

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the

COUNCIL

**Held on Thursday, 22 June 2017 at 10.00 am in the
Anglia Room, The Conference Suite, Elizabeth House, Dereham**

PRESENT

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

In Attendance

Anna Graves	- Chief Executive
Maxine O'Mahony	- Executive Director of Strategy & Governance
Christine Marshall	- Executive Director Commercialisation (S151 Officer)
Rob Walker	- Executive Director Place
Julie Britton	- Democratic Services Officer

93/17 APOLOGIES (AGENDA ITEM 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ashby, Askew, Bowes, Marion Chapman-Allen, Claussen, Paul Hewett, Nairn, Robinson, Stasiak, Taylor and Wassell.

94/17 MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 2)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

95/17 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (AGENDA ITEM 3)

None.

**Action
By**

96/17 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (AGENDA ITEM 4)

Councillor Theresa Hewett was welcomed to her first Full Council meeting.

A minute's silence was held as a mark of respect for all those who had been affected by the Grenfell Tower tragedy in London and for the emergency services for their heroic efforts.

The list of engagements that the Chairman had attended since the previous meeting had been circulated. She was pleased to announce that she had recently attended the new cinema in Thetford to watch the screening of Maharaja Duleep Singh which she thoroughly recommended.

Wendy Dickenson, the Deputy Chairman for her chosen charity Pulmonary Fibrosis was in attendance, and she thanked the Chairman and Members for their impending support. Pulmonary Fibrosis was a fairly rare disease and the charity was completely dependent on fund raisers and she had found it refreshing to find someone who was willing to support such a small charity. She then provided the Council with a brief overview of what was a truly shocking disease.

The Chairman had already taken part in a 'Tough Mudder' in May and a cheque was presented to the charity representative for the money that had already been raised. The Chairman hoped that Members would support her sky dive on 17 July 2017 which she was preparing for in memory of her friend who had lost her battle against the disease.

Photographs were taken.

97/17 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (AGENDA ITEM 5)

The Leader urged Members to sponsor the Chairman in all her charitable events.

On a much happier note, the Leader was pleased to announce the Council's recent success at the MJ Awards. This was excellent news and he praised the staff and Members who had been part of that journey.

Another area of success was the reduction of the audit fees. Following work carried out by The Local Government Association, Breckland Council had signed up to a collaborative procurement which had reduced its fees by more than half for this year.

The next mission for the Council would be to get the retention of business rates back on the agenda.

Although a number of questions had already been asked in relation to the car park review, he urged everyone to read the document that was available in the Members' room as this matter would be coming forward very soon.

On the Market Town Initiative, a report would be coming forward to the next Cabinet meeting on 10 July 2017.

Councillor Borrett was very impressed with the Council for winning the MJ Award and the national recognition that came with it and congratulated everyone involved. Councillor Gilbert echoed the aforementioned comments. The Leader pointed out that Ralph Burton and Zoe Footer and their Team deserved the majority of credit; all had worked above and beyond to drive Breckland Bridge forward.

On a completely different subject, Councillor Jermy mentioned surface water flooding and a presentation that he had attended on this matter. Breckland was particularly affected and the presentation highlighted what the issues were and where the money was coming from. The Leader was aware of the flooding issues but felt that local government authorities needed to lobby Government collectively. Councillor Bambridge pointed out that the Breckland area was partly covered by Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) but felt that the Secretary of State for the Environment should be the person to lobby. Councillor Gilbert highlighted the recent flooding in Watton and mentioned the good contacts at Norfolk County Council that he had made and felt that Breckland should work with them rather than the Environment Agency. Councillor Clarke agreed although he felt that adequate resources needed to be in place at County to carry out this work. Members were assured that this matter would be raised at the forthcoming Norfolk Leaders meeting.

98/17 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER NO 6 (AGENDA ITEM 6)

None.

99/17 QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER NO 7 (AGENDA ITEM 7)

Councillor Gilbert asked the Leader what he felt about Councillor Claussen's outburst which was directed at Capita at a recent Planning Committee meeting. In response, the Leader explained that he was well aware of the historical problematic relationship with Capita but it now had a new team in place to ensure that relationship going forward was much better and much stronger. The new Director of Planning & Building Control was a very competent member of the Capita Team and he was confident that the partnership going forward would prosper. Councillor Jermy asked if Capita had caused the Council any reputational damage and whether Councillor Claussen had caused damage to Breckland Council. The Leader felt that reputational damage was a subjective topic but believed that none had been caused by either party. He welcomed debate and was despaired by the fact that all Councillors were held to account for every word said in the heat of the moment when speaking their mind and he hoped that all Councillors felt comfortable to share their feelings in public. Councillor Wilkin, the Chairman of Planning Committee stated that Councillor Claussen felt very strongly when it came to planning matters in his Ward. Councillor Smith reminded Members that he was the Portfolio Holder at the time who pushed the Capita contract through and it did compare greatly to in-house provisions elsewhere.

Councillor Clarke also directed his question to the Leader and asked if Breckland Council was reviewing its buildings following the Grenfell tragedy and further asked what assurance when completed were the Council's emergency preparations. In response the Chief Executive advised that the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) had been requesting information from the Council as a local authority and relevant data had been provided. The guidance when received would be shared.

100/17 CABINET MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 8)

- a) Financial Performance Report 2016-17 Out-turn (Minute No. 62/17)

Councillor Jermy asked if there was any monies set aside in the Capital budget for additional parking in Thetford, investment in the industrial estates

and for affordable housing of which there was a desperate shortage and he pressed upon the Council to spend that money where needed. In response, Councillor Cowen the Executive Member for Finance, stated that the issue about Thetford and its car parking situation was rather complicated; however, the Asset Management Team was now looking at all the Council's assets to establish how these matters could be driven forward. As far as affordable housing was concerned, there was already a pot of money for this that needed to be allocated by 2018 and the Council was looking at delivering appropriate housing for the people of Breckland – all matters were being looked at very carefully and the monies would be spent wisely.

RESOLVED that the capital budgets (& associated funding sources) of £1,965,394 be carried forward into 2017-18 to support projects in progress.

b) Yaxham Neighbourhood Plan (Minute No. 64/17)

This recommendation was dealt with under Agenda item 11.

c) Growth & Commercialisation Delivery Unit (Minute No. 68/17)

This recommendation was dealt with under Agenda item 18.

d) Adoption

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 30 May 2017 be adopted.

101/17 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION (AGENDA ITEM 9)

RESOLVED that the unconfirmed Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 11 May 2017 be adopted.

102/17 PLANNING COMMITTEE (AGENDA ITEM 10)

RESOLVED that the now confirmed Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 8 May 2017 be adopted.

103/17 YAXHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (AGENDA ITEM 11)

Gordon Bambridge, the Executive Member for Growth, was pleased to present the Neighbourhood Plan for Yaxham for adoption. He felt that the residents involved had worked extremely hard in getting this Plan together.

RESOLVED that:

1. the Yaxham Neighbourhood Plan be confirmed and “made”, as written at the time of the referendum, 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;
2. this decision be published as required by paragraph(9) of Section 38A of the Town & Country Planning Act;
3. Yaxham Parish Council and any other prescribed persons be advised about

this decision, 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 requirement of paragraph 9 of the Town and Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

104/17 REVIEW OF STREET NAME AND NUMBERING POLICY (AGENDA ITEM 12)

Councillor Bambridge, the Executive Member for Growth, commended the report to Members for approval.

Councillor Gilbert stated that some of the amendments he could quite happily endorse but there were some he could not. Naming streets after prominent people preserved history and a prefix of 'Sir' or 'Knight' etc should be recognised and he felt that the use of peoples' names should remain.

Councillor Bambridge had a great deal of sympathy with what had been said and would be writing to all Town and Parish Councils stating that discussions had to take place with developers in the early stages in relation to street names. He would also be asking District Councillors to be included in these discussions so that a data base listing all the names could be kept.

Riana Rudland, Breckland Place Manager, advised that moving away from individual's names had been brought in under national guidance to alleviate court cases as living relative's permissions were required.

Councillor Borrett suggested the use of surnames only and proposed that this suggestion be included in the correspondence to the Town and Parish Councils (this proposal was not seconded).

Councillor Cowen, the Executive Member for Finance, the former Executive Member for Growth & Commercialisation, was concerned by the comments made as this particular item had been to the Overview & Scrutiny Commission twice as well as to public meetings where thorough debate had taken place. Councillor Smith suggested that the Planning Committee should be used to apply some gentle pressure to developers/agents to use the street names that had been put forward by the community. Councillor Bambridge agreed but the Policy had to comply with National Standards. Councillor Gould, the Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission, stated that the Commission was there to scrutinise and urged Members to attend future meetings. Councillor Monument felt that if this review made it easier and much quicker for the emergency services then it should be agreed and changed at the next review if required.

RESOLVED that some of the proposed amendments be accepted and the Policy be amended accordingly; subject to the word 'meters' on page 71 of the agenda pack being amended to 'metres'.

105/17 PUBLIC PROTECTION AGILE WORKING PROCEDURE (AGENDA ITEM 13)

Alison Webb, the Executive Member for People & Information, presented the report and provided Members with a detailed overview of the meaning of the word 'agile' working, the staff that would be affected and the changes to working patterns following a staff consultation at both Breckland and South Holland Councils.

Councillor Duffield, the Vice-Chairman of the Council, asked who would be

overseeing the work. Members were informed that there were three very competent Managers plus the Executive Manager for People & Public Protection.

RESOLVED that the adoption of the Agile Working Procedure for Public Protection be approved.

106/17 NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE AND OTHER SEATS (AGENDA ITEM 14)

RESOLVED that the following appointments be approved:

1) Committee Appointments

- a) Joint Appointments & Disciplinary Committee – Cllr Alison Webb (substitute)
- b) Joint Appointments & Disciplinary Committee – Cllr Terry Jermy (substitute)
- c) Joint Appointments & Disciplinary Appeals Committee – Cllr Adrian Stasiak (substitute)
- d) Joint Appointments & Disciplinary Appeals Committee – Cllr Harry Clarke (substitute)
- e) Planning Committee – Cllr Gilbert to replace Cllr Jermy as substitute
- f) Overview & Scrutiny Commission:
 - Cllr Pablo Dimoglou (substitute)
 - Cllr Robert Kybird to replace Cllr Jane Bishop
 - Cllr Rhodri Oliver to replace Cllr Adrian Stasiak as Vice-Chairman.

2) Outside Body Appointments

- a) Wayland Partnership – Cllr Theresa Hewett (substitute)
- b) Norfolk Joint Museums & Archaeology Committee – Cllr Harry Clarke
- c) Breckland Area Museums Committee (Joint Committee with NCC) – Cllr Robert Kybird
- d) Hamond's Educations Charity – Cllr Peter Wilkinson
- e) Norfolk LGA Health Sub-Group – to be removed (no longer in existence).

107/17 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION (AGENDA ITEM 15)

None.

108/17 ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT (AGENDA ITEM 16)

None.

109/17 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (AGENDA ITEM 17)

RESOLVED that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Schedule 12A to the act.

110/17 GROWTH & COMMERCIALISATION DELIVERY UNIT (AGENDA ITEM 18)

Councillor Cowen, the Executive Member for Finance presented the report. He highlighted the number of projects to be delivered and the magnitude of what would become a very challenging agenda if the resources were not in place to progress this ambitious programme of works.

Following a number of questions, it was

RESOLVED that the recommendations as listed in the report be approved.

The meeting closed at 11.25 am

CHAIRMAN