

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the

COUNCIL

**Held on Thursday, 24 January 2019 at 10.00 am in the
Anglia Room, The Conference Suite, Elizabeth House, Dereham**

PRESENT

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

In Attendance

Anna Graves	- Chief Executive
Rob Walker	- Executive Director Place
Mark Stinson	- Executive Manager Governance (Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Stephen James	- Communities & Environmental Services Manager
Sarah Wolstenholme-Smy	- Legal Services Manager (Deputy Monitoring Officer BDC)
Ryan Baxter	- Local Businessman
Julie Britton	- Democratic Services Officer

Councillor John Newton

The Chairman paid tribute to Councillor Newton, and acknowledged his service to Breckland Council. On behalf of the Council, the Chairman conveyed his sincere condolences to John's family at this difficult time.

Members were then invited to say a few words in memory of John.

Councillors Crawford, Brame, Jermy, Bambridge and the Deputy Leader Sam Chapman-Allen paid individual tributes and relayed treasured memories of Councillor Newton.

A minute's silence was then held.

Action By

1/19 APOLOGIES (AGENDA ITEM 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tristan Ashby, Theresa Hewett, Jenny Hollis, Kate Millbank, Mike Nairn, William Nunn, Rhodri Oliver and Mark Robinson.

2/19 MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 2)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3/19 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (AGENDA ITEM 3)

None.

4/19 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (AGENDA ITEM 4)

The Engagement list was noted.

The Chairman read aloud a letter that he had received from a member of the public about how much she had enjoyed her visit to the Thetford Waterside development. Although not a Breckland resident, the letter contained many positive attributes about the area, and the decision makers and the innovators of the development had been congratulated.

The author of the letter felt that the positive ambience of the town could only be a benefit to the populace as a whole and she had been thrilled to see so many good things happening in Thetford especially as it had such a rich history.

The Chairman congratulated Members' for their vision but conveyed particular congratulations to the staff who had made the development happen.

5/19 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (AGENDA ITEM 5)

In the absence of the Leader, the Deputy Leader made the following announcements:

- **Local Government Chronicle Awards** – Breckland Council had been shortlisted for an award under the 'Innovation' category for Breckland Training Services. The presentation to the panel of judges would take place in London on Friday, 25 January 2019 and the results would be announced in March 2019. The Deputy Leader believed that it showed the moral courage of Members which the Chairman had alluded to earlier - that occasionally Breckland Council was bold and was innovative in its ways; the Riverside complex had reflected that, but more importantly, it had been a real accolade for the Council moving forward.
- **Key Tenant in Thetford** – an industrial unit in Brunel Way, Thetford, currently leased by Warburtons Ltd, was recently purchased by Breckland Council using monies from the Council's Growth and Investment fund. The Deputy Leader felt that these innovative ways of working enabled the Council to deliver frontline services whilst keeping the Council Tax down. Warburtons was one of the key tenants in Thetford and showed resilience within the market place for commercial units within Thetford and the A11 tech corridor and proved that the Team, once again, who delivered Riverside, were continuing to look for the right investment assets within the

District.

- **Norwich Western Link Route Options Consultation** (formerly the Northern Distributor Road (NDR)) - Members had received an email in relation to the four shortlisted road options designed to improve travel between the A47 and the western end of Broadland Northway and tackle transport problems in this area. Breckland Council had yet to respond but the Deputy Leader was aware that many Ward Members and parishes in Breckland that would be affected had already responded. This matter would be discussed at the next Cabinet meeting in February and Members were encouraged to attend. Breckland Council would then write to Norfolk County Council with its comments for consideration.
- **Silver Social Award** – Breckland Council had been shortlisted for the prestigious National Campaign for the Arts' (NCA) "Hearts for the Arts Awards 2019", with the Council's Silver Social Project nominated for "Best Local Authority Arts Initiative". This was a phenomenal accomplishment and the Deputy Leader thanked Councillor Claussen and Councillor Turner and the Community Team for all that they had achieved.

Councillor Wassell asked the Deputy Leader if he agreed that both Riverside and Breckland Training Services (BTS) were projects that, initially, were not widely supported. He felt that credit should be paid to Councillor Smith for the inauguration of BTS as he had been one of the main proponents for the creation of that service. As far as Riverside was concerned, Councillor Wassell reminded Members that this came to fruition when he was Leader of the Council, and again there had been some opposition; however, the letter that had been read by the Chairman, demonstrated the fact that this authority was an entrepreneurial Council that had a risk taking appetite which, in the end, had proved in both cases, to be the right decision.

The Deputy Leader fully agreed with the aforementioned comments. He remembered Councillor Smith, as a former Cabinet Member, who at the time had fought for the creation of BTS which as a Team had thrived and gone from strength to strength. Riverside was also a brave decision of the Council and many of Breckland's neighbouring authorities as well as nationally were very envious that this Council was able to put such a big investment into one of the Council's market towns. Thetford was the fourth biggest market town in Norfolk and had a great opportunity and a great future and thankfully all those who had been opposed to the project could see what Breckland had achieved and would continue to achieve within that community.

Councillor Bambridge, the Executive Member for Growth commented on the link road. He was very pleased that Breckland was involved and was taking this matter seriously enough to bring it to Cabinet and indeed to comment on it. He had submitted his comments on-line as it affected one of his, and Councillor Smith's Wards - the most affected Ward by the absence of a link road, and would most probably take the most advantage of it coming into existence. He encouraged all Members to visit Norfolk County Council's website and put forward their comments. The Deputy Leader also encouraged all Members and the wider community to engage in the consultation.

6/19 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER NO 6 (AGENDA ITEM 6)

None.

7/19 QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER NO 7 (AGENDA ITEM 7)

Councillor Brindle directed his question to Councillor Bambridge, the Executive Member for Growth. Councillor Brindle had seen a great deal of press publicity about residents who were living in private sub-standard living conditions in his Ward. This had been a long standing issue. His questions were:

- Could the Cabinet Member assure him that Breckland Council's Housing Team was sufficiently staffed to deal with these issues and that the focus on poor private sector housing provision was fit for purpose? and
- What action was being taken by Breckland Council to deal with this specific issue, particularly in Glebe Close, Thetford?

Councillor Bambridge stated that he could not deal with individual addresses or tenants; however, regarding Glebe Close, a Team from the Council had been on site very recently and were looking into this very issue. If the dwellings were found to be extremely sub-standard, the Council did have an opportunity to provide housing for the residents in question or could ask the landlord for various works to be carried out and, provide a timetable for those works. Whilst the report from the visit had not yet been received, it was expected and he would be happy to contact Councillor Brindle once received. As a side issue to that, Councillor Bambridge advised that he had received many emails from Councillor Newton on this very matter, and as a result, a Landlords' Forum had been arranged to take place this evening, 24 January 2019 at Breckland Council which he would be attending. Officers from many disciplines would also be in attendance to meet with landlords and discuss the new rules that they had to comply with. These forums would be on-going allowing the Council to remain in touch with landlords. There would be similar gatherings for tenants to follow. If any Member had any issues he urged them to contact the Housing Team. Councillor Bambridge hastened to add that there were many excellent private landlords in the Breckland area but the few who were causing issues to their tenants would be investigated.

Councillor Martin mentioned the new owners of Banham Poultry and asked if they could be contacted to resurrect the Liaison Committee that he used to be a member of. The Deputy Leader said that he would be more than happy for Councillor Martin to be re-engaged on this Committee and would raise this with Cassie Ruffell, the Council's Regeneration Manager.

Cassie
Ruffell

Councillor Clarke drew Members' attention to an article in a national magazine and asked if the content was correct. The Deputy Leader, due to not being a subscriber to this particular magazine, asked the Councillor to let him read the article outside of the meeting, he would then respond accordingly.

Councillor Jermy raised a concern about Norfolk County Council's decision to close its Children's' Centres, many of them being in the Breckland area. He felt that Breckland Council had put a great deal of effort into social mobility and the evidence had shown that the demand was greater in this area. Councillor Claussen, the Executive Member for Place advised that it was far too soon to provide any sensible answer about this matter; however, he would be more than happy to discuss the way forward with Councillor Jermy. The Deputy Leader advised that he was aware of this issue and comments had been submitted to Norfolk County Council. Breckland Council did invest in early intervention hubs that would monitor the situation and although the assets would be lost the outreach service would be maintained. Councillor Borrett added that the service was just being re-shaped; some buildings that had been used to facilitate these services

were only being booked for a few hours a day. It was just the buildings that were being closed not the service and doing so would allow more money to be spent on children's services particularly in rural areas. The Deputy Leader felt that communication was key and Breckland Council would continue to monitor the situation.

Councillor Robert Richmond asked Councillor Bambridge whether the Council had any land that could accommodate ground based solar panels as he was not aware of any in the Breckland area. Councillor Bambridge was not aware of any sites owned by the Council. As for other sites, Councillor Wilkin, the Chairman of the Planning Committee reported a number of sites that he knew of in the area and Councillor Martin reminded Members of the large renewable energy plant in Snetterton and Councillor Carter drew attention to the one in Litcham.

8/19 CABINET MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 8)

Councillor Keith Gilbert thanked the Cabinet Members for holding the previous meeting in Watton and for attending the tour of the town.

- 1) Local Council Tax Discount for Care Leavers (Minute No. 129/18)

RESOLVED that the Policy at Appendix 1 of the Cabinet report dated 27/11/18 be adopted from 1 April 2019.

- 2) Adoption

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 27 November 2018 be adopted.

9/19 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION (AGENDA ITEM 9)

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 13 December 2018 be adopted.

10/19 PLANNING COMMITTEE (AGENDA ITEM 10)

- (a) 26 November 2018

RESOLVED that the confirmed Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 26 November 2018 be adopted.

- (b) 17 December 2018

RESOLVED that the confirmed Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 17 December 2018 be adopted.

11/19 GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE (AGENDA ITEM 11)

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Governance & Audit Committee meeting held on 14 December 2018 be adopted.

12/19 SAFEGUARDING POLICY (FOR INFORMATION) (AGENDA ITEM 12)

The Safeguarding Policy had been approved by the Cabinet at its meeting on 27 November 2018.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that the Safeguarding Policy was already available on the Council's intranet. The Policy would also be included on the internet in due course.

Councillor Darby welcomed the Policy as it protected vulnerable people and by having a dedicated Officer to oversee it was, in his opinion, reassuring.

The Safeguarding Policy was otherwise noted.

13/19 CROXTON, BRETtenham & KILVERSTONE JOINT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - MAKING (ADOPTION) OF THE CROXTON, BRETtenham & KILVERSTONE JOINT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (AGENDA ITEM 13)

Councillor Gordon Bambridge, the Executive Member for Growth, introduced the report and had great pleasure in proposing the Croxton, Brettenham & Kilverstone Joint Neighbourhood Plan to the Council. He welcomed the two Parish Councillors in attendance both of whom had played an integral part in the making of this Plan. He also conveyed his congratulations to the three parishes for all their hard work; this was the first multiple parish Plan to be received by the Council and he acknowledged the number of years of very hard work that had now come to fruition. The Deputy Leader, as a Ward Member for these areas, had been deeply involved and although difficult, all had worked in harmony together. He thanked the Officers and the Team and also felt that both Parish Councils should be applauded for their efforts.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) the Croxton, Brettenham & Kilverstone Joint Neighbourhood Plan, as written at the time of the referendum, be "made" as part of the statutory Development Plan for Breckland Council, as required by paragraph (4)(a) of section 38A of the Town and Country Planning Act be confirmed;
- 2) the decision, as required by paragraph (9) of section 38A of the Town and Country Planning Act, be published;
- 3) Croxton, Brettenham & Kilverstone Joint Parish Councils and any other prescribed persons be advised about this, to meet the requirements of paragraph (10) of section 38A of the Town and Country Planning Act; and
- 4) the Breckland District policies map be amended to meet the requirements of paragraph 9 Town and Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

14/19 NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE AND OTHER SEATS (AGENDA ITEM 14)

RESOLVED that:

Councillor Sam Chapman-Allen be appointed as the substitute on the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Sub-Panel.

15/19 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION (AGENDA ITEM 15)

None.

16/19 MARKET TOWNS PROGRAMME (FOR INFORMATION) (AGENDA ITEM 16)

Rob Walker, the Executive Director for Place, provided Members with a detailed

and informative presentation. The presentation covered the Breckland Market Town Initiative (MTI), and what it was endeavouring to achieve and what it had achieved already. Information was also provided in respect of the Council's Community Reserve that was established in June 2018 following Cabinet approval for projects that provided a social return on investment or to address specific local issues. The Executive Director was accompanied by Stephen James, the Communities and Environmental Services Manager and Ryan Baxter, the creator of the BreckWorld App - a demonstration of the App formed part of the presentation.

Members were delighted to hear that in 18 months since Members agreed to the formation of the MTI, under the banner of 'One District, Five Towns', the funding had supported the development of:

- ShopAppy – an initiative that supported businesses across the district to help market towns to gain footfall and customers. ShopAppy.com was a fantastic solution for busy people who wanted to shop local but did not have the time. It also provided opportunity for business owners/retailers to promote items and offers to the residents of Breckland. In terms of interest, since it started, there had been just under 400,000 visits to the Breckland pages for this particular app of those, just under 150,000 were classed as unique views - individual people looking at what was happening in Breckland.
- Twelve Elves of Christmas – this encouraged family fun and participation asking everyone who took part to look out and find over 100 elves hidden within independent shops in the five market towns. A reward was offered to residents who found 12 of the elves; some of which had been included on the ShopAppy site. This was a real success over Christmas that attracted 2,500 people visiting the shops.
- BreckWorld – another App, taking Breckland into the 21st century using new and emerging technologies, to put some of the things that everyone already had in the District out there to residents and tourists alike. This Virtual Reality App showcased things to do and places to go in the Breckland District using a 360° video camera. This would give someone an immersive experience of a particular place. The benefits of the App were explained.
- Swaffham Buttercross – MTI had funded Swaffham Town Council to improve the Buttercross, a key central point within the town.
- The Glutton – a machine/large vacuum cleaner that went to all five towns cleaning the detritus and eradicated the old brush and pan methods.
- Butten Island in Thetford – due to it being near the Riverside complex, improvements were being made; the first stage being clearing the space which was still on-going to hopefully lead onto a much larger project alongside the river, making it a pleasant place for people to visit.
- Thetford Murals – supporting the Town Council in funding a second mural making a visible difference to the historic part of the town
- Dereham Town Centre Pre-Feasibility Study – funding the Town Council for a piece of work under consideration to re-design the use of the town centre; in relation to how it looked and how transport flowed through the market place.
- On the Green – these events were held in the summer outside the Riverside development in Thetford funded via the Council's Asset Team.
- Swaffham and Watton Market Stalls – both towns had made a joint pitch to the Council for investment in their market stalls and location of the current market in Watton.

Action By

- Watton and Swaffham Park Runs - park runs are a massive success in attracting significant numbers of people to the towns taking account of the wider benefits these events would have on the towns.
- Dereham Wayfinder – this was all about street furniture/signage and directing people visiting Dereham to places of interest.

The MTI had been and was still both a challenge and an opportunity for the Council to keep Breckland's five towns moving forward at the same pace and with the same enthusiasm. The Council was keen to see delivery right across the District and improvement in all five of its market towns.

Future projects included car parking enforcement trials in Swaffham and Attleborough, Business Rates Reduction Scheme and Norfolk County Council's Market Town Transport studies.

The funding allocations thus far for each of the market towns were also highlighted and explained.

Members were then provided with a presentation and demonstration of the BreckWorld App. The BreckWorld App, yet to be publically launched, was available to download from the App Store.

Councillor Wassell congratulated the Team and the Executive Director of Place for this initiative.

Councillor Wilkin mentioned the banks in the market towns that were continually closing and were pushing more and more for people to use their on-line services. Referring to the Breckworld App, he felt that parking in the area should be included and another idea would be to relax the planning policies to enable tables and chairs to be located outside cafes and restaurants in the towns particularly as the summers were getting longer and hotter. The Executive Director of Place said that all ideas would be taken on board; however, the banks were outside of the Council's control that was the reason for focusing on multiuse town centres.

Councillor Dimoglou was inspired by the BreckWorld App and in response to a question, Ryan Baxter the creator of the App said that it could be viewed from home using virtual reality.

Members were informed that the capability of what Ryan had developed was significant and was a benefit working for the Council.

The Chairman thanked the staff involved for all the hard work that had gone into all the above projects.

17/19 ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT
(AGENDA ITEM 17)

None.

The meeting closed at 11.50 am

CHAIRMAN