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BRECKLAND COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the

COUNCIL

Held on Thursday, 8 December 2011 at 10.30 am in the
Anglia Room, The Conference Suite, Elizabeth House, Dereham

PRESENT

Mrs S Armes	Mr K. Martin
Mr S. Askew	Mrs S.M. Matthews
Mr S.G. Bambridge	Mrs K. Millbank
Mr W.P. Borrett	Mrs L.H. Monument
Councillor C Bowes	Mr T F C Monument
Mr A.J. Byrne	Mrs J A North
Mr C G Carter	Mr J.W. Nunn
Mr T R Carter	Mr R. R. Richmond
Mr P.D. Claussen	Mr W. R. J. Richmond
Mr J.P. Cowen	Mr M. S. Robinson
Mr P R W Darby	Mr J.D. Rogers
Mr R.W. Duffield	Mr S. J. F. Rogers
Mr P.J. Duigan	Mr B. Rose
Mr B J English	Mr F.J. Sharpe
Lady Fisher	Mr I. Sherwood
Mr S R Green	Mr B J Skull
Councillor E. Gould	Mr W.H.C. Smith
Mr T. J. Jermy	Mrs P.A. Spencer
Mr A.P. Joel	Mr A.C. Stasiak
Mrs E. M. Jolly	Mrs L.S. Turner
Mr C.R. Jordan	Mr M. A. Wassell
Mr M.A. Kiddle-Morris	Mr N.C. Wilkin (Chairman)
Mr R.G. Kybird	Mr D.R. Williams JP
Mr T.J. Lamb	

Also Present

Mr M Eveling	- Chairman of Standards Committee
Mr A Skipper	- Remuneration Panel
Mr I Vargeson	- Remuneration Panel

In Attendance

Phil Adams	- Environmental Health Manager
Julie Britton	- Senior Committee Officer
Dominic Chessum	- Joint Marketing & Communications Team Leader
Mark Finch	- Assistant Director of Finance
Terry Huggins	- Chief Executive
Helen McAleer	- Senior Committee Officer
Vicky Thomson	- Assistant Director - Democratic Services
Ben Wood	- Business Development Manager

124/11 MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 1)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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125/11 APOLOGIES (AGENDA ITEM 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Childerhouse, Mr C Clark, Mr K Gilbert, Mr R Goreham, Mrs D Irving, Mrs P Quadling and Mrs A Steward.

126/11 DECLARATION OF INTEREST (AGENDA ITEM 3)

Mrs S Armes declared a personal & prejudicial interest in Minute No 166/11 and 167/11 of the Planning Committee meeting held on 31 October 2011 by virtue of the applications being for her son's business.

Councillor C Bowes declared a personal interest in Minute No 92/11 of the Cabinet meeting held on 29 November 2011 by virtue of being friends with the landowner.

Mrs E Jolly declared a personal interest in Minute No 164/11 (g) of the Planning Committee meeting held on 31 October 2011 by virtue of owning the adjacent land.

127/11 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (AGENDA ITEM 4)

The Chairman asked all Members to note the amended date of the Council Tax setting meeting which would now be held on 23 February 2012.

All Members joined him in wishing Mr A Joel a happy 65th birthday.

He advised Members that he would not be sending any Christmas Cards on behalf of the Council in his capacity as Chairman, due to the current economic climate.

Finally he drew attention to the events that he had attended, which had included:

- The charity dance at which Mr Goreham had performed which had been a very enjoyable evening
- the launch of the Wayland History Books, where he had been given a set of books capturing Wayland heritage and he presented those to the Chief Executive on behalf of the Wayland Project
- a trip to Wayland Prison accompanied by Mr Wassel
- the Charity Quiz evening at which the 'Breckland Brainstormers' had come second
- the switch on of the Attleborough Christmas lights which he said were 'brilliant' and well worth a visit
- the re-dedication of the War Memorial Hall in Dereham which was an incredible facility and a real asset to Dereham and the whole District. Mrs Monument, speaking as Deputy Major of Dereham encouraged all Members to visit the Hall.

128/11 CABINET (AGENDA ITEM 5)

- (a) Match Funding Grant Panel Report Round 3 2011/12 (Minute No 89/11)

Mr Bambridge, speaking on behalf of Bawdeswell Parish Council,

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thanked the Council for the grant awarded. He advised that a planning application would be submitted soon for the new village hall.

- (b) Draft Calendar of Council and Committee Meetings 2012/13 (Minute No 93/11)

RESOLVED to approve the schedule of Council and Committee meetings for 2012/13, subject to amending the date of the Audit Committee meeting from 9 to 23 November 2012.

- (c) Environmental Health Review (Minute No 99/11)

RESOLVED to approve:

- (1) the commencement of formal consultation with staff and Trade Unions on the introduction of a shared service for Environmental Health and Licensing and a proposed staffing structure; and
- (2) the production of a further report at the conclusion of the formal consultation to include final staffing proposals, IT solutions, finance and business case.

- (d) Adoption

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 29 November 2011 be adopted.

129/11 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 6)

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 17 November 2011 be adopted.

130/11 PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 7)

130 .a 31 October 2011

RESOLVED that the confirmed Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 31 October 2011 be adopted.

130 .b 28 November 2011

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 28 November 2011 be adopted.

131/11 GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 8)

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 16 November 2011 be adopted.

132/11 APPEALS COMMITTEE MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 9)

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Appeals Committee meeting held on 30 November 2011 be adopted.

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133/11 LICENSING COMMITTEE MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 10)

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 16 November 2011 be adopted.

134/11 AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 11)

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 25 November 2011 be adopted.

135/11 STANDARDS COMMITTEE MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 12)

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 22 November 2011 be adopted.

136/11 YOUTH COUNCIL MINUTES (FOR INFORMATION) (AGENDA ITEM 13)

The Minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 22 November 2011 were noted.

137/11 MEMBERS' SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES (AGENDA ITEM 14)

The Assistant Director for Democratic Services presented the report and explained the key points.

The Independent Remuneration Panel had met twice and had conducted interviews with the Leader of the Council and the Chairman of the Licensing Committee before setting out their recommendations.

They had been mindful of the economic restraints and the fact that the Council was facing a period of change. It had therefore only recommended a scheme from 1 January 2012 to 31 March 2013 (to bring it into line with the financial year).

No changes were proposed to the Basic and Special Responsibility allowances, with the exception of the Chairman of Licensing. No changes were proposed to Carer's allowances or those to Co-opted Members and Specialist Advisers.

Travel and subsistence rates would remain the same with the exception of the training mileage allowance. That would be abolished as the Panel felt that it was unjustifiably low, especially when Members were encouraged to attend training session.

The responsibilities of the Licensing Chairman had significantly diminished and therefore it was recommended that that allowance should be reduced to £2,600. This changed allowance would be reviewed retrospectively by the next Panel.

It was noted that Mr Alistair Skipper, a member of the Remuneration Panel, was in attendance to answer any questions.

RESOLVED that:

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- (1) the new scheme to be effective from 1 January 2012 until 31 March 2013
 - (2) payments over that period to be set at the rates shown in Appendix A to the report for:
 - The Basic Allowance
 - Special Responsibility Allowances for the positions indicated
 - Specialist Advisers to the Audit Committee, where required
 - Co-opted Independent and Parish Council representative members of the Standards Committee
 - Occasional chairing of meetings as indicated
 - Childcare and Dependent Carers
 - (3) travel and subsistence to be payable for those “approved duties” shown at Appendix B to the report.
 - (4) travel and subsistence at the same rates as those applicable to officers under the National Conditions of Service, supported by receipts, should be paid;
 - (5) the Training Mileage rate to be abolished, and the National Conditions of Service rates apply to those Members that attend training events;
 - (6) no scheme to be made for Town and Parish Councils, requests for the payment of allowances to be referred to the Independent Remuneration Panel as received;
 - (7) no Members to be admitted to the Local Government Pension Scheme and no allowances paid to Members to be considered pensionable; and
 - (8) the Council to have the right to withdraw allowances from a fully or partially suspended councillor and to require the repayment of any allowances paid during the period of suspension, such provision to be applicable to all allowances except those for dependant carers.

138/11 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2012/13 (AGENDA ITEM 15)

It was noted that the recommendation had been approved under Minute No 128/11 (Cabinet Minutes) above.

139/11 NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE AND OTHER SEATS (AGENDA ITEM 16)

RESOLVED that Mr T Jermy be appointed as Vice-Chairman to the Overview & Scrutiny Commission.

The meeting closed at 10.50 am

CHAIRMAN