Minutes of a meeting of South Norfolk Council held at South Norfolk House, Long Stratton on Wednesday 20 February 2013 at 7.30pm


Apologies: Councillors Bell, Bills, Dale, Edney, Ellis, Hardinge and R Savage.

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

3167 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2012 AND 28 JANUARY 2013

With reference to the meeting held 10 December 2012, minute 3152 (b), Cllr M Gray wished it to be made clear in the minutes that he had withdrawn his motion, under the proviso that the agreed motion at 3152 (a) became a joint motion, between himself, Cllrs Fuller, C Kemp and M Wilby.

Concerning minute 3157 (Report of the Leader), first sentence of the third paragraph, Cllr G Walden asked that the words “much of this had been spent on”, were replaced with “which would be used to prepare the final bid for the Lottery Grant which would complete the...”.

Cllr C Kemp referred to the penultimate sentence at minute 3158 (Representatives on Strategic Outside Bodies), explaining that the Police and Crime Commissioner, not the Panel (as indicated in the minutes), was empowered to appoint a Deputy Commissioner.

With reference to the minutes of the meeting held 28 January, Cllr Gray pointed out that Cllr Gray, Blake and Fuller had declared interests as member of the GNDP, not members of the Broads Authority as suggested in the minutes.

Subject to the above changes, the minutes of the meetings held 10 December 2012 and 28 January 2013, were agreed as an accurate record.

Cllr M Wilby referred back to minute 3154, the report of the Monitoring Officer, and explained that since that Council meeting, he had met with Cllr P Allen and the
Director of Growth and Localism, to discuss Cllr Allen’s concerns with regard to the Terms of Reference of the Neighbourhood Boards. It had been agreed that the Vice-Chairman of any Neighbourhood Board should be a District Councillor and be appointed by the Board itself. This proposal was supported by Council.

3168 CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman referred members to his list of engagements at page 25 of the agenda. He referred in particular to the Wymondham Job Club Launch, explaining the job club to be the first of five to be opened across the District, offering young people the skills they need to increase their chances of breaking into the job market. Members noted that the next Job Club opening would be in Loddon.

3169 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET 4 FEBRUARY 2013:

(a) NON-BUDGET ITEMS

(i) Capital and Treasury Review April to December 2012

Cllr G Wheatley referred members to the Cabinet report and drew attention to the breach of the upper limit for variable interest rate exposure as detailed at paragraph 7.2.

He then advised members of the need to purchase in the current financial year two “mini” footway road sweeping machines. It was proposed that the Council purchased a new sweeper at a cost of approximately £45,000 and an ex-demonstration model (price still subject to negotiation). The additional cost of these machines would be funded from the higher than anticipated level of Right to Buy receipts. It was unanimously

RESOLVED: To:

a) Note the progress of the capital programme up to 31st December 2012 and the projected year end position.

b) Approve the on-going expenditure for Equity Home Loans and the corresponding capital receipts from Great Yarmouth Borough Council for this financial year.

c) Approve the long term investments made for £2 million at 2.1% with Royal Bank of Scotland for 2 years, which was agreed by the Leader and Portfolio Holder.

d) Note the treasury activity in quarter three and that it complies with the agreed strategy.

e) Approve the April to December prudential indicators and note the breach of the upper limit for variable interest rate exposure as detailed in section 7.2 of the report.

f) Purchase in the current financial year, two “mini” footway road sweeping machines, one to be a new
machine, the other an ex demonstration model.

(b) BUDGET 2013/14

The Chairman informed members that the Leader of the Council had requested that the sequence of the agenda be changed so that item ii), the Treasury Management Strategy, could be considered first.

(ii) Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy April 2013 to March 2016

Cllr G Wheatley referred members to the report, drawing attention to the proposals to allow officers to seek investments of up to £5 million with building societies which were credit rated in investment grade category.

It was unanimously RESOLVED:

To approve:

(a) The Treasury Management Strategy Statement for April 2013 to March 2016;
(b) The Prudential Indicators and Limits for the next 3 years contained within Appendix A of the report, including the Authorised Limit Prudential Indicator;
(c) The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement (section 8), setting out the Council’s policy on MRP;
(d) The Annual Investment Strategy 2012/13 (section 5) contained in the Treasury Management Strategy, including the delegation of certain tasks to Head of Finance;
(e) The Treasury Management Policy Statement, at Appendix D of the report.

Cllr J Fuller then introduced the budget, stating that as South Norfolk approached its fortieth anniversary, it was one of the most significant budgets since the Council was formed; the pressure on Council resources had never been greater, or the wider economy more fragile.

He was proud that the Council was able to freeze council tax for a fifth time in six years, at a time when household budgets were under the greatest pressure. Despite this, nearly £20 million would be invested in a three year capital programme which would see investments in services and the economy. He believed that the Council was in a unique position to kick start the economy and it was the right time to seek to spend capital and revenue reserves on projects that boosted the economy, improved quality of life, generated income and allowed the Council to run more efficiently.

Cllr Fuller went on to outline some of the Council’s achievements over the last year and proposals for 2013/14, which he split in to five main themes:
1. **Growing the Economy to generate wealth and prosperity for local residents and businesses**

Cllr Fuller referred to the investments made in new office premises, allowing local businesses to expand, whilst generating a return for the tax payer. The Council was also maximising the value of existing assets and was involved in the City Deal which would transform the economic potential of the Research Park. He drew attention to the assistance given to public houses, shops, post offices and petrol stations through rate relief which had increased in value by 25% over the last year.

2. **Supporting the Economic Vitality of our Market Towns to help them contribute to our Distinctive way of Life**

Cllr Fuller referred to the investment in the cleanliness of market town centres, giving local shop keepers the best environment to compete against out of town attractions. The Council had secured the services of Davina Tanner, General Manager at Chapelfield shopping centre, to work with the market towns to aim to increase economic activity.

3. **Investing and Expanding our own Business at South Norfolk so that we remain financially secure.**

Cllr Fuller stressed that the Council continued to be run on business like lines, with an emphasis on increasing income and reducing costs. He referred to the investment in bin lorries, leisure provision and mobile working technology, in IT software and CNC, and advised members that money had also been set aside to reward staff who were performing to a high level through the performance review scheme.

4. **Helping Residents to see the benefit of Growth**

Cllr Fuller drew attention to the investment in Neighbourhood Boards allowing residents to see the benefits of growth at neighbourhood level and the LGA Peer Review which ranked the Council highly on ambition and resource. The work on Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) would ensure a holistic approach to new housing and the services needed to support it.

5. **Helping those that need our Help the Most.**

Cllr Fuller referred to the Council Tax Support Scheme and the transitional scheme for the first year, and the assistance given to sports clubs through discretionary rate relief on business rates. He gave mention to the community car schemes, handyman service and affordable housing capital grants.

Cllr Fuller was proud that South Norfolk Council was recognised in the national media and in Government as one of the highest performing councils in the country and he praised the efforts of both members and staff. Referring to the future challenges ahead, he stressed the need to continue to invest in assets, whether staff, IT, or property, so that budgets could continue to be balanced and the Council could deliver the services residents valued the most.

Cllr G Wheatley referred to the changes which had been implemented in the Council and the lean lite reviews which had left the Council in a better position than it was 6 years previous, with greater efficiencies, a high level of reserves and ambitious schemes. He thanked the Chief Executive, the Deputy Chief Executive, Directors and all other staff for their contributions, and was pleased that even Cllr T Lewis, at
the recent Scrutiny meeting, had suggested that the budget to be most comprehensive, with members and staff involved and committed to the process. He then expressed his gratitude to Cllr J Fuller for his commitment, energy and leadership throughout the past year.

Cllr M Gray felt that there were many things that the Council had done over the last year that could be applauded, referring to the Place Making Guide, the Community Awards event and the continuation of the Design Awards, Pub of the Year and GEMs awards. On behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group, he thanked staff for their hard work and commitment over the last year.

However, there were a number of issues over the last year where the Liberal Democrat Group had been less than impressed, for example the letter sent by the Leader of the Council in support of the release of PFI funding for the King’s Lynn Incinerator. Cllr Gray was very disappointed that this letter had been sent in secret, without raising the issue in public. This he felt to be undemocratic and contrary to the Council’s constitution and the accepted Principles of Public Life which promoted openness and transparency. He drew attention to the national league table for the amount of waste recycled, advising that South Norfolk had been ranked 194th for the third year running. He hoped that measures being put in place by officers would improve performance. He referred to the fact that there was never any mention of “climate change” in any Council documents. The environmental implications of Cabinet decisions were never assessed and he felt the decision to put Localism, Planning Policy and Development Management into a single Directorate, but to retain them under three different portfolio holders to be unwise. Cllr Gray expressed concerns with regard to the strategic gaps between settlements and the lack of joined up thinking which had led to the Council trying to protect the gap at Hethersett, whilst agreeing that the gap could be built upon at the Cringleford end.

Referring to the Neighbourhood Boards, he referred back to his comments last year which had suggested that the £560,000 budget to be too much. He felt that he had been proved right with the Boards struggling to spend the funds. He believed that there had been a deliberate attempt to mislead the public in to thinking over 12,000 people had voted as part of the participatory budget exercise, and he was disappointed that despite there being agreed targets and exit strategies, he had seen no assessment by any Board as to whether targets were being met. He felt it uncanny that whilst the Boards were struggling to spend the funds allocated, the Capital pot of £100,000 was over subscribed, with applications such as Wymondham Abbey applying for as much as £70,000. Localism was not about giving money to artificial constructs like the Neighbourhood Boards, but more about supporting town and parish councils and community organisations to fulfil their ambitions for major infrastructure projects in their district such as Diss Mere boardwalk or village hall extensions. He believed that there was more value to be had by allowing more money to be spent on capital schemes, something which was not possible through the current budgets allocated to Neighbourhood Boards. He therefore moved the following amendments:

Under (i) Capital Programme April 2013 to March 2016
Insert new (b) and change current (b) to (c):
To vary the 2013/14 capital programme by allowing up to £250,000 of the New Homes Bonus funds identified for in-year revenue expenditure to be spent instead on capital projects benefiting our communities
Under (iii) Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2013/14

Insert new (a) and reletter:

“Consequent on the amendment proposed to the capital programme, to plan for up to £250,000 of planned expenditure of New Homes Bonus to be available for capital projects”

To insert in new (b) after “paragraph 7.1 of the report”, the words:

“…as modified by (a) above”

Cllr T Lewis seconding the amendments, referred to Cllr Fuller’s comments regarding the capital programme, and the number of internally focussed projects. Cllr Lewis stressed the need to support communities and deliver capital projects externally at neighbourhood level, which could be achieved through funds received from the New Homes Bonus. Neighbourhood Boards were currently not able to support capital projects, and the proposed changes would allow sufficient funds for both capital and revenue expenditure.

In response, Cllr Fuller stressed that there had been no secrecy with regard to the letter he had sent to the Secretary of State regarding the incinerator at King’s Lynn, and he was disappointed that such a trivial matter had been raised as part of the opposition’s budget speech. Cllr Fuller could not support the amendments; he believed that funds currently allocated to the Neighbourhood Boards could, at the discretion of the Board, be spent as either revenue or capital, and therefore the amendments were not required.

Cllr B Spratt was disappointed that the Liberal Democrat group had criticised the Neighbourhood Boards and he referred to the recent Peer Review which had praised the Council’s approach to localism.

Following Cllr Fuller’s comments, Cllr K Weeks was satisfied with the funding arrangements, however, he could empathise with the proposals from the Liberal Democrat Group and he felt that the Boards required more clarity on the how funds could be spent.

Considerable discussion followed regarding the current arrangements for Neighbourhood funding. Cllr P Allen agreed that with the level of funding for Neighbourhood Boards increasing to £750,000, it was imperative that more clarity was provided as to how this money could be spent. She had attended numerous Board meetings and it was understood that funding was to enhance local services which could include an element of capital, however the funding could not support new capital stand alone projects. Cllr Lewis suggested that Cllr Fuller was “changing policy on the hoof” as it appeared that he was now giving the Neighbourhoods authority to spend money on capital projects. Cllr Fuller felt that to implement the amendments would only reduce the flexibility of the Boards. He could see no reason why the current arrangements would not allow for investments in capital projects and was disappointed that Cllr Lewis failed to understand how capital and revenue funding streams could be spent.

Cllr K Tilcock reminded members that Neighbourhood Boards were not obliged to spend the entire budget allocated to them. Some of the capital projects, such as Wymondham Abbey were vast and might never raise enough funding to be implemented. He reminded members that they had a duty of care to the tax payers to ensure that funds were allocated properly and fairly.
Members then voted on both amendments. The amendment concerning the Capital Programme April 2013 to March 2016 was lost with 6 votes for and 27 against. The amendment concerning the Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2013/14 was also lost with 6 votes in favour and 29 against.

Cllr M Wilby expressed his support for the proposed budget, referring in particular to the continued support to the five Neighbourhood Boards and the programme of support for the market towns. He drew attention to the comments received from the recent LGA Peer Review which referred to the “bold and ambitious” approach to localism and the Council’s “effective leadership and management” and he paid tribute to both members and staff who had helped to make the Council what it was. He drew attention to a number of memorable events that had taken place over the past year, such as the Discover South Norfolk day, the Pub of the Year competition and the Community Awards, all which had contributed to the fantastic reputation the Council had both locally and nationally. He felt all this, in addition to a 0% increase in the council tax, was a record all could be proud of.

Cllr J Mooney said that he was proud to be a member of South Norfolk Council. He fully supported the proposed budget, referring in particular to the 0% increase in council tax, which would help to ease the pressure on the disposable income of residents, and the measures put in place to help market towns and local businesses.

Summing up, Cllr Fuller referred to the proposed budget as a tool to kick start the economy, which generated income and looked after those that needed it the most. He commended both the budget and council tax resolution to members.

(i) Capital Programme April 2013 to March 2016

It was unanimously

RESOLVED: To agree that the assumptions on which the funding of the capital programme is based are prudent;

With 29 votes in favour and 5 against, it was

RESOLVED: To approve the capital programme for 2013/14 to 2015/16

(iii) Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2013/14

With 31 votes in favour and 5 against, it was

RESOLVED: To approve the base budget, as shown in para. 7.1 of the report, subject to confirmation of the finalised local government finance settlement figures which may necessitate an adjustment through the general revenue reserve to maintain a balanced budget;
It was unanimously

RESOLVED:

(a) that the Council’s demand on the collection fund for 2013/14 for general expenditure shall be £5,539,656 and for special expenditure be £69,097;

(b) that the level of council tax be £130.68 for general expenditure and £1.63 for special expenditure;

(c) the amalgamation of reserves as detailed below:

- Planning Delivery Grant and Local Development Framework reserves into a local Development reserve.
- District and Parish Elections reserves into an Election reserve.

(iv) Council Tax Resolution 2013/14

Members noted that the grant passed on the town and parish councils had enabled some of the parishes to freeze their element of the council tax.

Cllr J Fuller proposed a vote of thanks to D Lorimer, the Head of Finance, for her work on the budget in what had been a particularly difficult year due to the changes in local government finance. He also gave special mention to the Financial Services Assistant, S Buller who had worked very closely with town and parish councils. Cllr M Gray, seconding Cllr Fuller’s proposal, also wished to formally thank officers for their contributions, and this sentiment was agreed by Council.

It was unanimously RESOLVED:

1) To approve the recommendations of the Cabinet meeting 4 February 2013 relating to the Council Tax Base for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relates as outlined in Appendix C of the report;

2) To approve the recommendations of the Cabinet meeting 4 February 2013 relating to the Revenue and Capital Estimates 2013/14.

3) That the Council Tax requirement for the Council’s own purposes for 2013/14 (excluding Parish precepts and special expenses) be calculated as £5,539,655.88.

4) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2013/14 in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Act.

   (a) £60,915,085.54 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils and any additional special expenses.
(b) £52,649,356.00 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.
(c) £8,265,729.54 being the amount by which the aggregate at 5(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 5(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the 1992 Act).
(d) £194.99 being the amount at 5(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts and special expenses).
(e) £2,726,073.54 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts and special expenses) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per attached Appendix B).
(f) £130.68 being the amount at 5(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 5(e) above by Item T (1 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the 1992 Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept or special expense relates.

5) To note that Norfolk County Council and the Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Act for each category of dwellings in the Council’s area as indicated in the table below.

6) That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Act, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2013/14 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

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<th>Precepting Authority</th>
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<td>South Norfolk Council</td>
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<td>87.12</td>
<td>101.64</td>
<td>116.16</td>
<td>130.68</td>
<td>159.72</td>
<td>188.76</td>
<td>217.80</td>
<td>261.36</td>
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<td>890.61</td>
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<td>1,145.07</td>
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<td>1,653.99</td>
<td>1,908.45</td>
<td>2,290.14</td>
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<td>Norfolk Police Authority</td>
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<td>133.86</td>
<td>156.17</td>
<td>178.48</td>
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<td>245.41</td>
<td>290.03</td>
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<td>Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements (excluding Parish Precepts and Special Expenses)</td>
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<td>984.36</td>
<td>1,148.42</td>
<td>1,312.48</td>
<td>1,476.54</td>
<td>1,804.66</td>
<td>2,132.78</td>
<td>2,460.90</td>
<td>2,953.08</td>
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7) The Council has determined that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2013/14, which reflects a nil increase, is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Act.
As the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2013/14 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK of the Act.

3170 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended).

3171 CNC BUILDING CONTROL

(a) Recommendations from Cabinet – CNC Building Control – Future Arrangements

Cllr J Fuller outlined the background to the report, reminding members of the proposal to host CNC Building Control. Members’ attention was drawn to Appendices 1 and 2 of the report, the Business Plan and the Participating Authority agreement.

Cllr T Lewis confirmed that the item had been discussed at length at the last meeting of the Scrutiny Committee, and that Scrutiny members had been satisfied with the arrangements in place.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED: To:

(a) Approve the Business Plan for CNC Building Control 2013/14;

(b) Delegate approval of the Participating Authority Agreement to the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Improvement and Efficiency;

(c) Appoint the Portfolio Holder for Improvement and Efficiency to the Board for CNC Building Control;

(d) Approve the Scheme of Delegation for Building Control.
It was then

RESOLVED: That the public and press be re-admitted to the meeting.

(b) CNC Building Control Fees from 1 April 2013

Cllr J Fuller outlined the Council’s proposals to freeze the current fees and charges for the Building Control service for the time being, with a review taking place during the next financial year. Members noted the proposal to introduce another category for fees for single storey extensions, where floor areas did not exceed 10m².

It was unanimously

RESOLVED: To:

1) Set a new category and charge within Table B for single storey extensions whose floor areas did not exceed 10m², as outlined in paragraph 3.2 of the report;
2) Retain the existing fees and charges from 1 April 2013.

3172 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2013/14

Cllr G Wheatley briefly outlined the contents of the report, which presented members with the Council’s Pay Policy Statement 2013/14.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED: To approve South Norfolk Council’s 2013/14 Pay Policy Statement, noting that it will be published on the Council’s website.

3173 APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES

It was unanimously

RESOLVED: To agree that:

(1) Cllr K Weeks is appointed to the Waveney Valley Neighbourhood Board and the Environment Regulation and Growth policy Committee;
(2) Cllr J Herbert is appointed to the Licensing Appeals and Standards Committee
3174 CHAIRMEN’S REPORTS

a) Cabinet - Report of the Leader

Members noted the report of the Leader of the Council.

Cllr M Gray asked Cllr J Fuller what the Council’s response would be to the Government’s proposals to introduce a new permitted development right to allow a change of use from class B1(a) office use to Class C3, residential use. He understood that Councils were being given the opportunity to apply for a general exemption from the operation of these rights. Cllr Fuller explained that these proposals would not impact on the District’s market towns, as they were restricted to class B1(a) office use only. The Council would be looking to apply for an extension for the Deal Ground area situated in Trowse, however the Council only had until 22 February to apply for an exemption and he understood that exemptions would only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

Cllr M Gray was concerned that he would not have known about the above consultation, had he not read about it in a planning journal. Cllr Fuller agreed that this was a valid point and that a mechanism needed to be in place to ensure that all members were made aware of such issues.

Cllr P Allen had noted that the future of Family Intervention Projects (FIPs) was dependent on whether targets were being met, and she queried the position with regard to the local Southern FIP. Cllr M Wilby was pleased to report that the FIP was performing better than had been expected, and he agreed to forward a more detailed response to all members after the meeting.

b) Scrutiny Committee – Report of the Chairman

Members noted the report of the Scrutiny Committee Chairman.

c) Licensing, Appeals and Complaints Committee / Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee – Report of the Chairman

Members noted the report of the Licensing Committee Chairman. Cllr S Thomson, the Vice Chairman of the Committee, was disappointed that not more members of the Committee had not been able to attend the recent training sessions.

d) Development Management Committee – Report of the Chairman

Members noted the report of the Chairman of the Development Management Committee.
3175  REPRESENTATIVES ON STRATEGIC OUTSIDE BODIES

Members noted both Cllr C Gould’s report (tabled at the meeting), regarding the Broads Authority and Cllr C Kemp’s report regarding the Police and Crime Panel for Norfolk.

Cllr J Fuller explained that he had been appointed by the LGA to the Shadow Pension Board, and he suggested that the Norfolk Pension Scheme proposals might be a future item for the Council’s Scrutiny Committee to address.

Cllr N Legg explained that at the last meeting of the Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, proposals to combine mental health services across Norfolk and Suffolk were discussed. A joint scrutiny committee was to be formed with the Suffolk Health Scrutiny Committee, to formally consider the matter, with deliberations not reaching a conclusion until after the County elections in May.

Cllr K Kiddie referred to the “Big South Norfolk Litter Pick” and was pleased to announce that there had been over 30 requests for information packs. There were a number of litter pick events planned across the District and Cllr Kiddie would encourage as many people as possible to get involved.

Cllr T East asked whether King’s Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council would be withdrawing from the Norfolk Waste Partnership. Cllr J Fuller felt this was unlikely, as King’s Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council was leading the procurement exercise to award a contract to market dry recyclables for Norfolk.

Cllr M Wilby advised members that the Local Government Association and Swale Borough Council were in attendance at the last meeting of the South Norfolk Alliance, as part of scheme to share experiences regarding the provision of the Localism Agenda. The Alliance intended to work closely with the Neighbourhood Boards in future, supporting its four main themes for service enhancements.

Cllr T Palmer reported that Saffron Housing Trust had recently met and was joined by Yorkshire Housing Association which had proved to be a useful interchange.

The Council concluded at 9.20 pm

CHAIRMAN