
BRECKLAND COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

**Held on Wednesday, 12 January 2011 at 10.00 am in
Norfolk Room, The Conference Suite, Elizabeth House, Dereham**

PRESENT

Mr P.J. Duigan (Vice-Chair, in the Chair)	Mrs L.S. Turner
Mr G.P. Balaam	Mr S.G. Bambridge
Mrs K. Millbank	Mr S. J. F. Rogers
Mr I. Sherwood	

In Attendance

Stephanie Butcher	- Principal Officer Licensing and Business Support
Jane Osborne	- Committee Officer

Action By

1/11 MINUTES

1 .1 29 September 2010

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

1 .2 6 December 2010

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2/11 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr R W Duffield, Mrs J Ball, Mrs M P Chapman-Allen, Mrs S M Matthews, Mr R Goreham and Mr D Myers.

3/11 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were none.

4/11 URGENT BUSINESS

There were none.

5/11 LOCAL JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE : 28 OCTOBER 2010

(a) Breckland HR Policy Review - Timetable

- (1) the review date of the Smoking Policy be changed to March 2011

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- (2) the review date of the Staff Forum be changed to September 2011
- (3) HR to investigate why the Whistle Blowing Policy was being considered by the Audit Committee before the LJCC and to report the findings to the Chairman before the next meeting of the Audit Committee on 5 November 2010
- (4) LJCC to be notified of any policies going to any other Committee that affect staff
- (5) Subject to any influence made by the transformation, the Shared Services Transition Team be notified that all policies should be reviewed by both Breckland and South Holland District Council

The Chairman advised that he had spoken to HR and was told that item (3) had occurred and the other items had been actioned or were being done. This concerned the Committee as they felt they could not adopt the Minutes when the actions had been done.

Councillors requested procedural clarification over why, when General Purposes were the Committee to go through with regard to recommendations put forward for approval, had they been adopted, when it was their understanding that they should not have been.

A Councillor advised that the situation had arisen in the past and the Chairman had the delegated authority to approve subject to being appropriate to the Committee, and asked why it had not happened in this instance.

The Chairman said that no one Officer owned the General Purposes Committee.

RESOLVED :

that the Solicitor & Standards Consultant be invited to attend the next General Purposes Committee to provide clarification

(b) Adoption

The Minutes of the Local Joint Consultative Committee meeting on 28 October were noted but not approved, due to the fact that actions had already been adopted.

6/11 SPECIAL LOCAL JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE : 6 DECEMBER 2010

The unconfirmed Minutes of the Special Local Joint Consultative Committee on 6 December 2010 were adopted.

7/11 PROPOSED DIVERSION : CRF 21 KENNINGHALL

The Chairman went through the report as Mr G Parfitt, the Legal Executive

Jane
Osborne

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was unable to attend the Committee.

The report sought authority to make an Order under Section 257 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in order to enable development to be carried out in accordance with planning permission granted under Part III of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to the applicant Kenninghall Parish Council who were the landowners.

Norfolk County Council had raised no objections and the local Member was supportive.

RESOLVED that the Order be made as per recommended in the report.

8/11 TAXI LICENSING FEE INCREASE

The Principal Licensing Officer presented the report which asked Members to consider and determine a proposed level of taxi licence fees for 2010/2011.

Following consultation, responses had been received and were shown in Appendix C. However after the consultation period had closed on 28 November 2010 a petition was received on 7 January 2011 which the Principal Licensing Officer believed would be advisable for Members to see. It was a formal petition in the form of a letter from a licensed driver with the addition of signatures on it.

The petition was noted.

A Councillor felt that some of the comments made within the petition letter were not for the Committee to deal with, and that the petitioner/s should be directed to the correct place instead.

Committee Members felt that it would be in tax payers' interest to approve the recommendation following the full review carried out by the Licensing Team.

RESOLVED that the Committee approve the increases in the licence fee levels to bring them to the actual cost levels shown in Appendix A of the Report, but if any further representations are received after the Public Notice, the matter be referred back to the Committee.

It was felt by a Councillor that it would be beneficial for the Licensing Team to return to the General Purposes Committee some time in the future for the presentation on the transformation project to be shown again to the Committee.

9/11 ADOPTION OF SCHEDULE 3 TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982 AND SECTION 27 OF THE POLICING AND CRIME ACT 2009

The Principal Licensing Officer presented the report which asked members to consider the approval of a recommendation to Full Council to adopt the provisions of section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009, which provided

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for the regulation of sexual entertainment venues.

There were currently no premises exclusively use as a sex entertainment venue within the Breckland District. The Officer explained the procedure that would be followed if the proposal to adopt the legislation went through.

She recommended that a policy regarding sexual entertainment venues was drafted and that the policy be brought back to the Committee.

RESOLVED that

- (1) The General Purposes Committee recommends that Full Council resolves to adopt Schedule 3 of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982 as amended by Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 which will apply to the Breckland District Council area and that these provisions come into force on 1 April 2011 as 'the first appointed day'
- (2) That Breckland Council set a fee for applications for Sexual Entertainment Venues, the amount of that fee to be calculated by the Principal Officer and set by the General Purposes Committee
- (3) That Breckland Council should draw up a policy on sexual entertainment venues, this policy to be drafted by the Principal Licensing Officer and subject to public consultation and General Purposes Committee approval.

10/11 NEXT MEETING

The arrangements for the next meeting on 16 February 2011 at 10.00 a.m in the Norfolk Room were noted.

The meeting closed at 10.30 am

CHAIRMAN