COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of South Norfolk Council held at South Norfolk House, Long Stratton on Monday 28 January 2013 at 7.30pm


Apologies: Councillors East, Foulger, Hardinge, Pond, Watt and Windridge.

Officers in Attendance: The Chief Executive (S Dinneen), the Deputy Chief Executive (A Radford), the Director of Development and Environment (A Jarvis) and the Head of Localism and Growth (T Horspole).

Also in Attendance: One member of the public

3159 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The following members declared other interests in the matter listed below:

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<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Minute No</th>
<th>Nature of Interest</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cllr M Gray</td>
<td>3159</td>
<td>Members of the GNDP</td>
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<td>Cllr D Blake</td>
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<td>Cllr J Fuller</td>
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<td>Cllr J Herbert</td>
<td>3159</td>
<td>Land owner</td>
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3160 SOUTH NORFOLK LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (LDS) UPDATE

Cllr J Fuller introduced the report, which detailed the revised Local Development Scheme project plan / timetable and associated text for a number of key Local Plan documents.

Cllr Fuller drew attention to the timetable and members noted the anticipated adoption dates for the Local Plan documents in 2014.
It was unanimously RESOLVED: That the Local Development Scheme (LDS) attached as Appendix A of the report be adopted by the Council with immediate effect. Further reviews and updating of the LDS will be undertaken as part of the GNDP Annual Monitoring Report process.

3161 JOINT CORE STRATEGY: PROPOSED SUBMISSION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXAMINATION OF THE REMITTED PARTS OF THE JOINT CORE STRATEGY

Cllr J Fuller reminded members of the background to the legal challenge to the Joint Core Strategy (JCS), which had resulted in a High Court Order, remitting parts of the JCS concerning the Broadland part of the Norwich Policy Area. A public consultation had been undertaken on the proposed remitted text and the Sustainability Appraisal, and following analysis of the representations made, the Greater Norwich Development Partnership had concluded that no further remedial work or modifications to the text were required.

It was unanimously RESOLVED: To agree:

a) That the Proposed Submission Document is considered to be legally compliant and sound;
b) That the “Joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk: proposed submission document” and supporting documents should be submitted to the Secretary of State in early February 2013 (in co-ordination with the other GNDP authorities) under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012; and

c) To delegate authority to the Head of Localism and Growth, in consultation with the Leader, to approve the details of the technical documents required to be submitted alongside the JCS.

3162 TENANCY STRATEGY

Cllr Y Bendle advised members that the Localism Act 2011 had placed a duty on all local authorities to publish a Tenancy Strategy - a document setting out the Council’s expectations and providing flexible direction and guidance to Housing Associations and other partners operating in the South Norfolk District.
Cllr Bendle explained that a draft of the Strategy had been considered at a meeting of the Housing and Public Health Policy Committee and had since been subject to a consultation process, which had ended in December. Members noted that a few minor amendments had been made to the document as a result of the consultation process.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED To approve the South Norfolk Tenancy Strategy.

3163 CALCULATION OF THE COUNCIL TAX BASE 2013 / 2014

Cllr G Wheatley introduced the report, which sought Council approval of the Council Tax Base for 2013/14, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012. He referred to the recommendations at paragraph 7 of the report and proposed the following changes to paragraph 7.2, which were agreed by Council:

“That Council delegates the authority to publish the Council Tax Base for future years to the S 151 Officer in consultation with the portfolio holder for Corporate Resources”.

Cllr P Allen was pleased that the base funding grant and transitional grant had been passed on to parish councils to ease the burden on their finances through a difficult period of financial planning, but was disappointed that the larger parish in her ward had not passed this saving on to its residents.

Cllr Wheatley confirmed that it had been a complicated process for parishes, but he hoped that in future the process would be easier as parishes would be informed of their respective part of the total tax base much earlier in the financial year. There had been two briefing sessions held for parish clerks, and parishes had been supported and guided by officers throughout the process. Cllr Fuller, seconding the proposals from Cllr Wheatley, paid tribute to Susan Buller, the Financial Services Assistant, who had worked very closely with the parishes throughout the process, providing them with “worked examples”.

Cllr V Bell also commended officers for their support to parishes, explaining that the process had been difficult and problematic, even for the larger parishes such as Costessey.

It was

RESOLVED 1. To approve the Council Tax Base for 2013/14 at 42,391
2. To delegate the authority to publish the Council Tax Base for future years to the S 151 Officer in consultation with the portfolio holder for Corporate Resources.
3164 CALCULATION OF THE COUNCIL’S NON-DOMESTIC RATING INCOME 2013/14

Cllr G Wheatley reminded members that the local government finance system was changing from April 2013, which would allow local authorities to retain some growth in business rates, thus incentivising councils to encourage economic growth. He referred to the recommendations of the report and proposed the following change to paragraph 7.2, which was duly agreed by the Council:

“That the Council resolves that for future years starting with 2014/15 that delegated authority be given to the S151 officer of South Norfolk Council, to publish the calculation of non-domestic rating income; the calculation to be approved after consultation with the portfolio holder for Corporate Resources.”

Cllr B Spratt was pleased that the Council was proposing a further freeze to the level of council tax, but stressed the need to help businesses further by awarding additional rate relief. Cllr Wheatley explained that approximately £142,000 had been awarded to businesses through rate relief in the current year, an increase of 30% on the previous year. He felt this to be a significant increase, adding that any further increase would impact upon council tax levels.

Cllr J Herbert did not consider £142,000 to be significant when compared to the overall spend of the Council, and he referred in particular to the £500,000 awarded to Neighbourhood budgets.

Cllr T Lewis, expressing his support for the recommendations of the report (as amended) reminded Council that a decision had already been taken with regard to the levels of discretionary rate relief awarded to businesses.

With 37 votes in favour and 0 against, it was

RESOLVED

1. To approve the calculation of the non-domestic rating income 2013/14 as set out in the NNDR1 return, and that for the year 2013/14, this shall be £11,024,942;

2. That for future years, starting with 2014/15 delegated authority be given to the S151 officer of South Norfolk Council, to publish the calculation of non-domestic rating income, the calculation of which to be approved after consultation with the portfolio holder for Corporate Resources.

3165 MONITORING OFFICER REPORT

Cllr J Fuller explained that due to a change to the political balance of the Council following the formation of the South Norfolk Independent Group, a re-allocation of seats across the committees was required. These changes had resulted in five seats being allocated to the Independent Group, and to satisfy this requirement, the following changes had been agreed by all three group leaders:

- Waveney Valley Neighbourhood Board revised from a 4:1 split to 4:0:1, with the Liberal Democrat Group giving up one seat to the South Norfolk Independent Group;
- Scrutiny Committee to remain with a 7:3:1 split with the Conservative Group to formally give up one seat to the Independent Group;
- Local Planning Steering Group to remain at 5:2:1, with the Conservative Group to formally give up one seat to the Independent Group;
- Environment Regulation and Growth Policy Committee revised from 6:1 to 5:1:1 with the Conservative Group to give up one seat to the Independent Group;
- Licensing Appeals and Standards Committee revised from 12:3 to 11:3:1, with the Conservative Group to give up one seat to the Independent Group;

It was agreed that group leaders would inform Democratic Services as soon as possible of the subsequent changes to the membership of the committees, as a result of the above changes.

Regarding other changes to the membership of committees, Cllr Fuller reported that Cllr T Palmer would be leaving the Development Management Committee and would be replaced by Cllr M Edney, and Cllr T Blowfield had decided to step down from his role as deputy portfolio holder for Housing and Public Health, and Chairman of the Housing and Public Health Policy Committee, with his replacement being Cllr L Neal. Cllr M Gray added that Cllr J Hardinge would leave the Northern River Valleys Neighbourhood Board, to be replaced with Cllr V Bell.

Referring to paragraph 1.4 of the report, Cllr Fuller proposed that Council approve the appointment of Tim Horspole to the position of Director of Growth and Localism. Cllr M Gray was pleased to note that the functions of development management, localism and planning policy would all work within the same directorate, but was disappointed that the portfolios had not been similarly aligned.

It was **RESOLVED** (nem con)

1. To approve the appointment of Tim Horspole to the post of Director of Growth and Localism and to delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer, to make any constitutional changes required from the appointment;
2. To approve the revised allocation of seats across the committees, noting that Group Leaders will notify Democratic Services of the subsequent changes to the membership of committees;
3. To agree that:
   (a) Cllr M Edney replaces Cllr T Palmer on the Development Management Committee;
   (b) Cllr L Neal replaces Cllr T Blowfield as deputy portfolio holder for Housing and Public Health and Chairman of the Housing and Public Health Policy Committee;
   (c) Cllr V Bell replaces Cllr J Hardinge on the Northern River Valleys Neighbourhood Board.
3166 PARISH COUNCIL – CHANGE OF NAME

It was unanimously

RESOLVED: To endorse the request from Runhall Parish Council to change its name to Brandon Parva, Coston, Runhall and Welborne Parish Council.

The Council concluded at 8.10 pm

CHAIRMAN