him being a landowner. Mr Askew also declared interest in Minute No. 143/07 (a) of the same meeting as this related to his own application.

Mr Rogers declared personal interests as recorded under Minute No. 41/07 of the meeting of the Policy Development and Review Panel 1 meeting held on 24 July 2007.

The Chairman informed the Council that the Monitoring Officer was preparing to send a letter to all Members to clarify the requirements for declaring interests.

**94/07 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (AGENDA ITEM 4)**

The following announcements were made:

The Chairman congratulated the Council's Housing Team which had been named as Regional Champion for homelessness by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The team had been working very hard and would now be working with other local authorities to provide support and share good practice. Members extended their praise to the Housing Team.

The Executive Member for Housing was very proud that Breckland Council had been chosen out of all the councils in the area.

The Chairman informed Members that the Police Authority had set its precept meeting date for 19<sup>th</sup> February and confirmed that the Breckland meeting for the setting of the Council tax would be held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008.

The Chairman of Development Control reminded Members of the bus tour that would be taking place on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007. All Members were invited to attend.

Members were encouraged to attend the Risk Management Training session that would be held following the Full Council meeting.

A list of engagements attended by the Chairman was tabled, for the period 2 August to 19 September 2007, which included:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Host</u>
8 July	Annual Civic Service	His Worship the Mayor and Madam Mayoress of Great Yarmouth, Councillor and Mrs Paul Garrod
10 July	Royal Garden Party	
12 July	Summer Evening	NSPCC, West Norfolk, Kings Lynn and Wisbech
19 July	Annual General Meeting	Homestart Breckland
22 July	Dereham Civic Service	Mayor of Dereham, Councillor John Gretton
22 July	Civic Service	The Mayor of Watton, Keith Gilbert
27 July	Breckland Council Chairman Reception	
3 August	Official Opening of Tom Turley Close, Akrotori Square, Watton	Peddars Way Housing Association
7 August	Thetford Town Football Club – Pre-season friendly	Thetford Town Football Club
8 August	ARCH (Archiving Rural Community History) Launch Event	ARCH
20 August	Summer Civic Reception	His Worship the Mayor of Great Yarmouth – Councillor Paul Garrod
6 September	Reception	Mayor of Kings Lynn & West Norfolk, Councillor Kathy Mellis and

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Mark  
Finch/Committee  
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8 September	RAF Mildenhall's annual American-style BBQ	Stephen Collins Colonel Eden J. and Jon Murrie
10 September	Opening of Battle of Britain Week	Lord Mayor of Norwich, Councillor Roy Blower
15 September	Last Night of the Proms Concert	South Norfolk Youth Symphonic Band
16 September	Battle of Britain Commemoration Service	Mayor of Thetford, Councillor Robert Kybird

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**95/07 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**(a) Cabinet: 4 September 2007 (Agenda item 5a)**

Members were informed that the reason for the Leader's absence from this meeting was due to his attendance at an LGA Commission meeting in Dorset.

i) Release of Funds for an Extension to a Unit in Attleborough (Minute No. 107/07)

Ray Johnson

**RESOLVED** that the funding be released as indicated in the report plus VAT to extend an existing unit in Attleborough as an investment opportunity for the Council and to enable an existing company to expand and remain within the Breckland District.

ii) Star Chamber Report: June 2007 (Minute No. 108/07)

A Member felt that further information should have been provided within Minute No.107/07(1) with regard to the methodology behind the resolution. He asked how the Council would have supported these posts if there had not been any interest generated from the Dereham High Street Capital Receipts. In response, the Leader advised that the Council had only used the interest to fund these identified priorities, if that money had not been available the Council would have had to go through the normal channels of the budget process.

iii) Adoption

**RESOLVED** that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 4 September 2007 be adopted.

**(b) Overview and Scrutiny Commission: 9 August 2007 (Agenda item 5b)**

i) Panel 1 – Unconfirmed Minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2007 – Breckland Local Development Framework (LDF) Progress Report and Update on Recent Best Practice and Advice (Minute No. 85/07 (b)(a))

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A Member asked why the Council felt the need to continue to build so many houses in low density areas. The Member raised this question as he had constantly been asked the very same question by his constituents. He then put forward his ideas for appropriate types of housing in particular locations. The Executive Member for Housing pointed out that the Council had requested views from the public and the Town and Parish Councils all the way through the LDF process

ii) Adoption

**RESOLVED** that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 9 August 2007 be adopted.

(c) Development Control Committee: 13 August 2007 (Agenda item 5c)

i) Delegations to Officers (Minute No. 130/07)

**RESOLVED** that the current Officer Delegation Agreement from the Development Control Committee be approved, in accordance with option i) of the report, subject to the addition of a specific delegated power for the Development Services manager to make decisions as necessary for the processing of applications, including any decision required under the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.

John Chinnery/  
Committee  
Services

ii) Adoption

**RESOLVED** that the confirmed Minutes of the Development Control Committee meeting held on 13 August 2007 be adopted.

(d) Development Control Committee: 3 September 2007 (Agenda item 5d)

**RESOLVED** that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Development Control Committee meeting held on 3 September 2007 be adopted.

(e) General Purpose Committee: 8 August 2007 (Agenda item 5e)

**RESOLVED** that the unconfirmed Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 8 August 2007 be adopted.

(f) Standards Committee: 11 September 2007 (Agenda item 5f)

**RESOLVED** that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Standards

Committee meeting held on 11 September 2007 be adopted.

**(g) Appeals Committee: 12 September 2007 (Agenda item 5g)**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Appeals Committee meeting held on 12 September 2007 be adopted.

**96/07 THETFORD - PROGRAMME OF DELIVERY (AGENDA ITEM 6)**

The Environmental Planning Manager reported that in April of this year all 29 of the National Growth Points had been invited to produce a draft Programme of Development as a basis for future funding bids to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). DCLG had asked for a first draft to be prepared by 31 May 2007 and a further draft by 31 July 2007. Final versions were required by 1 October 2007.

The Thetford Programme of Development was known as the Thetford Prospectus and essentially covered a bid for funds in the region of £25.5m to £30m for infrastructure required to support the planned growth for Thetford. The purpose of the Programme was to enable DCLG to make informed bids into its own Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) process for Growth Points. The CSR covered the financial years 2008/9 to 2010/11. Breckland was the lead agency in preparing the Programme although the Whole Moving Thetford Forward Partnership had been involved in contributing to its content. This included organisations such as Norfolk County Council, the Primary Care Trust, Norfolk Police, Thetford Town Council, Keystone Development Trust, Forestry Commission and Natural England amongst others.

Breckland Council had received positive feedback from DCLG on the two draft submissions to date and in fact DCLG had circulated the Thetford Prospectus to other Growth Points as an example of best practice.

The key purpose of the document was to identify the key pieces of infrastructure required to be funded to support future growth in Thetford. These projects had to be supported by evidence of their cost and need. Projects had been grouped in themed areas as follows:

- access and movement
- development and regeneration
- environment; and
- capacity.

A Member congratulated the Environmental Planning Team on their work. He felt that this Programme of Development would allow the Council to tap into funds, not only for Thetford, but would also help to promote the rest of the District.

Another Member was concerned about the way contributions were

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received from developers. He felt that the funding should be made available for education etc before the houses were built and not the other way round; particularly where Thetford was concerned as the town was in desperate need of a further two schools. In response to this concern, the Environmental Planning Manager advised that Norfolk County Council was currently undertaking a school review in the Thetford area.

**RESOLVED** that the Programme of Development be endorsed and submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

**97/07 STRATEGIC ALLIANCE (STANDING ITEM) (AGENDA ITEM 7)**

There was nothing further to report.

**98/07 NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE AND OTHER SEATS (AGENDA ITEM 8)**

**RESOLVED** that the following changes be noted:

- a) Policy Development and Review Panel 1  
Marion Chapman-Allen to replace Sam Chapman-Allen
- b) Overview and Scrutiny Commission  
Theresa Hewett to replace Sam Chapman-Allen
- c) General Purposes  
Kate Millbank to replace Shirley Matthews

**Action By**

Andrea Long

Committee  
Services

The meeting closed at 11.10 am

CHAIRMAN