COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of South Norfolk Council held at South Norfolk House, Long Stratton on Monday 16 July 2012 at 7.30pm


Apologies: Councillors Allen, Blake, East, Ellis, Gould and Walden

Officers in Attendance: The Chief Executive, the Deputy Chief Executive, the Director of Development and Environment and the Financial Services Manager

3131 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 21 MAY 2012

With regard to minute 3125, regarding constitutional changes, third paragraph, Cllr Herbert requested that references to the Audit Committee be changed to the Accounts Committee.

Subject to this change, the minutes of the Council meeting held 21 May 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

With regard to minute 3124, a New Standards Regime and Code of Conduct for South Norfolk Council, Cllr K Billig informed members that following further guidance, she could confirm that all investigations concerning parish council members would be undertaken and funded by South Norfolk Council.

3132 CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman was very sorry to report the death of former councillor Joscelyn Rawlence. Mrs Rawlence had been a district councillor from 1983, she became Leader of the Council in 1987 and was Chairman of the Council in 1991/92. The Council stood and observed a minute’s silence in her memory.

The Chairman reported that Cllr C Gould, who had recently undergone surgery, was recovering well and was looking forward to returning soon. Cllr Gould had passed on his thanks for the good wishes and cards forwarded by officers and members.
Cllr W Kemp advised members that he was undertaking a cycle ride to raise money for Nelson’s Journey, a charity which supported children and young people who had experienced death of a significant person in their life. Members noted that the Tour of Britain Cycle Ride would pass through Norfolk in early September, and Cllr Kemp would be participating.

The Chairman advised members that a Special meeting of the Council would take place on 30 July at 4.00pm, to consider the Joint Core Strategy and Community Infrastructure Levy.

3133 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET

(a) Revenue Outturn Report 2011/2;

It was unanimously

RESOLVED: To approve

(a) the slippage requests as outlined in the report

(b) the movements in reserves as outlined in the report.

(b) Capital Outturn Report for 2011/12;

It was unanimously

RESOLVED: To approve

(a) the slippage request as outlined in paragraph 2.20 of the report

(b) the financing of the amended Capital programme for the next three financial years.

(c) Annual Treasury Report 2011/12

It was unanimously

RESOLVED: To:

(a) Approve the actual 2011/12 prudential indicators

(b) Note the treasury activity in quarter four and that it complies with the agreed strategy.
(d) Capital and Treasury Review Quarter 1 2012/13;
It was unanimously
RESOLVED: To:

1. Note the progress of the capital programme for the first quarter and the financing thereof.
2. Approve the ongoing expenditure for Equity Home Loans and the corresponding capital receipts from Great Yarmouth Borough Council.
3. Note the treasury activity in quarter one and that it complies with the agreed strategy.
4. Approve the two long term investments made. i) £2 million at 3% with Lloyds for one year, and ii) £2 million at 2.25% with Barclays for two years which were both agreed by Board and the Investment Committee.
5. Approve the increase of maximum investments with Barclays from £5 million to £7.5 million.
6. Approve the quarter one 2012/13 prudential indicators.
7. Approve the write off of the NNDR debt of £31,592.55.

(e) Your Neighbourhood your Choice;
It was unanimously
RESOLVED: To agree the necessary budget adjustments.

3134 MONITORING OFFICER REPORT

Cllr J Fuller introduced the report which provided an update on the implementation of the new Code of Conduct and the Committee structure, and outlined proposed amendments to the Council’s constitution.

In moving the recommendations of the report, Cllr Fuller explained that he anticipated a number of further amendments to the constitution in the near future, but stressed the need for Council to approve the current version in order to fully implement the new committee structure and the new Code of Conduct. Cllr Fuller added that Mr Alex Oram had been appointed as the Independent Person serving the Standards Committee, for which Council approval was sought.

Cllr K Billig, Chairman of the Standards Committee assured Council that Mr Oram was a very good candidate with excellent credentials and extensive knowledge of the appropriate legislation. She urged members to support his appointment.

Cllr C Kemp seconded the recommendations of the report, but agreed that a number of additional changes to the constitution may be required to deal with any anomalies. He suggested that a new improved version would be produced by the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with Cllr T Lewis and himself, in due course.
Cllr M Gray referred to the late production of both Council and Cabinet papers, stating that he had not had sufficient time to read the proposed amendments to the Council's constitution, which had been made available to view on the Council's website. He suggested that the proposals be delayed and debated instead at the Special Council meeting, to be held 30 July 2012.

Cllr J Fuller stressed the importance of maintaining an up to date constitution, and urged members to adopt the version proposed. The Chairman suggested that any queries or proposed changes could be fed through Cllrs Kemp and Lewis, and if necessary, the issue could be raised again at the Special Council meeting scheduled for 30 July 2012.

RESOLVED: To

1. Approve the revised Constitution of South Norfolk Council, noting that the issue would be reconsidered at the Special Council meeting on 30 July 2012, if necessary;
2. Confirm the appointment of Alex Oram, as the Council’s Independent Person, serving the Standards Committee.

3135 CHAIRMEN'S REPORTS

(a) Cabinet

Cllr M Wilby referred to the Council’s Discover South Norfolk Day, held Sunday 8 July, which, despite the weather, had been a great success. He thanked all members and staff involved in the event.

(b) Scrutiny Committee

Members noted the report of the Scrutiny Committee Chairman.

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

Members noted the report of the Chairman of the Licensing Committee.

(d) Development Management Committee

Members noted the report of the Chairman of the Development Management Committee. Members noted that the Planning Quality Tour would take place on Thursday 18 October 2012.
3136 REPRESENTATIVES ON STRATEGIC OUTSIDE BODIES

Members noted a paper forwarded by Cllr C Gould, which provided an update with regard to the Broads Authority.

Cllr T Palmer reported that a successful away day for members of the Saffron Board had taken place. Members were also advised that Cllr Palmer had been elected to sit on the Saffron Audit Committee. Cllr J Fuller explained that the Council had received a letter from Saffron, stating that it wished to slim down the number of members on the Saffron Board, which would involve deleting both representatives from South Norfolk Council. Cllr Fuller suggested that having no representation would not be in accordance with standard practice and the Council agreed that it would wish for at least one representative to continue to serve on the Board. Cllr Fuller agreed to respond to Saffron accordingly.

Cllr C Kemp advised that the first meeting of the Police and Crime Panel was due to take place on 20 July 2012; he would report back accordingly at the next meeting of the Council.

The Council concluded at 8.02 p.m

CHAIRMAN