

Public Document Pack BRECKLAND COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the

COUNCIL

Held on Thursday, 23 September 2010 at 10.30 am in the
Anglia Room, The Conference Suite, Elizabeth House, Dereham

PRESENT

Mr S. Askew	Mr M.A. Kiddle-Morris
Mr G.P. Balaam	Mr R.G. Kybird
Mrs J. Ball	Mr J.P. Labouchere
Mr S.G. Bambridge	Mr K. Martin
Mr W.P. Borrett	Mrs S.M. Matthews
Councillor Claire Bowes	Mrs K. Millbank
Mrs M.P. Chapman-Allen	Mr I.A.C. Monson
Mr P.D. Claussen	Mrs L.H. Monument (Chairman)
Mr P.J. Duigan	Mr D.G. Mortimer
Lady Fisher	Mr D.S. Myers
Mr P.S. Francis	Mr J.W. Nunn
Mr R.F. Goreham	Mr J.D. Rogers
Councillor E. Gould	Mr F.J. Sharpe
Mr J.R. Gretton	Mr I. Sherwood
Mr M.J. Griffin	Mr W.H.C. Smith
Mrs D.K.R. Irving	Mrs P.A. Spencer
Mr A.P. Joel	Mr A.C. Stasiak
Mr C.R. Jordan	Mr D.R. Williams JP
Mr R. Kemp	

Also Present

Mrs J. Jenkins - Chairman, Standards Committee

In Attendance

Caroline Cox	- Youth Engagement Officer
Sheila Cresswell	- Committee Officer
Lisa Hendry	- HR Adviser for Training and Development
Terry Huggins	- Chief Executive
Stephen McGrath	- Member Services Manager
Robert Walker	- Director - Community Services

117/10 MINUTES - 12 AUGUST 2010 (AGENDA ITEM 1)

Masterplan Funding for Attleborough (Minute No. 116/10)

It was noted that the word "trances" at the third bullet point on page 13 should be amended to read "tranches".

Subject to this correction, the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 August 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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118/10 APOLOGIES (AGENDA ITEM 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A. Byrne, Mr S. Chapman-Allen, Mr R. Childerhouse, Mr P. Cowen, Mr R. Duffield, Mr M. Fanthorpe, Mr P. Hewett, Mrs T. Hewett, Mr T. Lamb, Mrs P. Quadling, Mr S. Rogers, Mr B. Rose, Mr M. Spencer, Mrs A. Steward, Mrs L. Turner and Mr N. Wilkin.

119/10 DECLARATION OF INTEREST (AGENDA ITEM 3)

Lady K. Fisher Personal and Prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 12 (Moving Thetford Forward Board, Minute No. 40/10 in connection with the Thetford Vision/Prospectus)

Mr R. Kemp Personal and Prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 9 (Development Control Committee Minute No. 148/10) in connection with the proposed residential development at Kenninghall Road, Harling.

120/10 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (AGENDA ITEM 4)

Engagements List – Chairman
12th August 2010 to 22nd September 2010

Date	Event	Host
12 th September, 2010	Battle of Britain Commemoration Service and reception	Mayor of Thetford, Councillor Mrs. Pauline Quadling
13 th September, 2010	Opening of Battle of Britain Week and buffet	Lord Mayor of Norwich, Councillor Tom Dylan
13 th September, 2010	Reception to commemorate the Battle of Britain	Chairman of Norfolk County Council, Councillor Tony Tomkinson
14 th September, 2010	Civic Reception followed by an afternoon of racing	His Worship of the Mayor of the Borough of Great Yarmouth, Councillor Michael Jeal
18 th September, 2010	29 th Annual Joan Mann Special Sports Day	Colonel Chad T. Manske, Commander 100 th Air Refuelling Wing, RAF Mildenhall and Colonel John T. Quintas, Commander 48 th Fighter Wing

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19 th September, 2010	Battle of Britain Memorial Service followed by Reception	Mayor of Dereham, Councillor Robert Hambidge	
20 th September, 2010	Meeting with the Governor of Heilongjiang Province	Chairman of Norfolk County Council, Councillor Tony Tomkinson	
22 nd September, 2010	Civic Reception to celebrate Youth and the Future	Chairman of South Norfolk Council, Councillor Jeremy Savage, and Mrs. Caroline Savage	

Engagements List – Vice-Chairman
12th August 2010 to 22nd September 2010

Date	Event	Host
20 th August, 2010	Eerie Tales and Fish & Chip supper – walk around the rows and medieval walls of Great Yarmouth	Mayor of Great Yarmouth, Councillor Michael Jeal
16 th September, 2010	VIP Reception to celebrate the Tour of Britain in Norfolk	Norfolk County Council
19 th September, 2010	Civic Service to commemorate the Anniversary of Battle of Britain	Lord Mayor of Norwich, Councillor Tom Dylan

The Chairman drew Members' attention to the 29th Annual Joan Mann Special Sports Day which she had attended on the 18th September. This was a day of organised sport and events for young people with special needs, supported by their carers. It had been a particularly lovely and inspiring event, fully justifying support.

She also highlighted the meeting with the Governor of Heilongjiang Province, China. This was an area about the size of France but with only about half its population. The delegation was interested in Norfolk from a general agricultural perspective, but specifically to share information and expertise about the sugar beet industry. Invitations had been extended for a return visit – but she was not sure how viable this would be, not least under current circumstances!

Finally, she said she had recently met Mrs Emily Millington Smith, Chairman of the Norfolk Older People's Forum. Apparently Breckland did not yet have its own Older People's Forum, and the Chairman thought it would be worthwhile looking into setting one up, as this could provide a useful means of raising local concerns and issues.

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121/10 BRECKLAND YOUTH COUNCIL (AGENDA ITEM 5)

Stuart Green (Chairman), Jordan Bailey (Vice-Chairman) and Alistair Wright (Secretary) from the Breckland Youth Council were present to give a brief overview of Youth Council achievements so far, and proposals for its future.

Key points highlighted in their presentation included:

- Its formation in February 2009.
- 1,600 votes had been cast (via on-line voting), resulting in 15 people being elected to the Youth Council. Of these, there remained a core of 10 highly committed members, with others supporting as and when they could.
- A range of recent successes were listed, with special attention being drawn to the *Pride in Breckland Awards*; attendance at a Youth Engagement Conference, as well as at various Town, Parish and Council meetings; the receipt and handling of substantial grants; attendance at the British Youth Convention in York; various Community Action Group meetings across the district; the organisation of an upcoming *Pride in Young People* event; visits from, and engagement with, key community leaders and representatives such as the Police, NCC Transport and KonectBus; participation in a survey for the Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital and judging a 'Bling Up Your Bin' competition; involvement with the selection process for the Young Persons Housing Officer; and attendance at key local events, such as the Watton Carnival and the Royal Norfolk Show.
- Since its inception there had been 16 meetings, averaging an 80% attendance.
- Some members of the Youth Council were working towards National Volunteering Awards.
- The Youth Council now had an elected member of the UK Youth Parliament.
- Their events and achievements were well publicised throughout the District, helping to give a very positive image of young people in Breckland.
- In more general terms, Youth Councillors had found new friends whilst developing their communication and organisational skills (not least as they had to juggle school or college commitments with Youth Council work).

Having taken Members through the Youth Council's Constitution, Stuart added that they had recently discussed the future of the Youth Council. They were keen to ensure that it remained as effective and viable as possible. They had learnt that, generally speaking, there would be advantages to working in smaller

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groups. Aside from more focussed work, it could release funds otherwise spent on transport and food.

They therefore proposed a reduction in the size of the Cabinet to an elected group of five. Other Youth Councillors would remain as members, and could help and advise the Cabinet at quarterly meetings.

The Youth Council was due to hold elections in February 2011 and it was proposed that:

- The existing Cabinet should remain in place for a further twelve months (i.e. the current Cabinet members to have a three year term of office).
- Future Youth Council Cabinet Members would be recruited from the five key district towns.
- There would be no cap on the overall number of Youth Councillors. This should enable anyone who expressed an interest to participate at a local level, without necessarily needing to fully commit to the Youth Council. Hopefully this would ensure that various skills and experiences could be drawn upon, especially for specific projects. These members could be invited to attend Cabinet meetings to feed ideas upwards.

Stuart added that it was hoped that the proposed restructuring would achieve a more organised, motivated and productive Youth Council, who could actively engage with, and represent, young people right across the District.

In concluding his presentation, Stuart warmly thanked Councillors Diana Irving, Lynda Turner and Adrian Stasiak, as well as Caroline Cox (Youth Engagement Officer), for all their support and help, which had been given right from the very start of the Youth Council.

The Chairman of Council thanked Stuart and his colleagues for the presentation. She did, however, express some concern about whether or not they had sufficiently thought through the implications of not having a limit on overall Youth Council membership.

As Breckland Council's Young People's Champion, Diana Irving spoke with real pride about the achievements of the Youth Council since its formation. She added that other District and Borough Councils from across the country had been in touch, looking for guidance on best practice for youth engagement. The Youth Council was both a real credit and an example to the youth of the district and further afield. She recommended that the Youth Council should receive support to continue until at least 2012, citing examples of other achievements such as visits from George Freeman and Elizabeth Hughes (PPCs), who had taken ideas back to Westminster with them.

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She felt that the 2007 Manifesto goal of improving youth engagement in the district had not only been achieved, but that all the signs were that this was going from strength to strength.

The Youth Council was grateful for the wider support and encouragement they had received thus far, and she hoped that they would get continued backing.

Other Members congratulated the Youth Councillors on their presentation and achievements.

The benefits of working in smaller groups were acknowledged, with the caution that it was usually wise to ensure that any meetings opened up to wider audiences needed to be handled carefully, with some control. The fear being that if all those eligible to become Youth Councillors were entitled to attend and participate in meetings, then the whole thing could get unwieldy, possibly resulting in the Cabinet becoming detached or even taking over: hardly the democratic model which the Youth Council was aiming for!

Consideration should perhaps be given to having a maximum number of Youth Councillors, with Committees in each of the five main towns acting as focus points and feeding up to the main Youth Council Cabinet. If there was insufficient local interest, or a lack of suitable candidates in one town, perhaps co-option of more enthusiastic members from outside the immediate vicinity might be a possibility in the short term.

It was confirmed that the upper age for Youth Councillors was 19 (slightly older for those with learning difficulties).

Having heard the proposals and having raised no objections, Members **AGREED** to continue support for the Breckland Youth Council through to 2012.

122/10 CABINET MINUTES - 7 SEPTEMBER 2010 (AGENDA ITEM 6)

a) ICT Security Policy (Revised) (Minute No. 90/10)

RESOLVED that the revised ICT Security Policy be adopted. It would therefore be reissued to all staff and Members, with a request for signature to acknowledge that it had been seen and read.

b) IT Service Contract (Minute No. 98/10)

RESOLVED that the proposed recommendation be accepted.

c) Proposal to Agree the Provision of ICT (Minute No. 99/10)

RESOLVED that the recommendations be accepted, subject to approval by the Partner Councils.

d) Adoption

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 7 September 2010 be adopted.

123/10 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION - 2 SEPTEMBER 2010
(AGENDA ITEM 7)

a) Community Scrutiny – Vandalism at Watton Public Conveniences (Minute No. 78/10)

The Leader of the Labour Group drew attention to item 4 under this Minute, saying that he had urged the Town Clerk at Watton to liaise with other Town Clerks in the vicinity to find out how they had dealt with similar problems and to share ideas.

b) Work Programme (Minute No. 83/10)

Drawing Members' attention to the remarks made by the Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission, where he had warmly thanked the Scrutiny Officer for his sterling work, the Leader of the Labour Party took the opportunity to add his own personal thanks for the "tremendous contribution" the outgoing officer had made to scrutiny at Breckland, and to wish him all the very best for the future.

c) Adoption

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 2 September 2010 be adopted.

124/10 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE - 2 AUGUST 2010
(AGENDA ITEM 8)

a) Dereham: Land Adjacent to Peartree Cottage, The Neatherd, Norwich Road (Minute No. 133/10)

It was noted that the reference to "Neatherd" in the fourth paragraph of this Minute should refer to "Little Neatherd".

b) Adoption

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Development Control meeting held on 2 August 2010 be adopted.

125/10 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE - 1 SEPTEMBER 2010
(AGENDA ITEM 9)

RESOLVED that the now confirmed Minutes of the Development Control meeting held on 1 September 2010 be adopted.

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126/10 AUDIT COMMITTEE - 26 AUGUST 2010 (AGENDA ITEM 10)

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Audit meeting held on 26 August 2010 be adopted.

127/10 STANDARDS COMMITTEE - 7 SEPTEMBER 2010 (AGENDA ITEM 11)

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 7 September 2010 be adopted.

128/10 MOVING THETFORD FORWARD BOARD MEETING - 30 JULY 2010 (AGENDA ITEM 12)

Thetford Vision/Prospectus (Minute No. 40/10)

It was explained that the reference to "Thetford store", as listed in the bullet points, referred to a conceptual idea that there might be a collective venue for promoting local produce.

The unconfirmed Minutes of the Moving Thetford Forward Board meeting held on 30 July 2010 were then noted.

129/10 YOUTH COUNCIL MINUTES - 20 JULY 2010 (FOR INFORMATION) (AGENDA ITEM 13)

The Minutes of the Breckland Youth Council meeting held on 20 July 2010 were noted.

130/10 YOUTH COUNCIL MINUTES - 18 AUGUST 2010 (FOR INFORMATION) (AGENDA ITEM 14)

The Minutes of the Breckland Youth Council meeting held on 18 August 2010 were noted.

131/10 NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE AND OTHER SEATS (AGENDA ITEM 15)

RESOLVED that:

- Mr W. Nunn to replace Lady Kay Fisher on the Norfolk Waste Partnership; and
- Mrs L. Turner to sit on the Norfolk Older People's Forum.

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The meeting closed at 11.15 am

CHAIRMAN