

# **BRECKLAND COUNCIL**

## **At a Meeting of the**

## **COUNCIL**

**Held on Thursday, 24 January 2013 at 10.30 am in the  
Anglia Room, The Conference Suite, Elizabeth House, Dereham**

### **PRESENT**

Mrs S Armes	Mr R.G. Kybird
Mr S. Askew	Mr K. Martin
Mr S.G. Bambridge	Mrs S.M. Matthews
Mr W.P. Borrett	Mrs L.H. Monument
Councillor C Bowes	Mr T F C Monument
Mrs B Canham	Mr M J Nairn
Mr C G Carter	Mrs J A North
Mr T R Carter	Mr J.W. Nunn
Councillor M. Chapman-Allen	Mr R. R. Richmond
Mr R.P. Childerhouse	Mr W. R. J. Richmond
Mr P.D. Claussen	Mr M. S. Robinson
Mr P.J. Duigan	Mr B. Rose
Mr K.S. Gilbert	Mr F.J. Sharpe
Mr R.F. Goreham (Chairman)	Mr I. Sherwood
Councillor E. Gould	Mr B J Skull
Mr S R Green	Mrs P.A. Spencer
Mr T. J. Jermy	Mr A.C. Stasiak
Mr A.P. Joel	Mrs L.S. Turner
Mrs E. M. Jolly	Mr M. A. Wassell
Mr C.R. Jordan	Mr N.C. Wilkin
Mr M.A. Kiddle-Morris	

### **In Attendance**

Julie Britton	- Senior Committee Officer
Mark Finch	- Assistant Director of Finance
Helen McAleer	- Senior Committee Officer
Mark Stokes	- Deputy Chief Executive
Robert Walker	- Assistant Director of Commissioning

### **Statement from the Chief Executive**

The Chairman read out a message from the Chief Executive, Terry Huggins. Mr Huggins was departing the authority on 31 January 2013 and was unable to attend what would have been his last Council meeting. The Shared Management Team had been shortlisted for a national award and he was required to present to the judges.

He felt privileged to have held the position of Chief Executive. Breckland Council had a rightly deserved reputation for being a well run authority whose ideas and actions were often at the forefront of thought in the local government sector. It had been rewarding to

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contribute to the Council's on-going journey. Local Government was facing challenges which had not been experienced before but he had no doubt that the Council's spirit would enable it to continue to be successful.

He assured Members that he would be an advocate who would always speak well of the Council and he offered his very best wishes for the future.

**1/13 MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 1)**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**2/13 APOLOGIES (AGENDA ITEM 2)**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Byrne, Mr Clark, Mr Darby, Mr Duffield, Mrs Irving, Mr Lamb, Mrs Millbank, Mrs Pettitt, Mr Rogers, Mr Smith and Mrs Steward.

**3/13 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (AGENDA ITEM 3)**

The Chairman noted that due to the bad weather he had been unable to attend the engagement at Robertson Barracks on 16 January and the Vice-Chairmans' appointment on that day had been cancelled.

He reminded Members that his group, Polaris, were performing a gig at Shipdham on 23 March 2013 to raise funds for his designated charity, Water Aid. Tickets cost £5 and were available from Mrs Turner, Shipdham Ward Representative. He encouraged Members to attend or to donate raffle prizes.

**4/13 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (AGENDA ITEM 4)**

No declarations were made.

**5/13 CABINET (AGENDA ITEM 5)**

- (a) Attleborough and Snetterton Heath Area Action Plan and Wider Local Plan Review (Minute No 6/13)

**RESOLVED** that Option 2 of the report be endorsed – to continue the preparation of a further more detailed consultation on growth in Attleborough, but that it be delayed to form part of a more detailed section of a consultation on the preparation of a new District-wide 'Local Plan' in late 2013/early 2014 (e.g. an 'Issues and Options' paper that could include housing numbers for the rest of the District and more detailed proposals for Attleborough in a separate chapter). A revised Local Development Scheme would be prepared which would set out the remaining timetable for the 'Local Plan' with subsequent

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milestones to be agreed.

(b) Local Council Tax Support (Minute No 7/13)

**RESOLVED** that:

- 1) the new Council Tax Support Scheme be approved;
- 2) an application be made for the Transitional Grant and the draft Local Council Tax Support scheme be amended to reflect the grant scheme criteria; and
- 3) technical changes be made in regard to the collection of Council Tax.

(c) Anglia Revenues & Benefits Partnership Budget 2013/14 (Minute No 8/13)

**RESOLVED** that the amount of £1,912,716 for the Anglia Revenues Partnership budget be included in Breckland Council's budget for 2013-14.

(d) Adoption

**RESOLVED** that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 8 January 2013 be adopted.

**6/13 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION (AGENDA ITEM 6)**

(a) Local Council Tax Support Scheme (Minute No 113/12)

A Member noted that in the third paragraph on page 24 of the agenda it referred to a 60% allowance for a further three months. That figure differed from the 50% quoted in the Council Minutes. The Assistant Director for Commissioning advised that the 50% figure was correct.

(b) Adoption

**RESOLVED** that the confirmed Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 29 November 2012 be adopted.

**7/13 PLANNING COMMITTEE (AGENDA ITEM 7)**

**RESOLVED** that the confirmed Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 17 December 2012 be adopted.

**8/13 GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE (AGENDA ITEM 8)**

**RESOLVED** that the unconfirmed Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 9 January 2013 be adopted.

**9/13 MOVING THETFORD FORWARD BOARD (AGENDA ITEM 10)**

Councillor Chapman-Allen, speaking as a District and County Councillor, was pleased to note the large amount of funding support for Thetford which was having a huge impact on life in the town.

The unconfirmed Minutes of the Moving Thetford Forward Board meeting held on 13 December 2012 were noted.

**10/13 APPROVAL OF NATIONAL NON DOMESTIC RATES 1 (AGENDA ITEM 11)**

The Executive Member for Finance and Democratic Services introduced the report which sought approval for a revised NNDR 1 form and delegation to the Section 151 Officer to make any necessary future changes to the form.

The S151 Officer was in attendance to answer any technical questions.

**RESOLVED** that:

- 1) the NNDR 1 form be approved;
- 2) authority for the approval of the NNDR 1 in future years be delegated to the S151 Officer, with a subsequent report detailing what had been approved to be presented to full Council as part of the annual budget setting report; and
- 3) the Constitution be updated accordingly.

**11/13 APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE (AGENDA ITEM 12)**

The Deputy Chief Executive presented the report. The current Chief Executive would be leaving the Authority on 31 January 2013. Various options had been considered and the recommendation to appoint Trevor Holden, currently Chief Executive of Luton Borough Council, as a joint Interim Chief Executive of the three authorities was considered to be the best solution.

Mr Jermy expressed his appreciation to the out-going Chief Executive on behalf of the Labour Group. He thanked him for his support and noted that many residents had been impressed by Mr Huggins at the public meetings he had attended.

With regard to the proposal he felt that Members were under pressure as the position would become vacant on 31 January 2013, giving them no real choice. He was also concerned about the wording of the recommendation which seemed very open-ended. If the appointment was extended beyond three months he asked at what point it would be referred back to Council.

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The Leader of the Council assured him that Members did have a choice, but that he and the two other Leaders considered that given the timescales it would be best to appoint an Interim Chief Executive. Mr Holden already knew the District well and could 'hit the ground running'. It was also an opportunity to push the boundaries by appointing someone to manage three authorities. Luton was a Labour controlled authority so it would show that cross-working was possible and that shared management was not based on political parameters.

He agreed with the concern about the recommendation which was not intended to be open-ended.

Mr Jermy responded by saying that he was happy to trust the judgement of the Leaders and to support the appointment.

For the benefit of those Members that did not know him, the Leader of the Council introduced Mr Holden and invited him to explain his background.

Mr Holden said that he came from Norfolk and had grown up in the County and attended Wymondham High School. After a career in the RAF he had joined local government, which he said was the closest to an active war zone he had come! He had had the privilege of working with the Council for two years (prior to Mr Huggins) and was very excited about the opportunity to return. His appointment did not mean he would be doing three jobs, it meant he would be doing one job in three locations. He was interested in taking the appointment as there would be professional kudos from being Chief Executive to three authorities in three separate counties. It was a huge risk and he would work hard to ensure it did not go wrong. He looked forward to coming back if the proposal was approved.

A suggested amendment to the wording of the recommendation was agreed.

**RESOLVED** to approve the appointment of Trevor Holden as Interim Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service in a joint arrangement between South Holland District Council, Breckland Council and Luton Borough Council, for an initial period of three months, renewable by agreement between the parties, until such time as an alternative was agreed.

**12/13 NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE AND OTHER SEATS (AGENDA ITEM 12)**

It was noted that Mr Kybird had been appointed to replace Mr Duigan as the Council's representative on the Norfolk Records Joint Committee. Councillor Chapman-Allen had been appointed as his substitute.

The meeting closed at 11.05 am

CHAIRMAN