

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the

COUNCIL

**Held on Thursday, 19 May 2022 at 10.00 am in the
The Breckland Conference Centre, Anglia Room, Elizabeth House, Walpole Loke,
Dereham, NR19 1EE**

PRESENT

Cllr Mike Nairn (Chairman)	Cllr Kay Grey
Cllr Peter Wilkinson (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr Robert Hambidge
Cllr Roger Atterwill	Cllr Chris Harvey
Cllr Gordon Bambridge	Cllr Paul Hewett
Cllr Timothy Birt	Cllr Jane James
Cllr Bill Borrett	Cllr Terry Jermy
Cllr Claire Bowes	Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
Cllr Roy Brame (out-going Chairman)	Cllr Robert Kybird
Cllr Hilary Bushell	Cllr Linda Monument
Cllr Marion Chapman-Allen	Cllr Rhodri Oliver
Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen	Cllr Ian Sherwood
Cllr Ed Colman	Cllr Sarah Suggitt
Cllr Paul Claussen	Cllr Taila Taylor
Cllr Philip Cowen	Cllr Stuart Terry
Cllr Helen Crane	Cllr Lynda Turner
Cllr Vera Dale	Cllr Alison Webb
Cllr Susan Dowling	Cllr David Wickerson
Cllr Richard Duffield	Cllr Nigel Wilkin
Cllr Phillip Duigan	
Cllr Fabian Eagle	
Cllr Keith Gilbert	

In Attendance

Maxine O'Mahony	- Chief Executive & Head of Paid Service
Rob Walker	- Executive Director & Monitoring Officer
Sarah Barsby	- Assistant Director People and Governance (Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Rory Ringer	- Democratic Services Manager (Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Julie Britton	- Democratic Services Officer

Outgoing Chairman's Opening Remarks

The outgoing Chairman, Councillor Roy Brame, thanked all Members for allowing him to represent Breckland Council on their behalf.

2021/22 had been a very good year for him and his wife Karen and they had met some very interesting people. No-one knew whether civic life was going to carry on during Covid but with the roll out of the vaccination program, it had allowed for a great year; being able to thank and meet the residents of Breckland and businesses alike who did so much during the pandemic, helping to get this District back on its feet.

He thoroughly enjoyed presenting the Chairman's recognition certificates to the people who had done so much for others throughout the pandemic and for the

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current unfortunate situation in respect of the conflict in Ukraine.

He also thanked Officers and staff especially the Democratic Services Team for their tremendous support and assistance and paid particular thanks to his secretary, Kathryn Boddy, who had done a fantastic job during the past year in arranging his civic events and his donations to various charities.

He then took the opportunity to ask Kathryn to come forward and accept a bouquet of flowers for all her hard work and patience throughout his chairmanship.

He also thanked the other Districts and the Breckland Members who attended his most recent event, the golf day. Funds raised from that day was donated to Scotty's Little Soldiers, a charity dedicated to supporting bereaved military children and young people who had experienced the death of a parent who served in the armed forces. He had been astounded that over £2000.00 had been raised for this particular charity. It had been a great day, and everyone had enjoyed themselves and he had received many emails and letters of thanks, one of which had been from Cllr Terry who had provided details of the charity and how it had been started.

Lastly, he wanted to thank the better half of team Brame, his wife Karen for her support and for accompanying him to various events throughout the year, she had been an absolute stalwart throughout. He then presented her with a gin glass engraved with stags, the emblem of Breckland Council.

54/22 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN (AGENDA ITEM 1)

Nominations were invited.

After being duly proposed and seconded and with no other nominations being made, and subject to one abstention, it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Mike Nairn be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

Councillor Nairn signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Councillor Nairn in the Chair.

New Chairman's Opening Remarks

Councillor Nairn stated that it was a huge honour and a privilege to be elected as the Chairman of Breckland Council. He was sure that all Members would agree that Councillor Brame had done a wonderful job this past year, not only in this Chamber but for all the engagements that he and Karen had carried out with the communities up and down the District.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman thanked Councillor Brame for all the hard work he had done in promoting Breckland and supporting businesses and community groups during the past year.

As the new Chairman, Councillor Nairn was looking forward to working with his fellow Councillors and to support him in his role and be cooperative and kind to one another. He welcomed healthy and honest debate as had been seen in recent months as it helped this Council make the best decisions on behalf of the residents. He was looking forward to stepping into this role during Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee year that made it all the more special. He was delighted that this Council was helping to mark this occasion in style by funding a number of

communities celebrations across the District including the planting of 100s of trees as part of the Queen's canopy, an upcoming bursary which would be a real legacy for its recipients. During his time as Chairman, he planned to support, and raise funds for charitable groups that supported the young people within Breckland and to shine a light on the dedicated individuals in the communities that helped make the Breckland District such a fantastic place to live. He would share more details about his charities at future Council meetings.

Councillors Turner, Colman and Jermy paid tribute to the new Chairman.

55/22 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN (AGENDA ITEM 2)

After being duly proposed and seconded and with no other nominations being received, and subject to 4 abstentions, it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Peter Wilkinson be appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

Councillor Wilkinson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

56/22 APOLOGIES (AGENDA ITEM 3)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ashby, Askew, Brindle, Clarke, Kiddell, Martin, Morton and Nunn.

57/22 MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 4)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 April 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the former Chairman, Councillor Brame.

58/22 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (AGENDA ITEM 5)

None declared.

59/22 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (AGENDA ITEM 6)

There would be an opportunity for Members to look round the Breckland Mobile Food Store that would arrive in the carpark at Elizabeth House at 2pm after it had completed its rounds for the day, and he hoped that some Members would be able to remain at Elizabeth House or return for this visit.

60/22 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (AGENDA ITEM 7)

The Leader congratulated the Chairman on his appointment, and thanked Councillor Brame for all his hard work and efforts over the last 12 months, and in his previous role as Vice-Chairman of the Council for 2 years.

As it was the Annual meeting, the Leader felt that it was only right and proper to reflect on the past year and look forward to what lied ahead.

Breckland Council still remained the lowest District Council Tax in the country, protecting frontline services and continued to invest. Over the last 12 months, this Council had supported many communities and businesses across the District in countless ways and highlighted just a few of them.

He had been pleased to support the opening of the brand new £1.8m temporary accommodation facility in Thetford (Elm House), a strategic asset in the District, helping those who were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. It was now

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open and was supporting some of the most vulnerable members of the community, in both single individuals, couples and families and was a unique asset as Access Community Trust had mentioned as being one of the most inspiring facilities that they had the privilege to support and manage.

Breckland Council continued to support the very first Social Supermarket in the East of England which had proven to be very popular working in partnership with Norfolk Community Foundation and the Charles Burrell Centre to deliver that much needed asset.

Launched the Breckland Mobile Food Store, providing subsidised food to those most in need, with additional support mechanisms in place to address wider wellbeing issues such as social isolation and loneliness, supporting not just the market towns but the rural communities too.

Worked in partnership with the Daisy Project to support survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence and to help raise awareness across the whole of the County not just in Breckland.

Helped 300 residents through social prescribing, trained 150 mental health champions and funded over 30 community groups as part of Breckland's Inspiring Communities programme.

Played an active role in creating the right conditions for new and existing local businesses to thrive, and as such construction work had started on a new £3.5m electricity substation in Snetterton, to enable new businesses to move to the area, protecting and creating jobs and opportunities along the Cambridge – Norwich Tech Corridor.

Old waste ground had been transformed in Dereham into a new community space called the Ellenor Fenn Garden to support the local retailers.

Engaged with over 20,000 residents as part of the Future Breckland project, to identify significant projects that could be delivered in Breckland's five market towns to help them bounce back from the challenges of the pandemic and build a strong and sustainable economy for the future.

This Council had set its sights on becoming carbon neutral by 2035 and the Leader was delighted that big steps forward had already been taken in cutting its carbon footprint and helping others to reduce theirs too.

Some of the carbon reduction initiatives that had already taken place across the Breckland area included:

- supporting the replacement of 133 streetlights within the district with more energy efficient LED bulbs which would not only keep the streets well-lit and safe for residents but reduce the carbon impact and running costs.
- Planted hundreds of trees in the district as part of the Council's commitment to protect and enhance the Breckland environment, as well as supporting the National Green Canopy initiative for Her Majesty The Queen's upcoming Platinum Jubilee.
- Released hundreds of thousands of pounds through the Community Green Grants scheme to support local groups to take positive action for themselves and promote environmental sustainability; in such

projects/initiatives as:

- installing EV charging points,
- traditional lighting being replaced with LEDs,
- supported several schools in creating wildlife gardens and allotments, and
- supported a water management scheme involving a pond and reed-bed filtration system.

One of the District's high schools had been awarded a community grant to purchase a machine that recycled old plastic – including milk bottles and even broken school chairs that could now be melted down into reusable sheets. The pupils were currently using this as part of their technology work and were also looking at other opportunities for this reused plastic and how to reduce plastics in the future. As a thank you, pupils had made a Breckland Stag from recycled plastic which would be displayed in Elizabeth House in due course.

Through the ongoing Work Smart initiative, this Council had completely modernised its ways of working to meet the needs of residents and businesses.

Not only had the Council embraced agile ways of working, but it had embraced new modern technology to further improve services. For example, the new online chatbot - Bobbie – means residents can now interact with the Council 24 hours a day. Around 80% of the live chat conversations were now automated through Bobbie, which meant that the Customer Contact staff could focus on helping residents and businesses with more complex queries or those who needed more support.

Breckland Council's website was one of most accessible in the country and was now in the top tier of local authorities and public bodies nationally in terms of accessibility.

The Leader was proud with the huge progress that this Council had made this year and it would continue to ensure that Breckland remained a place where people and businesses could thrive. It was in a really strong position and would be using this foundation to deliver further successes in the coming year.

For example, Elm House was now up and running, but the Council was already looking to develop new 'move on' accommodation in Breckland, extending its housing offer and providing even more housing support to those in need.

Further bidding would take place for Levelling Up money, which would lever in national funding into Breckland, and help the District to grow and thrive.

In supporting the Breckland 2035 commitments, this Council would be delivering further initiatives to become even more environmentally friendly. This could include installing solar panels on council-owned buildings to further reduce the carbon footprint, and building on the success of Work Smart, this Council would continue to be driven by the needs of its residents, building services around local people. Not only in the services this Council provided directly, but in those it delivered alongside a broad range of excellent local partners.

The Leader was delighted that he would shortly be standing before a panel at the LGC Awards along with Officer colleagues to promote the massive impact of this Council's Inspiring Communities programme, which had been shortlisted for its partnership approach on some of its most vulnerable residents. He had high hopes

that the excellent work of this Council would continue to be recognised not only in this District or Norfolk but across the whole Country.

61/22 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER NO 6 (AGENDA ITEM 8)

Councillor Birt raised a Point of Order under this item.

The Chairman advised that according to the Constitution no questions could be asked under this item, but questions could be asked under Agenda item 9.

Councillor Birt felt that the Constitution was incorrect and referred to Standing Order No. 5 under section 5.1(h) where there was no time limit mentioned for such business and under 5.1(i) there was a time limit but only for the questions without notice. As a supplementary point, Councillor Birt had noticed that the Questions on Notice along with the responses had been published within the revised agenda pack but had the same file name and he asked when agendas were republished to ensure that a different file name was used together with a new date.

In response to the latter question Rob Walker, the Executive Director & Monitoring Officer advised that those changes would be taken into account in future. In regard to the supplementary questions, it was clear in the Constitution that Standing Order 7 was the relevant Standing Order in respect of questions relating the Leader's announcements, Questions on Notice or Questions without Notice.

62/22 QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER NO 7 (AGENDA ITEM 9)

Councillor Jermy, the Leader of the Labour Group directed his question to the Leader. He had seen a report in the local newspaper about secret talks taking place on a proposed County deal for Norfolk and the Leader of Breckland Council had been quoted in that report as the Chair of the District Councillors Network. He asked the Leader to confirm what discussions he had been involved in on this subject so far and would he confirm whether the imposition of a directly elected mayor was a 'red-line' for him.

The Leader said that he been quoted in that article in his capacity as the Chairman of the District Councils Network and an extraction from that quote had been taken from a previous press release, he had not been asked to comment to the press in his capacity as the Leader of Breckland Council. However, in relation to those conversations, as Members would be aware from the Levelling Up Framework that was published in March 2022 by the Government, those conversations were being held at upper tier authorities, at County Councils or Unitary Councils, and Norfolk County Council were progressing those conversations, but no decisions had been made as yet but Breckland Council needed to be open to any opportunities for levelling up the County of Norfolk.

Councillor Atterwill, the Leader of the Independent Group started to ask Councillor Hewett, the Executive Member for Property & Projects a question about Barnham Broom Golf & Country Club but was stopped when Councillor Hewett raised a Point of Order and apologised to Councillor Atterwill. He did not know the detail of the question that was about to be asked but a specific asset had been mentioned, the subject of which had been a matter of commercially sensitive conversations with this Council. He respectfully asked that if Councillor Atterwill wanted to ask about an individual asset he would get back to him in writing due to the subject matter of the question and possibly the response could be prejudicial to this investment and could be prejudicial to a business as well as employment opportunities in the

District.

In response, Councillor Atterwill said that he would still like to ask the question as he had sought legal advice and further advice from the Monitoring Officer. He thanked Councillor Hewett for his updated report sent to all Members recently but given the constraints the Council found itself under due to the lease agreement for the site, he asked if any assurance could be provided that this Council would recoup all of its capital outlay for this asset since it was purchased.

In response, Councillor Hewett stated that he could not and would not answer that question as Councillor Atterwill was aware from private briefings that had been held with Members of the Opposition Groups, and from the briefing note that Councillor Atterwill requested, that such discussions would not be held in public about confidential commercial agreements that the Council had with any of its tenants. All remained confidential as it could have an impact on business performance of the tenant or employment opportunities offered to residents.

Councillor Hewett did state however, that Barnham Broom remained a significant investment within the authority's portfolio and along with the Portfolio, it generated in the region of £3m of much needed funding for the District that allowed its residents and businesses to thrive. This £3m was equivalent to £70 per Band D property for every resident within the District as a result of portfolio returns. In managing this portfolio, the Council met all of its statutory requirements under the Local Government Act 1972, due to the fact that this Council had a first rate, excellent Asset Team dedicated to delivering the best returns that it could for this Council on behalf of residents moving forward.

Councillor Birt, the Leader of the Green Party, also asked Councillor Hewett a question, and referred him to the asset sale in the Council's budget that was to recoup just under £2m. This asset's total value was well beyond the value of any general delegated power and needed to be agreed by Full Council. This sale was to be completed more than a year ago, but the Covid excuse was used to move the 'previous line in the sand', the absolute deadline for this transaction to be completed was the 30 April this year after which he had been told that the Heads of Terms had fallen, and the Council would be back to square one. He asked why Officers of this Council facilitating private back room deals well into May which they had an opportunity to be involved in a 'quote' investment plans with this asset. How was this right?

Rob Walker, the Council's Monitoring Officer said that Councillor Birt had already received a response to his previous question and at the same time been provided with the opportunity to ask any follow up questions if he had any further concerns. However, the level of detail that was being requested could not be provided and he would be happy to speak with Councillor Birt following this meeting.

For the record, Councillor Birt said that he had not received a response as yet.

Councillor Borrett asked the Leader if he would join him in congratulating Councillor Brame on his decision to resign as an Independent Member and return as a Member of the Conservative Group.

The Leader said that he was delighted that Councillor Brame had returned to the Conservative Party but understood his rationale for his resignation at the time.

Councillor Turner directed her question to Councillor Webb, the Executive Member for Housing, Health & Communities. Breckland Council had done a great amount

to support local residents and businesses alike during the pandemic. Now that everyone was on the journey out of the pandemic could you advise Members of what measures were in place now to assist with on-going hardship issues.

Councillor Webb advised that everyone was talking about the hardship that individuals were facing within the communities and Breckland Council had already done a great amount to help. The food bus that had already been discussed earlier in the meeting was not just for food it was a signpost for individuals who needed help to improve their circumstances whether it was debt management or mental health, and those individuals could talk to people on the food bus and reach the more proactive stages of the process. She had been pleased with the feedback thus far and stressed that the route of the food bus was not set in stone and as Councillors if they believed that there was such a need in their communities to talk to the Communities Team about whether it was possible for the food bus to take a different route and urged all Members to take the time to visit the food bus which was going to be in the Council car park later today.

Additionally, there was the Early Intervention Fund, this funding could be accessed by Ward Members and Multi Agency partners and was available to individuals aged 18 and over and who lived in the Breckland area. Households could receive up to £300 where they were in financial hardship, or their complex needs were not being addressed. Finally, the Council was set to receive an allocation to the Household Support fund and plans were already afoot of how best to use these monies. Other support packages included Social Prescribing <https://www.breckland.gov.uk/social-prescribing> and Collaboration. The Collaboration was a multi-agency partnership working to address low level emerging needs that could be met through early interventions <https://www.breckland.gov.uk/community/collaboration> to ensure that residents were connected to the right agencies and the right services when they needed support.

Councillor Eagle directed his question to the Leader. The UK had suffered the worst outbreak of Avian Flu with over 100 cases, some businesses had been unfortunate enough to experience such outbreaks which had been devastating both mentally and financially, and business rates were still being requested by their relevant councils. He asked the Leader if there was to be an outbreak in Breckland would such businesses have their business rates waived.

The Leader stated that he would be happy to meet with Councillor Eagle along with the S151 Officer and the Assistant Director, Andrew Holdsworth to set up a Policy in quick order if that was the case. He asked Councillor Eagle if he was aware of any businesses who were at risk to contact him accordingly and provide them with wider business support and meet with DEFRA as well.

Councillor Eagle said that he was not aware of any businesses in Breckland who had suffered an outbreak as yet, but he would much rather have such information at the forefront if anything should happen and thanked the Leader for his response.

Councillor Colman asked Councillor Suggitt, the Executive Member for Contracts & Planning a question in respect of the leisure portfolio. He believed that Breckland Council previously allocated some funding to Parkwood Leisure with a view to them utilising this funding to make the premises more efficient and asked if Members could be updated on how this funding had been spent and the progress to date.

Members were informed that the funding that had been allocated was £111k to go towards energy efficiency savings at the two leisure centres in Dereham and Thetford.

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She confirmed that the sports hall lights in Thetford had been upgraded to LED lighting as well as in the toilets and the changing rooms. Such changes to the training room, the meeting room and the first-floor corridor were currently being upgraded and by the middle of June, the pool covers were due to be installed at both Thetford and at Dereham.

Councillor Wilkinson asked Councillor Suggitt a question about Serco and the new bin collection days and asked if she could update Members on any successes or any challenges that had occurred in the last month since this change.

Members were informed that there had been some challenges, and the Breckland Serco Task & Finish Group had found out from one of its visits to the depot that this had mainly been due to staff sickness within the crews. At the beginning of these changes, and from a Breckland perspective, Serco had not been very forthcoming in communicating the challenges that they had been experiencing in the early stages and there had been some anomalies in the data produced in respect of some of the rural areas but now all were in a much better place moving forward. She asked Members if any issues should occur in their Wards to report it.

Councillor Kybird stated that Breckland Council had been identified as a recipient of Arts Council Funding under the heading Levelling up for Culture and asked the Leader how this funding would be applied within the District.

The Leader felt that Breckland Council had a good strong relationship with the Arts Council and Andrew Holdsworth, the Assistant Director for Economy & Growth along with Councillor Claussen were working through them and others across the County of Norfolk to work out how successful bids could be put forward to draw down that funding. An update would be provided to Members accordingly at a later date dependent on any successful bids.

Councillor Terry stated that it was illegal to discriminate against someone with a disability, but many disabled people still faced challenges within the workplace, this included finding work and remaining in it, with only 6% of young adults with disabilities or special educational needs in work in Breckland and in Norfolk and asked the Leader what Breckland Council were doing to support these young adults.

Members were informed that work was still on going with Norfolk County Council and the Department of Work & Pensions, the Leader advised that some local solutions were being driven forward and there had been some excellent case examples in the Midlands which Norfolk & Suffolk New Anglia LEP were looking at. He was also pleased to report that unemployment in the Norfolk area was one of the lowest in recent years.

Councillor Crane re-iterated what had been said earlier in the meeting about Members informing Officers if the food bus was needed in other Wards. Her question to Councillor Webb was that District Councillors played a fundamental role in the health & wellbeing of their residents and asked what role Breckland Council had in the creation of the integrated care system.

In response, Councillor Webb advised that the Government's Health & Care Bill that was currently working its way through Parliament was expected to achieve Royal Assent this summer and this would mean the creation of a Norfolk & Waveney Integrated Care System. The first meeting was held recently with a number of different organisations across Breckland to actually state what we as a District was going to be doing to improve the health & wellbeing of residents. She

believed that district councils were well placed to know what residents needed. It had been an interesting meeting; the Partnership was bringing together partners and commissioners from the NHS across the geographical area and the future was going to be very exciting and she would update Members as it progressed. There was a budget of over £324k to be spent by March 2023 on delivering projects to help communities.

Councillor Monument asked Councillor Webb what the Council was doing to support Ukrainian residents coming to the District and supporting those people who were hosting them.

Members were informed that across Breckland 56 Ukrainian guests had arrived including 22 children. The Breckland communities had welcomed them with open arms and a great deal of work had been done in all the market towns particularly in Dereham. She then explained that when a person was matched, the Private Sector Housing Team would carry out necessary home checks to ensure that all was suitable and safe. Ukrainian Officers then joined the hosts to provide them with an idea of what support was available for the hosts and the guests when they arrived and ensure that proper preparations were in place to receive their guests. There was a long-term process of welfare management in place such as thank you payments that were triggered on the first welfare check which the Finance Team processed. Additionally, there were a number of support schemes that Breckland Council was running set up by Government, and more information about these schemes could be found on the Breckland website: <https://www.breckland.gov.uk/ukraine-conflict>.

In response to a question from Councillor Dowling asking if there was a list available of people offering their help and who to contact, Councillor Webb advised to contact the Communities Team and speak to Samantha Armitage, the Council's Community Services Manager.

Councillor Wickerson asked Councillor Sherwood, the Executive Member for Sustainability if Swaffham was at risk of the current epidemic of the felling and dramatic pollarding of mature Breckland owned trees in the marketplace. The felling, due to supposed health & safety issues relating to raised pavements, was in his opinion absurd and felt that Breckland Council could have used some other form of intervention for these mature trees.

Councillor Sherwood felt that it was important to realise that with sustainability and the green agenda there were times when certain trees have to be felled or pollarded. The Team was very good at evaluating alternative interventions if at all possible but not all trees could be preserved but would be replaced.

63/22 MINUTES (FOR INFORMATION ONLY) (AGENDA ITEM 10)

(a) Cabinet: 25 April 2022

Councillor Birt stated that the questions that he had asked at this meeting had not been included in the Minutes.

The Monitoring Officer explained that he would have the opportunity to raise this at the next Cabinet meeting in June.

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 25 April 2022 were noted.

(b) General Purposes Committee: 5 April 2022

The Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 5 April 2022 were noted.

(c) Planning Committee: 12 April 2022

The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 12 April 2022 were noted.

64/22 ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN 2022-2023 (AGENDA ITEM 11)

Sarah Barsby, the Assistant Director for People & Governance presented the report.

In accordance with the Constitution, the report sought Members' agreement to approve the annual appointments of Councillors to Committees and to appoint the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen for the ensuing year.

The recommendations were read aloud.

Councillor Claussen the Deputy Leader nominated the following Conservative Members to the following Committees:

- Governance & Audit Committee:
Cllr Robert Hambidge to replace Cllr Jane James
- Appointments & Disciplinary Committee:
Cllr Sarah Suggitt and Cllr Paul Hewett to be appointed as substitutes
- Overview & Scrutiny Commission:
Cllr Fabian Eagle to be removed as Vice-Chairman,
Cllr Roy Brame be appointed to the Commission as Vice-Chairman
Cllr Peter Wilkinson to be appointed as a full Member; and
Cllr Robert Hambidge to be appointed as a substitute member
- Planning Committee:
Cllr Brame to be appointed as substitute

Councillor Jermy, the Leader of the Labour Group nominated the following Labour Group Member to the Appointments & Disciplinary Committee:

- Cllr Harry Clarke be appointed as substitute.

All other Labour Group Committee seats would remain the same.

Councillor Jermy also stated that he would be voting against the recommendations as the custom practice was for the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission to be a Member of the Opposition Group and not a Member of the ruling party as it had been for a number of years, and in his opinion, was not a good sign of democracy.

Before confirming his appointments, Councillor Atterwill wanted to convey his thanks to former Councillors Ian Martin and Mark Robinson for their services to their communities.

He was happy to confirm that the Independent Members nominated for Committees still stood as per the report.

Councillor Birt was content with the appointments to the various Committees but concurred with Councillor Jermy about the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission, and therefore would not be supporting the second recommendation.

The recommendations were proposed and seconded and taken enbloc but any Member who wished to vote against or abstain from the recommendations were asked to indicate as such.

Subject to 8 votes against the recommendations and 1 abstention, it was

RESOLVED that, subject to the above appointments:

1. the Council appoints for 2022-2023 the Committees as set out in Appendix A of the report; and
2. the Council approves the appointment of the Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Councillors of those Committees as set out in Appendix A of the report, subject to the aforementioned changes notified by Group Leaders.

65/22 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2022/23 (AGENDA ITEM 12)

Sarah Barsby, the Assistant Director for People & Governance presented the report.

In accordance with the Constitution, the report sought Members' agreement to approve the appointment of representatives on Outside Bodies for 2022/23.

The recommendations were read aloud.

Councillor Claussen the Deputy Leader nominated the following Conservative Members to the following Committees:

- Cllr Roy Brame be appointed to the Keystone Development Trust
- Cllr Alison Webb be appointed to the Norfolk County Playing Fields Association
- Cllr Robert Kybird be appointed to the Norfolk Health Overview Scrutiny Committee and Cllr Fabian Eagle to be appointed as his substitute
- Cllr Jane James be appointed to the Norfolk Arts Forum Steering Committee
- Cllr Lynda Turner be appointed as the substitute Member on the Norfolk Police & Crime Panel
- Cllr Roy Brame be appointed to the Charles Burrell Museum Trust
- Cllr Ian Sherwood be appointed to the Norfolk Waste Partnership

In response to a query, the Leader explained how these organisations were added to the list of Outside Bodies.

No further appointments were made.

After being duly proposed and seconded and subject to 1 abstention, it was

RESOLVED that subject to the aforementioned changes, the most suitable

representatives be appointed to serve on the list of Outside Bodies for 2022/23.

66/22 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION (IF ANY) (AGENDA ITEM 13)

None.

67/22 ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT (AGENDA ITEM 14)

The Leader was pleased to announce the following changes to his Cabinet:

- Councillor Claussen to remain as Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Economic Development & Growth
- Councillor Webb to be appointed as Executive Member for health & Communities
- Councillor Suggitt to be appointed as Executive Member for Strategic & Operational Planning
- Councillor James to be appointed as Executive Member for Customer & Corporate Services
- Councillor Sherwood to be appointed as Executive Member for Waste, Environmental health, Licensing & Sustainability
- Councillor Bambridge to be appointed as Executive Member for Housing & Homelessness
- Councillor Hewett to be appointed as Executive Member for Property, Projects & Procurement
- Councillor Cowen to remain as Executive Member for Finance, Revenue & Benefits.

Councillor Kiddle-Morris, Crane and Bowes to remain as Executive Support Members.

The meeting closed at 11.25 am

CHAIRMAN