COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of South Norfolk Council held at South Norfolk House, Long Stratton on Monday 24 February 2014 at 7.30pm


Apologies: Councillors Bell, Blake, Edney, Kiddie, Neal, Pond, Riches, Smith and Watt

Officers in Attendance: The Chief Executive (S Dinneen) The Deputy Chief Executive (A Radford), the Director of Environment and Housing (A Jarvis), the Director of Growth and Localism (T Horspole), the Head of Finance (D Lorimer) and the Head of Business Improvement (P Kearsey)

Also in Attendance: One member of the public

3213 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following members declared other interests as listed below:

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<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Minute Number</th>
<th>Nature of Interest</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cllrs Gould and Gray</td>
<td>3216 Motion</td>
<td>Members of the Broads Authority</td>
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3214 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2013

The minutes of the meeting held Monday 9 December were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

Referring to minute 3208 (d), The Council Tax Support Scheme, Cllr Gray suggested that Cllr Fuller’s comments regarding the support to be given to parishes through transitional relief had been misleading. Cllr Fuller clarified the position, explaining that the Government had not provided any transitional grant funding. However, the Council would be passing the total amount of grant received relating to parishes for Council Tax Support on to parishes in the forthcoming year.
3215 CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman referred members to his list of engagements detailed at page 21 of the agenda. He gave special mention to South Norfolk’s Community Awards held 7 February and the Opening Ceremony of the Kings Lynn Mart, held 14 February 2014.

Cllr B Spratt informed members that a Farmers’ Market would take place at the Long Stratton Middle School on Sunday 2 March from 9.30 am until 1.00pm. These markets would take place every first and third Sunday of the month, the next event in Long Stratton to be held in the Leisure Centre.

The Chairman thanked Cllr K Weeks for the refreshments provided before the meeting and on behalf of the Council, wished him a very Happy Birthday.

3216 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Cllr M Gray

Cllr M Gray moved the following motion:

“South Norfolk Council

1. Expresses its sympathy for the individuals and communities whose homes and/or property have been affected by the recent extreme weather.

2. Urges the Government to:
   a) ensure that the Environment Agency has the necessary staffing, expertise and funding to secure integrated flood prevention and coastal protection.
   b) support further research and development of flood and coastal management strategies and plans aimed at adapting to future climate change;
   c) implement the much-delayed SUDS (Sustainable Drainage System) regulations as soon as possible, starting with major developments.

3. Congratulates the Environment Agency and BESL (Broadland Environmental Services Ltd) for their work on the Broadland Flood Alleviation Project and the Broads Authority for its work in dredging the broadland rivers.

4. Instructs its Chief Executive to communicate these views to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, DEFRA, DECLG and local MPs.”

In proposing the motion, Cllr Gray emphasised the point that flooding was not just about the amount of rain that fell, but also about what happened to the water once it had fallen. He suggested that part of the answer to prevent flooding was to implement strategies to encourage infiltration, reducing run off and to slow the speed at which water reached river channels. He referred to techniques such as catchment sensitive farming and tree planting to address these issues. Unfortunately current
practice was to drain agricultural land and to dig ditches, which had given rise to rainfall reaching the rivers very quickly, resulting in more frequent and larger floods.

Cllr Gray was disappointed that the implementation of the Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) Regulations had been repeatedly delayed by the present Government. These regulations would look to ensure that runoff from development sites was no greater than from green fields, and he hoped the recent extreme rainfall would push the matter further up the political agenda.

Cllr Gray drew attention to the work of the Broads Authority and the removal of sediment from rivers, explaining that 24,000 cubic meters of sediment entered the rivers each year due to soil erosion. He stressed the need for Catchment Management Plans to be drawn up across the country. He felt the Environment Agency (EA) had been unfairly criticised at times and had done its best within the resources it had been given. With climate change predictions, he felt it clear that the EA and the Government would have difficult decisions to make in future and there was a real need for a long term adaptation strategy.

In seconding the motion, Cllr T Lewis also referred to the recent bad press concerning the Environment Agency, which he felt had not entirely been deserved. He explained that he currently represented the Council on two Internal Drainage Boards, both of which did an excellent job. The IDBs had expressed concerns with regard to the EA, but had recognised that due to limited resources, it had needed to prioritise. The IDBs would welcome further investment and funding in the EA.

Cllr W Kemp then moved the following amendment:

“In paragraph 1, substitute “Commiserates with those” for the first five words; substitute “lives” for “homes and/or property”; substitute “disrupted” for “affected”; substitute “exceptionally severe” for “extreme”

In paragraph 2 (a). substitute “better coordinates, directs and manages its” for “has the necessary”; substitute “effective” for “integrated”; add at the end “giving at all times priority to the preservation of human life over its other concerns should conflicts arise”

In paragraph 2(b), substitute “cyclical and other extreme weather events” for “climate change”.

Omit paragraph 2 (c)

Replace paragraph 3 with the following:

4. Notes that unlike 1953, there were no human fatalities in East Anglia consequent on the recent tidal surges and exceptionally severe weather.

5. Given the important role of the arable lands of East Anglia in feeding the British people, urges that those lands be treated no less favourably than the Somerset Levels or the Thames Valley when future protection schemes are brought forward”

Renumber the existing paragraph 4, as 6. In that paragraph, substitute “the Secretaries of State for” for “Deputy Prime Minister”; delete “E” from “DECLG” and thereafter insert “the Environment Agency”.

Mr K Weeks stated that he had some sympathies with the sentiment of Cllr Gray’s motion, but he had been very disappointed to read in the press that the Environment Agency had failed to spend a considerable amount of its budget the previous year.
Seconding the amendment, Cllr B Spratt suggested that the Environment Agency had lost all credibility and supported the current methodology of farmers draining their land. Cllr L Dale was also sceptical with regards to the EA, suggesting it needed to review its priorities. He stressed that farmers needed to drain their land to protect their crops and urged for more investment in flood defence schemes.

Cllr B McClennning was disappointed that the amendment took away key elements of the original motion. It was time to think nationally, listen to the experts, understand the problems, and to address them. He was frustrated that many members continued to dismiss all claims of climate change, and he suggested that the EA had done a good job given the hand it had been dealt.

Cllr Savage congratulated Cllr Gray on bringing forward the motion, but he supported the amendment, feeling that it broadened the motion’s appeal. He suggested that farmer’s deserved better protection and that the EA had got it wrong, often protecting nature over benefits to human beings.

Cllr T Lewis was disappointed that all reference to SUDS had been removed from the motion and could not think of any logical explanation as to why members would not support their implementation. He stressed that the EA’s priorities were dictated to them through government funding formulae.

Cllr K Billig could not support the suggestion that the EA required more resources. She referred to flooding in her own ward and how this had worsened since flood defences had been in place on the Suffolk side of the river. She suggested that a more strategic co-ordinated approach was required.

Cllr J Fuller explained that the EA hosted 11,000 members of staff, with comparable organisations having up to 9 times less staff. He considered misplaced priorities to be the main issue, not the level of resources and he referred to the Natural England’s approach in “letting nature take its course”, an approach which even the Deputy Prime Minister had agreed had not helped matters. He agreed with Cllr Gray that the flow of flood water needed to be slowed down in order to percolate over a wider area. However the Broadland Flood Alleviation Project did not appear to adopt this approach with its high level barricades and he feared it could yet wreak havoc if severely tested by floods.

Cllr M Gray could not support the amendment to the motion. The amendment only criticised the EA, omitted all reference to SUDS and took out all mention of climate change. In response to Cllr Fuller’s comments, he reminded members that it was the role of Natural England to protect the natural environment. The BESL Scheme did not involve the raising of embankments, but the strengthening of existing ones. He stressed that he sought no personal credit for the work of the Broads Authority or BESL; he had had no input in to the dredging work or the Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Cllr W Kemp firstly praised the work of the bin collection crew, who had gone to the aid of a motorist and her children, who had been stuck in the recent floods. He hoped that the Chief Executive would pass on the Council’s thanks to the team involved.

Cllr Kemp did not see his amendment as an attack on the EA, but a suggestion that such a huge resource required better co-ordination. Residents needed to be satisfied that during extreme weather conditions, co-ordinated plans were in place to manage events, and that priority was given to human life when considering effective flood prevention and coastal protection. He was sceptical that SUDS would only increase the price of new development further, discouraging growth in the market.
Cllr Kemp considered the dredging of rivers to be a good thing, however, he stressed that East Anglia had been very lucky not to endure the same severe weather conditions as other areas in the country, and he felt it a little premature to congratulate EA and BESL for their work in this area. He explained that there had been some disquiet amongst local residents with regard to the Broadland Flood Alleviation Project and he referred to Cllr Gray’s suggestion that farmers should reduce runoff on agricultural land, suggesting that this would have an impact on food production.

Members then voted on the amendment, and with 25 votes for and 5 against, the amendment was carried.

With 28 votes for and 5 against, it was then

RESOLVED:  South Norfolk Council

1. Commiserates with those individuals and communities whose lives have been disrupted by the recently exceptionally severe weather.

2. Urges the Government to:
   a) Ensure the Environment Agency better coordinates, directs and manages its staffing, expertise and funding to secure effective flood prevention and coastal protection giving at all times priority to the preservation of human life over its other concerns should conflicts arise.
   b) Support further research and development of flood and coastal management strategies and plans aimed at adapting to future cyclical and other extreme weather events.

3. Notes, that unlike 1953, there were no human fatalities in East Anglia consequent on the recent tidal surges and exceptionally severe weather.

4. Thanks those members of the staff of local and other public authorities and the members of the armed services for their practical assistance in tackling the consequences of the recently exceptionally severe weather.

5. Given the important role of the arable lands of East Anglia in feeding the British people, urges that those lands be treated no less favourably than the Somerset Levels or the Thames Valley when future protection schemes are brought forward.

6. Instructs its Chief Executive to communicate these views to the Prime Minister, the Secretaries of State for DEFRA, DCLG, the Environment Agency and local MPs.
3217 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET 10 FEBRUARY 2014

(a) NON-BUDGET ITEMS

(i) Performance Risk and Revenue Budget Report April to December 2013

Cllr G Wheatley presented the recommendations from Cabinet with regard to the creation of two new reserves; the Transformation Grant Reserve and the Low Cost Housing (New Homes Bonus) Reserve, as outlined at paragraph 6.4 of the Cabinet report.

Cllr T Lewis explained that the Liberal Democrat Group wished to reserve its position with regard to the use and creation of reserves at this stage in the meeting.

With 29 votes for and 0 against, it was

RESOLVED: To Approve
a) The creation of a Transformation Grant reserve as outlined in paragraph 6.4 of the report.
b) The creation of a Low Cost Housing (New Homes Bonus) reserve as outlined in paragraph 6.4 of the report.

(ii) Capital and Treasury Management Report Quarter 3 2013/14

Cllr G Wheatley presented the recommendations from Cabinet with regard to the Capital and Treasury Management report, and he drew particular attention to the appointment of Capita Asset Services, as the Council’s Treasury Management Advisors.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED: To:

a) Approve the 2013/14 prudential indicators for the quarter.
b) Note the treasury activity in the quarter and that it complies with the agreed strategy.
c) Note the appointment of Capita Asset Services as the Council’s treasury management advisors from 1 April 2014.
(b) THE BUDGET

(i) Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2014/15;

The Chairman proposed and Council agreed, that in accordance with standing order D4.5, Group Leaders and the portfolio and shadow portfolio holder for resources, be permitted to speak for 10 minutes each on the budget.

Cllr J Fuller stated that it was a privilege to stand before Council and present the budget for a seventh time. He was extremely proud that the Council was for the sixth time in seven years proposing yet another freeze in council tax; he could not think of another district council that could boast this sort of record. The economies made had not resulted in cuts that the public would notice. On the contrary, income had grown, investments had been made and staff had been empowered to work as teams rather than individuals, resulting in improved levels of service. Reserves had increased and the Council was in the enviable position of being able to think long term with further freezes in council tax already being contemplated. This he explained, was a stark contrast to the Liberal Democrat controlled council the Conservative Group inherited back in 2007, when reserves were low and the policy was to “sell off the family silver”. The Conservative approach had been very different, running services in house yet remaining business like and efficient. Services had also been provided through partnership arrangements such as audit, legal services and the GNDP, and by increasing its scale, for example through CNC.

Cllr Fuller then referred to the hard work of staff and the award of Investors in People Gold last May. South Norfolk Council had been the first public organisation in Norfolk to achieve this accolade, and ranked the Council in the top 3% of employers nationally.

Cllr Fuller went on to highlight some of the achievements made in the past year, giving reference to the delivery of 500 new affordable homes six months before target, being recognised nationally for work on the Housing Register and Disabled Facilities Grants, the Council’s enviable record in Homelessness prevention, an enhanced recycling service which would see more profits from recycling materials being retained by the Council, investments at Ketteringham Depot making missed bins a thing of the past and a bespoke Council Tax Support Scheme, focussing on those that were unable to work. South Norfolk had been amongst the first districts to be certified for the Public Services Network and had beaten private businesses to take an award on IT integration. Referring to the economy, he explained that local businesses had received more Business Growth Grants than anywhere else in Norfolk and Suffolk and a recent BBC survey had ranked South Norfolk in the top 10 places to start up a business. Last year South Norfolk received the 6th highest New Homes Bonus. He explained that due to this increase nearly £1 million could be invested in developing the economy further in and around the market towns and the Growth and Localism Committee would be tasked with considering how this could work on a practical level.

Finally, Cllr Fuller gave mention to the ambitious leisure project which would see a leisure provision across the district which residents would only expect from the best private operators.

He was proud of the Council’s record but stressed that further growth in income was required. He commended the budget to members, believing it to deliver a strong, secure, confident, top performing and ambitious Council.
Cllr G Wheatley first drew members’ attention to the amendment to the recommendations (agenda item 8 (b) (i) ) tabled at the meeting. He explained that the discretionary rate relief guidance referred to within the second recommendation from Cabinet, required amending to include Business Rates Flooding relief. This rate relief had recently been announced by the Government to help those businesses affected by the recent adverse weather conditions.

Cllr Wheatley explained that when the Conservative Group had first inherited the Council in 2007, it was faced with a financial crisis, but it had transformed in to a strong and resilient Council, despite the recession. He thanked all those involved in delivering the budget; it had been a collaborative approach between officers and members, with all officers having the opportunity to feed in to the process. He referred to the Council’s substantial portfolio of properties and future development projects, and the exceptional level of reserves, which, he advised, demonstrated the Council’s strength and resilience. He commended the budget to members.

Cllr Gray explained that the Liberal Democrat Group always tried to be constructive in its contributions to Council and committee meetings. It supported much of the work of the Council, but there were some areas that it could not support. This included aspects of performance that were never reported to Cabinet or Scrutiny Committee, for example the fall in recycling rates in 2012-13 to 39%, leaving the Council ranked as 225th in the country, down from 194th in the previous year. He reminded the Conservative Group that when it had been in opposition, it had strongly criticised the Liberal Democrat Group when performance in this area was ranked 111th in the Country, yet performance had only got worse under the Conservative administration. Cllr Gray hoped that the new recycling regime commencing in the Autumn would improve performance. Cllr Gray also referred to the Council being ranked 13th worse for a 2 year period from 2011-2013 for determining major planning applications, with only 34% of these applications being determined within the 13 week target, very close to the 30% threshold which would put a council in “special measures”. A further area his Group could not support was the number of “informal” or secret meetings of the policy committees, which were not open to the press or public. He understood why some meetings needed to be held in private, but he was very concerned at the number of such meetings taking place, which he felt to be anti-democratic.

The area where he had been least impressed with over the last two years was the Your Neighbourhood, Your Choice (YNYC) project. The public and parish councils had stopped attending Neighbourhood Board meetings, and community representatives had proved hard to recruit. These meetings, with only a few exceptions, had failed to engage with communities. Cllr Gray was unsure whether these meetings were set to continue and the Council’s representatives and the police were equally in the dark. This he felt to be unacceptable and clarification was required. Cllr Gray supported meetings between the Council and the community as a 2 way process for communicating ideas and issues. He referred to the Parish Forums recently introduced by the Broads Authority, explaining that these were precisely what he had in mind to replace the Neighbourhood Boards. He was pleased that the administration had finally agreed to drop the YNYC initiative, but noted this was after staff had spent hours collating public views on spending options; he was not surprised that staff morale in the Council was so low. In the first 21 months, only £249,000 of a 3 year £2.4 million budget had been spent, which equated to about 10% of the funding in 60% of the time. Referring to the remaining budget of £1.438 million, to be made available to the Market Towns Initiative, Cllr
Gray was very concerned that this was far too much to spend in a 12 month period, given that only £248,000 was spent in 21 months. He then moved the following amendment.

“That the underspends from years 1 and 2 of the YNYC project, totalling £615,000, be used to fund a Rural Communities Initiative to be used to fund capital or revenue projects amongst the rural communities”.

Cllr Gray explained that although he agreed the market towns in the district to be important, he believed the rural areas to be equally as important, and suggested that a Rural Communities Initiative could be run in parallel to the Market Towns project. This would be funded from the underspend of the YNYC in years 1 and 2, totalling £615,000, leaving £823,00 for the Market Towns. Cllr Gray referred to the capital grants this year, which he felt had been ill managed and he noted that there would be no capital pot this year due to Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments for communities. However, Cllr Gray was doubtful that communities would receive much CIL money in 2014/15 and he therefore suggested that the Rural Communities Initiative could act as a transitional year, allowing communities to improve their facilities before the arrival of CIL.

Cllr T Lewis, in seconding the amendment, suggested the need to engage with the suburban and rural areas of the district, in addition to the support given to the market towns. He stressed that his Group were full of praise for the Council’s staff, who were in no way being criticised for the failure of the YNYC project, which he believed had been poorly executed. He urged members to change course, and support the amendment.

With 5 votes for and 27 against, the amendment was then lost.

Cllr Y Bendle then outlined the Council’s achievements under her portfolio of Housing and Public Health, over the last year. She made reference to the changes in the welfare agenda and the staff shift towards generic working, which had proved most successful. She was very proud that South Norfolk continued to be the best performing Council in Norfolk, in this area of work. Members noted that over 2000 people had applied for help from the Council’s discretionary fund in the first 6 months, and this gave officers the opportunity to offer advice early, providing guidance on how to manage money and avoid other problems. She commended staff in the Housing Advice team, explaining that changes to the housing register worked, had allowed staff to shift their focus on prevention, with great results. Finally, she made reference to the Council’s delivery of affordable homes, and was particularly proud to announce that she expected 570 homes to have been completed by the end of the three year target period. She fully supported the budget as presented to members.

Cllr M Wilby then referred to the achievements under his portfolio of Communities and Localism. He began by paying tribute to those staff and members who had helped deliver the localism agenda in South Norfolk. He referred to the Market Towns Initiative and the focus given to the economy and growth. He gave mention to the work with volunteers, such as tree wardens and litter pickers. He was proud that Neighbourhood grants had allowed many groups and organisations to make things
happen within their communities and he referred to the three large capital grants recently awarded. The Pub of the Year competition was a continued success and had received national recognition, and he drew attention to the work with other organisations through SLAs, such as Bordahoppa. He announced that at the next Growth and Localism Meeting, members would be looking at the options around Neighbourhood Boards and ways to deliver localism though Neighbourhood Chairmen and Local members, and he welcomed ideas from all members. Finally, he referred to the future work with partner organisations and suggested that the South Norfolk Alliance would play an important role in ensuring the quality of life that residents were able to enjoy in South Norfolk. He commended the budget to members, which he felt supported the local economy and the health and well being of all residents.

Referring to the Market Towns Initiative, Cllr F Ellis commented on the retail workshops, which gave retailers the opportunity to attend training events to help increase footfall in to their shops. These events had been extremely well received by retailers, and were also open to businesses in the more rural areas, in addition to market towns. The recently launched Visit Norwich website gave mention to the market towns in the district, and there had been a lot of work by officers and town councils on improving signage. The project to update the public toilets in the town was also progressing well. Although much of the work was concentrated on the market towns, Cllr Ellis believed that a “ripple effect” would filter out to the hinterlands.

Cllr D Bills began by congratulating all those involved in what he felt to be an excellent budget. He then referred to a number of achievements under his portfolio over the last year, giving mention first to the Council’s ICT Strategy. He applauded the work of the Business Improvement Team, referring to the implementation of IDOX and the recent award received by the Council for an innovative and integrated approach to software. He commented on the work on the housing register, the new HR Payroll system and he was proud that South Norfolk had been amongst the first districts to be certified for the Public Services Network. Referring to the Leisure Enhancement Programme, he explained that there would shortly be announcements with regard to the provision at Diss and Long Stratton and他 looked forward to seeing the benefits the programme would bring to the community.

Summing up, Cllr Fuller said that the Council had been “on top of its game”, with good business links and an excellent reputation. He did not recognise the picture painted by Cllr Gray of an organisation where staff morale was low. On the contrary, the Council had been award Investors in People Gold, which ranked the Council in the top 3% of employers nationally. He felt it a privilege to be leading such a forward thinking, efficient and effective Council, which despite such an unstable economic climate over the last five years, continued to lead the way, deliver service improvements and balance budgets. He commended the budget to members.

Members then voted on recommendations a) to c) and e) and f). It was unanimously

RESOLVED: 

To:

a) To approve the revised fees and charges for Building Control as set out in Appendix F of the report;

b) To approve the revised discretionary rate relief guidance as set out in Appendix G of the
Cabinet report, to also include additional relief regarding Business Rates Flooding, as detailed at the Council meeting;

c) To approve the base budget; as shown in para 8.1, subject to confirmation of the finalised Local Government finance settlement figures which may, if significant, necessitate an adjustment through the General Revenue Reserve to maintain a balanced budget;

d) That the Council’s demand on the Collection Fund for 2013/14 for General Expenditure be £5,682,750 and for Special Expenditure be £70,882;

e) That the level of Council Tax be £130.68 for General Expenditure and £1.63 for Special Expenditure.

Members then voted on recommendation d) concerning the use of revenue reserves. With 27 votes for and 5 against, it was then

RESOLVED: To approve the use of the revenue reserves as set out in para 9.3 and 9.4 of the report.

ii) Capital Programme April 2014 to March 2017

Cllr G Wheatley presented the recommendations of the Cabinet to members, referring to a number of projects the proposed programme would be funding.

Cllr T Lewis expressed some concern with regard to the future funding of the programme and the need to borrow. He also queried the use of CIL and the whether these funds were automatically allocated to priorities on the Local Investment Plan Programme (LIPP).

In response, Cllr Fuller explained that there were advantages to pooling receipts in the Greater Norwich Area to fund infrastructure. The amount of CIL reserved for parishes to spend would be 15% and 25% for those with an adopted Neighbourhood Plan. Referring to the City Deal, he reminded members that £80 million would be made available to the Council through preferential borrowing rates, to allow for early implementation of infrastructure. Other sources of funding would continue to be sought for projects.

RESOLVED: To:

1. agree that the assumptions on which the funding of the capital programme is based are prudent;

2. approve the capital programme for 2014/15 to 2016/17.
(iii) Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy April 2014 to March 2017

It was unanimously RESOLVED: To agree:

a) The Treasury Management Strategy Statement for April 2014 to March 2017;

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 (outlined at paragraph 9 of the report), setting out the Council’s policy on MRP;

d) The Annual Investment Strategy 2013/14 (outlined at paragraph 6 of the report) contained in the Treasury Management Strategy, including the delegation of certain tasks to the Head of Finance;


(iv) Council Tax Resolution 2014/15

In accordance with Standing Order D12.1, and at the request of 5 members, this vote was conducted as a roll call vote as follows:


No councillors voted against and no councillors abstained from the vote.

It was unanimously RESOLVED:

1) To approve the recommendations of the Cabinet meeting 10 February 2014 relating to the Council Tax Base for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relates as in the attached Appendix C.
2) To approve the recommendations of the Cabinet meeting 10 February 2014 relating to the Revenue and Capital Estimates 2014/15 be approved.

3) That the Council Tax requirement for the Council’s own purposes for 2014/15 (excluding Parish precepts and special expenses) be calculated as £5,682,750.48.

4) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2014/15 in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Act.

   a) £62,769,491 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) £54,228,939.34 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.

   c) £8,540,551 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) £196.40 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) £2,857,801.18 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 2014/15 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.
### Valuation Bands

<table>
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<th>Precepting Authority</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>H</th>
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<td><strong>South Norfolk Council</strong></td>
<td>£87.12</td>
<td>£101.64</td>
<td>£116.16</td>
<td>£130.68</td>
<td>£159.72</td>
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<td><strong>Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements (excluding Parish Precepts and Special Expenses)</strong></td>
<td>£987.00</td>
<td>£1,151.50</td>
<td>£1,316.00</td>
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7) The Council has determined that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2014/15, 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 2014/15 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK of the Act.

### 3218 CRINGLEFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN: CONSIDERATION OF THE EXAMINER’S REPORT

Council received a report from the Planning Policy Manager, recommending that the Cringleford Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) be formally ‘made’ as part of the Development Plan for South Norfolk, following a majority of Cringleford residents voting in favour of the Plan in the referendum held on Friday 24 January 2014.

Cllr J Fuller said it gave him great pleasure to recommend that the Council adopt the Cringleford NDP as part of the Council’s Development Plan, with immediate effect, following a 93% yes vote in favour of adoption. It was clear that Cringleford Parish Council was an ambitious council and was one of the front runners nationally in this area of work. He suggested that the Council should formally congratulate Cringleford Parish Council on its achievements.

Cllr C Kemp compared the 30% turnout in Cringleford with the 7.5% turnout at the Police Commissioner referendum. He thoroughly agreed with the sentiments of Cllr Fuller, and he added his congratulations to the Parish Council.

In response to queries from Cllr T Lewis, regarding the strength of the plan to stand up against current planning applications, Cllr Fuller explained that the Highways Agency was involved in negotiations, but he could not comment on development management issues.
Cllr G Wheatley explained that the Parish Council was held in high regard by the people of Cringleford, and this was reflected in the overwhelming response to the referendum. He had every confidence in the Parish Council to deliver the plan.

RESOLVED: To:

1. Make the Cringleford Neighbourhood Development Plan with immediate effect, and delegate to the Director of Growth and Localism to publicise the Decision Statement as soon as possible afterwards, in line with legislative requirements;


3219 ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY CHARGING SCHEDULE

Council received a report which provided an update to the Cabinet decision taken at the May 2013 meeting, regarding the Community Infrastructure Levy, and proposed that members implemented a CIL charging regime on 1 May 2014

Cllr J Fuller outlined the salient points of the report to members, drawing members’ attention to paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 of the report, which explained that a total of £80 million would be made available to the Council, through preferential borrowing rates, to allow for the delivery of local infrastructure at early stages. He explained that an implementation date of 1 May would give sufficient notice to all and would allow time for advanced proposals to be determined under the S106 system, before CIL was introduced.

In response to queries, Cllr Fuller explained that those applications where outline planning permission had already been granted, would be determined under the S106 system. CIL would apply to those applications received or determined after 1 May 2014. The Chief Executive clarified the position regarding the Regulation 123 List which itemised what infrastructure would be funded through CIL and what would continue to be delivered through S106. Members noted that the Local Investment Plan Programme (LIPP) was a separate document which listed the Council’s priorities. Members were reminded that when the Examiner had reduced the proposed level of CIL charges back in 2013, the advice of Counsel was sought as to whether items on the Regulation 123 list could be redefined, but Counsel’s opinion had been that there was limited scope to change the list originally put before the Examiner.

It was then unanimously

RESOLVED: To:

1. Adopt the South Norfolk’s Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule (Appendix A of the 7 May 2013 Cabinet report), as modified by the Examiner’s Report (Appendix B of the 7 May 2013 Cabinet report),
in accordance with Section 213 of the Planning Act 2008 and Regulation 25 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended 2011 and 2012), to take effect from 1 May 2014


3. Acknowledge that under Regulation 55, Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended 2011 and 2012), discretionary relief for exceptional circumstances will not be granted.

4. Endorse the withdrawal of support and implementation of Infrastructure, Service and Amenity Requirements for New Development Norfolk County Council Standards (updated 2013)

5. Endorse the delegation to South Norfolk District Council of collection of Community Infrastructure Levy from Norfolk County Council on its own development matters.

3220 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2014/15

Members considered the report of the HR and OD Manager, which presented members with South Norfolk Council’s Pay Policy Statement 2014/15, for approval.

Cllr G Wheatley explained that under section 38 of the Localism Act, there was a requirement for all local authorities to produce an annual Pay Policy Statement, which needed to be approved by Council and made available to the public. Members noted the changes from the 2013/14 statement as outlined in paragraph 2 of the report.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED:  
1. To approve the 2014/15 Pay Policy Statement as outlined in the report;

2. To note that the Statement will be published on SNC’s website by 31 March 2014.
3221 MONITORING OFFICER REPORT

Council received a report from the Monitoring Officer, which updated members on proposals regarding Saffron Housing Trust, new Government legislation, and sought approval for two changes to appointments.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED: To:

1. Approve the changes to the Constitution outlined at paragraph 2.2 to require a recorded vote on the Budget, Council Tax setting and any amendments thereon

2. Approve the changes to the Constitution outlined at paragraph 3.5 to allow the filming of Council meetings in line with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and any subsequent regulations issued, on the understanding that a further paper will be presented to Council in due course.

3. Appoint the Scrutiny and Information Rights Officer as Deputy Monitoring Officer until the Compliance and Risk Manager returns from maternity leave and resumes the role;

4. Appoint Councillor Yvonne Bendle as the Council’s representative on SPARSE

5. Appoint Councillor Keith Kiddie as the Council’s representative on the Norfolk Waste Partnership Board.

3222 CHAIRMEN’S REPORTS

a) Cabinet - Report of the Leader

Members noted the report of the Leader of the Council.

Cllr C Kemp made reference to a dilapidated farm, covered in grafitti, situated in the parish of Keswick, explaining that the Council had been informed and was making the necessary steps to remove the eye sore.

Cllr N Legg referred to a recent article in the Telegraph where the British Property Foundation had recommended that Councils should earmark land for private rented housing, encouraging institutions to invest in the sector, allowing building for rent to become more economically viable. Cllr Fuller explained that this was precisely what was happening in Poringland, with plans for 60 much needed private rented homes in addition to affordable housing.
Cllr G Walden asked for further details with regard to plans to allow members to spend a £1,000 budget within their own wards on neighbourhood projects. Cllr Fuller explained that Swale District Council had recently been awarded nationally for implementing such a practice. The Growth and Localism Committee would be tasked with examining how a similar scheme could be implemented at South Norfolk Council.

In response to a query from Cllr M Gray, Cllr M Wilby advised that it was unlikely that the Waveney Valley Neighbourhood Board meeting, scheduled for 19 March, would take place.

Cllr M Gray also asked for clarification with regard to the Alliance, referring to the recent award of £25,000 from Alliance Funds to fund the Feasibility Study for a sports facilities scheme at Poringland. Cllr M Wilby explained that the Alliance would have an important role to play in future, and other applications for funding would each be considered on their own merit. He further explained that the decision to fund the Poringland scheme had been made via email.

Cllr S Thomson was delighted that the Council had already met its 3 year target with regard to affordable new homes, and she wondered how the figures compared with those before the Right to Buy scheme came in to effect. Cllr Bendle explained that there were currently more than 7,000 affordable homes in the district, compared with 6,850 back in 1980.

Cllr T Lewis asked how much of the Council’s hardship fund had been spent to date and Cllr Bendle agreed to investigate further and to report back to Cllr Lewis after the meeting.

b) Scrutiny Committee – Report of the Chairman

Members noted the report of the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee. Cllr M Dewsbury confirmed that the rules regarding the filming of meetings would also apply to parish councils.

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 advised that an informal meeting of the committee to discuss a consultation regarding licensing fees had been scheduled for 25 March.

d) Development Management Committee – Report of the Chairman

Members noted the tabled report of the Chairman of the Development Management Committee.
Cllr M Windridge expressed his thanks to the Committee for recently rejecting the application for a Wind turbine at Hempnall. Cllr Mooney reminded members that this application was now subject to appeal.

3223 REPRESENTATIVES ON STRATEGIC OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr J Savage explained that the LGA Rural Commission had been disbanded and how now been replaced with a People and Places Board, which he believed had left rural areas under represented.

Members noted that following on from the county wide materials recycling procurement exercise, a Joint Venture Company had been formed and three directors had been appointed: Cllr T Fitzpatrick from North Norfolk District Council, Cllr A Proctor from Broadland District Council and Cllr M Stonard from Norwich City Council.

The Council concluded at 10.23 pm

CHAIRMAN