

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the

COUNCIL

**Held on Thursday, 28 July 2016 at 10.00 am in the
Anglia Room, The Conference Suite, Elizabeth House, Dereham**

PRESENT

Mr T J Ashby	Mr A.P. Joel
Mr S.G. Bambridge	Mrs E. M. Jolly
Mrs E J Bishop	Mr K. Martin
Mr W.P. Borrett (Chairman)	Mrs S.M. Matthews
Councillor C Bowes	Mrs L.H. Monument
Mr T R Carter	Mr M J Nairn
Councillor M. Chapman-Allen	Mr J Newton
Mr H E J Clarke	Mr J.W. Nunn
Mr P.D. Claussen	Mr R. R. Richmond
Mr J.P. Cowen	Mr W. R. J. Richmond
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	Mr A.C. Stasiak
Mr P.J. Duigan	Mr M Taylor
Councillor E. Gould	Mrs L.S. Turner
Mrs J Hollis	Mr N.C. Wilkin
Mr T. J. Jermy	

In Attendance

Julie Britton	- Senior Democratic Services Officer
Anna Graves	- Chief Executive
Julie Kennealy	- Executive Director (Commercialisation)(S151 Officer)
Helen McAleer	- Senior Democratic Services Officer
Mark Stinson	- Executive Manager Governance (Deputy Monitoring Officer BDC)
Rob Walker	- Executive Director Place

88/16 MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 1)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

89/16 APOLOGIES (AGENDA ITEM 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brame, C Carter, Millbank, L Monument, Oliver, Robinson, Wassell, Webb and Wilkinson.

The Deputy Leader also sent his apologies due to a military engagement.

90/16 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (AGENDA ITEM 3)

None.

91/16 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (AGENDA ITEM 4)

The Chairman said that he had been busy attending events. He particularly

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recommended the Lord Mayor's Procession which was a great day out and all done to raise money for charity. The Royal British Legion also raised a lot of money for charity and their rededication service had been held in the middle of the Battle Area and had been a very moving ceremony.

Finally he advised Members that a representative of SSAFA (his chosen charity) would be giving a presentation to the next meeting of Council to explain their work. He thanked Members that had already made donations to his charity.

92/16 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (AGENDA ITEM 5)

The Leader referred to the Council's decision not to move forward with the Devolution Deal. The formal public consultation had started and he had been asked if the Council could opt back in if the Deal had public support. He had checked with the LGA and could confirm that there would be no opportunity for the Council to do so. However, the Chief Executive was working with the Programme Team to maintain involvement with projects that affected Breckland.

The Local Plan had been discussed at meetings in the community and he thanked the Panel for their hard work. Officers were now collating the information and the Plan would be presented to Cabinet for approval for formal consultation which should commence in September.

The Leisure Centres were doing very well and had received 24,000 more visits this year compared to last year. He congratulated the people involved in running that Service.

An additional 1,140 customers had signed up to the Garden Waste Service since it went on-line in April.

It was Julie Kennealy's last Council meeting and he said it had been a privilege working with her and he thanked her for all her hard work and wished her well in the future.

Councillors Wilkin, Crawford, Dimoglou, Jolly, Matthews and R Richmond added their thanks to Julie saying that she had been a breath of fresh air and had given them better understanding of the financial affairs of the Council.

The Chairman wished her well on behalf of the whole Council and then asked Members for any questions to the Leader.

Councillor Jermy asked if the Council was promoting engagement with the County Council's devolution consultation by residents.

The Leader explained that the information was on the website.

Councillor Cowen asked the Leader if he agreed that the County's consultation document did not give people the opportunity to express their views.

Councillor Joel asked if the Secretary of State had reacted to four Norfolk Councils leaving the scheme.

The Leader advised that there had not been any reaction and the scheme was still continuing.

93/16 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER NO 6 (AGENDA ITEM 6)

None.

94/16 QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER NO 7 (AGENDA ITEM 7)

Councillor Clarke asked the Executive Member for Place for an update on the Dereham Transport Study.

It was pointed out that the relevant Member was the Executive Member for Growth and he was not present. The Leader advised that he would find out when it would be ready after the meeting.

Councillor Taylor asked if the Leader agreed that Brexit meant Brexit and asked what the Council was doing to prepare for it.

The Leader agreed that the decision had been made and advised that the full impact of Brexit on the Council would become clearer over time. The impact on grant funding was unknown, but the Council would try to mitigate effects on residents.

Councillor Martin asked the Executive Member for Place if residents had to pay for their black and green bins.

The Executive Member for Place said that was correct, the scheme was working well and no one had refused to pay.

Councillor Jermy asked the Leader in place of the Executive Member for Growth, what was being doing to put pressure on Flagship Housing Group to improve their void rates as some properties were being left empty for months.

The Leader asked the Director for Place to respond. He confirmed that there had been an issue. A meeting had been held with the Directors of Flagship Housing Group and a detailed action plan had been requested.

Councillor Taylor asked the Leader about parking facilities for the new build at Riverside, Thetford. Residents were concerned about traffic flows and the lack of communication between District and County Council.

The Executive Member for Income & Prosperity said that this fell within his Portfolio and he would raise the matter with Officers. He was aware that the County Council had commissioned a traffic survey and he urged Councillor Taylor to speak to his County Councillor as he agreed that there was a problem. The flagship scheme would be opening in the autumn and people needed to be able to access it easily.

95/16 CABINET MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 8)

95 .a Unconfirmed Minutes of the Special Cabinet Meeting held on 28 June 2016

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Special Cabinet meeting held on 28 June 2016 be adopted.

95 .b Unconfirmed minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 13 July 2016

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 13 July

2016 be adopted.

96/16 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION (AGENDA ITEM 9)

It was noted that the recommendation on page 20 would be moved under Agenda Item 11.

RESOLVED that the now confirmed Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 9 June 2016 be adopted.

97/16 PLANNING COMMITTEE (AGENDA ITEM 10)

RESOLVED that the now confirmed Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 27 June 2016 be adopted, subject to a correction under Minute No. 85/16 (item 13) to read 'Hind' and not 'Hinde'.

The Minutes had been amended at the Planning Committee meeting to clarify comments made by Councillor Gilbert.

98/16 REVIEW OF COMMITTEE STRUCTURE (AGENDA ITEM 11)

The Executive Manager for Governance presented the report in the absence of the Executive Member for Governance.

Officer delegations had been looked reviewed as part of the review of the Constitution but the committee structure had not been reviewed at that time. The Executive Manager for Governance asked the Council to consider reviewing the committee structure now that the revised constitution had been in place for six months. The proposals in the report were aimed at delivering flexible and efficient arrangements with strong governance.

The main proposals set out in the report were:

- deletion of the General Purposes, Appeals and Local Joint Consultative Committees
- redistribution of the functions of those committees
- separation of licensing functions between a Licensing Committee and a Committee of the Licensing Authority
- to extend the membership of the two Licensing Committees to fifteen.

Unison had been consulted and, following the abolition of the Local Joint Consultative Committee, wanted to retain the ability to engage with Members directly in some form.

Councillor Monument, speaking as Chairman of Appeals Committee, requested that wording be included for the benefit of Licensing Officers, to make it clear who they should consult if they needed to urgently revoke a taxi Licence. Currently they were required to consult with the Chairman of Appeals Committee.

The Executive Manager Governance confirmed that that would be made clear.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) the revised committee structure detailed within the report at Appendix B be approved and take effect immediately after the meeting;
- 2) the revised responsibilities for each committee as detailed within the report at

- Appendix C be approved and take effect immediately after the meeting; and
- 3) delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer to make the necessary amendments to the Constitution to implement the revised structure.

99/16 STAFFING STRUCTURE (AGENDA ITEM 12)

The Head of Paid Service presented the report and advised members that a similar report had been approved by South Holland District Council the previous evening.

She clarified that the Executive Director Commercialisation post would remain. The post of Executive Manager Commercialisation was, however, proposed to be deleted. All other Senior Manager posts had been filled, but despite two attempts, this post had remained vacant. The report set out how the senior management structure would operate without the post and proposed that the financial savings be reinvested to improve the Council's Emergency Planning resources.

Councillor Cowen was the Executive Member responsible for that Portfolio. He endorsed the proposal and explained that the Council's ambitions regarding commercialisation were not being diluted and a better way would be found to meet those ambitions.

Councillor Jermy suggested that the reinvestment should be directed to provide extra resources for Housing which was part of the Transformation Programme, whereas Emergency Planning was not.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The post of Executive Manager – Commercialisation be deleted from the establishment;
- 2) The budget associated with that post be reinvested elsewhere in the staffing establishment, focussed around emergency planning; and
- 3) The Head of Paid Service bring forward proposals, in due course, for additional staffing resources in another area or areas of the staffing structure.

100/16 NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE AND OTHER SEATS (AGENDA ITEM 13)

RESOLVED that the following appointments to Committees be approved:

1. Licensing Committee/Committee of the Licensing Authority (see Minute No. 98/16 above):

Councillor Marion Chapman-Allen
Councillor Keith Martin
Councillor Claire Bowes
Councillor Steve Askew
Councillor Jane Bishop
Councillor Paul Darby
Councillor Kate Millbank
Councillor Thomas Monument
Councillor William Richmond
Councillor Frank Sharpe
Councillor Linda Monument
Councillor Roy Brame
Councillor Richard Duffield
Councillor Jenny Hollis
Councillor Keith Gilbert

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Substitutes:
Councillor Tristan Ashby
Councillor Rhodri Oliver
Councillor Denis Crawford

2. Planning Committee substitute:

Councillor Terry Jermy

It was agreed that the substitute for the Audit Committee vacancy would be deferred until the next meeting.

101/16 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION (AGENDA ITEM 14)

None.

102/16 ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT (AGENDA ITEM 15)

None.

The meeting closed at 10.45am.

CHAIRMAN