COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of South Norfolk District Council held at South Norfolk House, Long Stratton on Monday 10 July 2017 at 7.30 pm

Members Present: Councillors, Amis, Bell, Bendle, Bills, Broome, Dale, Dewsbury, Duffin, Easton, Edney, Ellis, Foulger, Fulcher, Fuller, Goldson, Gray, Hardy, L Hornby, Hudson, C Kemp, W Kemp, Kiddie, Larner, Legg, Lewis, Mason-Billig, Minshull, Mooney, Neal, Overton, Palmer, Pond, Riches J Savage, R Savage, Stone, Thomson, Wheatley, J Wilby and M Wilby

Apologies: Councillors, Bernard, Blundell, Gould, J Hornby, Thomas, and Worsley

Officers in Attendance: The Chief Executive (S Dinneen), the Director of Growth and Business Development (D Lorimer), and the Director of Planning and Environment (T Horspole)

3393 MINUTES

Cllr M Gray referred to the appointment of Margaret Dewsbury as Vice-Chairman of the Growth Infrastructure and Environment Policy Committee, as indicated in Appendix 1 of the minutes of the last meeting, and suggested that this appointment could only be made by Council. Cllr Gray also queried the use of an asterisk next to Cllr G Minshull, under the same committee. The Committee Clerk explained that both the appointment of Cllr Dewbury and the asterisk had been inputted in error. She further explained that the Appendix was a list of member appointments made since the Council meeting on 15 May 2017.

Subject to the above change, the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15 May 2017, were agreed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.
3394 CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman referred to the recent passing of former Councillor and Honorary Alderman, William Dinneen. Mr Dinneen had been a South Norfolk Councillor from 1991 to 2003, sitting on numerous committees and had served as Chairman of the Council during 1999/2000. He had also served as a Parish Councillor for Costessey for 26 years.

Cllr V Bell explained that Mr Dinneen was loved by so many in Costessey, and would be sadly missed by all. She referred to his work for the town, the Town Council and his charity work. Her thoughts were with his wife, Irene, the Chief Executive and their wider family.

Council then stood and observed a minute’s silence in memory of Mr Dinneen.

3395 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET

(a) Performance, Risks, Revenue and Capital Budget Position Report for the Financial Year 2016/17

Cllr B Stone introduced the recommendations from the Cabinet meeting held 12 June 2017.

Cllr Lewis indicated that he was fully supportive of the recommendations, however, he referred to the £700,000 budget for the Better Broadband Grants, which remained unspent. The Community Action Fund had been cut this year to £150,000 and he wondered if the right balance had been achieved in terms of the allocation of funds. In response, Cllr J Fuller stressed the importance of Better Broadband, and the impact it had on local businesses. He suggested that this debate would be more appropriate in October, when discussions around the 2018/19 budget would begin.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED: To

1. Approve the budget virements which exceed £100,000 in accordance with the rules of financial governance;
2. Approve the movements in reserves as outlined in Section 2.3.5;
3. Agree the slippage requests of £785,519 on revenue and £1,937,204 on capital;
4. Agree the amended Capital programme and its financing for the next four financial years as set out in Appendices 7 and 8 of the report.
(b) Treasury Management Annual Report 2016/17

Cllr B Stone introduced the recommendations from the Cabinet meeting held 12 June 2017.

It was unanimously

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<td>(a) Note the treasury activity between October 2016 and March 2017 and that it complies with the agreed strategy.</td>
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<td>(b) Approve the 2016/17 prudential indicators for the latter six months of the year</td>
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3396 RULES FOR FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE

Cllr B Stone introduced the report, which presented Council with the proposed revised rules for Financial Governance. Members noted that there were no significant changes, other than changes to job titles.

Cllr T Lewis advised the document had also been considered by the Finance, Resources, Audit and Governance Committee, and he was pleased to note that the proposed changes had now been clearly marked in Appendix 1.

It was then unanimously

| RESOLVED: | To approve the changes to the Rules of Financial Governance, as outlined at Appendix 1 of the report. |

3397 MONITORING OFFICER REPORT

Members considered the report of the Monitoring Officer, which sought approval to make minor amendments to the Council's Scheme of Delegation and the wider constitution.
Cllr J Fuller outlined the proposed amendments to members, referring to the changes to the composition of portfolios, which he felt would deliver a more holistic approach. He advised that Jamie Sutterby, currently the Assistant Director of Health at Hertfordshire County Council, had been appointed as Director of Communities and Well-Being. He hoped that Mr Sutterby would be able to commence his role at South Norfolk in mid-September, but this was yet to be confirmed.

In response to queries regarding the services provided by the Council, Cllr Fuller explained that burials were only carried out by the Council in exceptional circumstances when there had been no known relatives and no estate.

Referring to paragraph 3.1 of the report and the appointment of the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, he reminded members that the appointment of Cllr M Dewsbury as Vice-Chairman of the Growth Infrastructure and Environment Committee, would also require approval from Council (see minute 3393).

Referring to the appointment of the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, Cllr M Gray suggested that Cllr T Lewis, who had been acting as Chairman since May, should be permitted to continue in this role until the end of the municipal year. He added that the Conservative Group had chaired Scrutiny Committee for the last 9 years, and he understood that it was common practice at other councils to allow the opposition group to chair this Committee. He reminded members that under a previous Liberal Democrat administration, the Conservative Group was permitted to take the Chair.

This proposal was seconded by Cllr V Bell.

Cllr C Kemp explained that it was not normal procedure for the opposition Group to act as Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, although it could be argued that with a closely contested Council, it would be appropriate. He felt that currently it would not be political common sense to support this proposal, although he felt it helpful and entirely appropriate for the Vice-Chairman to be a member of the opposition.

Cllr Fuller concurred with Cllr Kemp’s comments, but added that he had been very grateful for Cllr Lewis’ assistance in taking on the role since May. He expressed his appreciation to Cllr Lewis, acknowledging his depth of knowledge and experience.

With 4 votes in favour, and 33 against, the proposal was then lost.

It was then unanimously
**RESOLVED:**

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<td>1.</td>
<td>Agree the changes to the scheme of delegation as set out in paragraph 2.1 of this report and detailed in Appendix 1;</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Note the changes to the FRAG Terms of Reference;</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Approve the appointment of Councillor Minshull as Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Dewsbury as Vice-Chairman of the Growth Infrastructure and Environment Policy Committee for the municipal year;</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Note the alteration to the composition of the two portfolios as set out in paragraph 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 of the report.</td>
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**3398 INVESTORS IN PEOPLE**

Members considered the report of the Chief Executive, which informed Council of the findings of the IiP report, and the Council’s response and subsequent recommendations.

Cllr J Fuller presented the report, explaining that South Norfolk had achieved the Platinum accreditation which was an extremely difficult standard to reach. The accreditation would run for a period of 2 years and would then be subject to review. Cllr Fuller paid tribute to the Chief Executive and all the Council’s staff, and members noted that this level of accreditation had only been awarded to 0.05% of top organisations.

Cllr K Mason Billig referred to the excellent relationship members had with staff, and felt that staff appreciated members’ “hands on” approach.

Cllr Lewis advised that the award made him feel proud to be a member of South Norfolk Council.

It was unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

|   | To note the findings in the IiP report in Appendix A and the recommendations in Appendix B |
3399 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMEN AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

a) Cabinet

Cllr L Neal queried the progress that had been made with regard to business rates relief to support small rural businesses. Cllr J Fuller referred members to the correspondence received from Marcus Jones MP (at page 81 of the agenda). He advised that a report would be considered at the 17 July meeting of the Cabinet, with proposals to amend the Council’s discretionary rate relief scheme, to implement further support for local businesses.

Cllr Gray referred to a public exhibition to be held regarding plans for residential development in Long Stratton and the new bypass. He asked whether this exhibition would include plans for the Hempnall crossroads, or whether this was a separate issue.

Cllr L Hornby did not envisage the Hempnall crossroads being part of the public exhibition. Cllr Fuller explained that the Council would be meeting with developers to discuss their proposals, and he acknowledged the important link between the improvements needed at Hempnall crossroads and the bypass. Cllr M Wilby, also a member of Norfolk County Council, explained that NCC planned to develop a roundabout at the crossroads and was currently bidding for funding to bring this forward. If unsuccessful, this funding would be sought elsewhere.

Cllr M Edney congratulated all staff involved in the South Norfolk on Show, held Sunday 2 July. The day had been a huge success, with good weather and a fabulous variety of entertainment and stalls, and he thanked those staff who had given up their Sunday to make it happen.

b) Scrutiny Committee

There were no questions to the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee.

c) Licensing Appeals and Complaints Committee /Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee

Cllr D Goldson, Chairman of the Licensing Committee, explained that the Committee had recently dealt with two difficult and complex homelessness reviews, which had involved considerable preparation by officers. He wished to pay tribute to the Housing Options Senior Case Advisor and his team, for the excellent service provided.
d) Development Management Committee

There were no questions to the Chairman of the Development Management Committee.

e) Electoral Arrangements Review Committee

Cllr C Kemp advised that there was to be a meeting of the Electoral Arrangements Review Committee on 15 August regarding draft proposals following the first phase of consultation on the 2017/18 South Norfolk Community Governance Review. He explained that a working group made up of himself, Cllr Kiddie, and Cllr T Lewis, would meet before the Committee meeting to consider the responses and make provisional recommendations.

3400 OUTSIDE BODIES – FEEDBACK FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Members noted the report from Cllr C Kemp, regarding the Norfolk Police and Crime Panel. Cllr Kemp informed members that an advertisement had gone out seeking a co-opted member of the Panel, and he asked that if any member knew of any suitable and interested candidates, to let him know.

3401 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Members noted the letter received from the Department for Communities and Local Government regarding Business Rates Reliefs.

(The meeting concluded at 8.24 pm)

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Chairman