

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
held on Wednesday 21st March 2012 at 6pm
in the Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn.**

PRESENT:

Councillors I Mack (Chairman)
B Ayres, D J Collis (substitute for I Gourlay) J Collop, G Howman, A Lovett,
T Manley and G Sandell

Other Members Present:

Councillor B Long, Deputy Leader & Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community
Councillor Mrs E Nockolds, Portfolio Holder for Shared Services & External Relations

Apologies for absence was received from Councillor Gourlay and Councillor Tilbury

CSC64: APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman took the Chair.

RESOLVED: That Councillor J Collop be appointed Vice-Chairman for the meeting.

CSC65: MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CSC66: URGENT BUSINESS UNDER STANDING ORDER 7

There was no urgent business to report.

CSC67: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

CSC68: MEMBERS PRESENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 34

There were no Members present under Standing Order 34.

CSC69: CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman had no correspondence to report.

CSC70: **RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

There were no previous Committee recommendations.

CSC71: **MATTERS CALLED-IN PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 12**

There were no matters called-in pursuant to Standing Order 12.

CSC72: **QUEEN ELIZABETH II FIELDS CHALLENGE**

The Chairman explained that the Cabinet had already agreed the recommendations outlined in the report but Members had the opportunity to question the Portfolio Holder in relation to the Cabinet's decision.

Councillor J Collop referred to section 3.1 of the Cabinet report which outlined the sites that were proposed for inclusion as Queen Elizabeth II Fields and stated that other Councillors had suggested additional sites for inclusion and asked the Portfolio Holder to outline the process that had been undertaken in selecting the sites that had been chosen.

In response, the Portfolio Holder, Councillor Mrs Nockolds explained that consideration had been given to the most popular and well used sites that the Borough Council owned. Consultation had taken place with both Hunstanton and Downham Town Council as well as South Wootton Parish Council whom leased Wootton Park. Cabinet had also agreed that delegated authority be granted to the Portfolio Holder in consultation with officers to agree any additional sites that were put forward.

Councillor J Collop stated that he had looked up the Trust programme on the internet which outlined an opportunity for the public to vote for specific sites to be included but he could not find any sites that had been listed for this Council.

Chris Bamfield, Executive Director for Leisure and Public Space explained that the nomination criteria for inclusion in the programme stipulated that the Local Authority had to have full legal and beneficial title and ownership of the land and there was no opportunity for the public to vote for specific sites. Any voting arrangements had concluded some months ago. An article had been included in the Members Bulletin to inform Members of the opportunity to put forward any additional sites that they wished to be considered for the programme.

Councillor J Collop questioned why the "The Walks" had been included in the programme as he considered it was already fully protected from any future development. Councillor Mrs Nockolds explained that including this site was a good way in marking and recognising the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. She explained that the Fields Challenge was a new programme from the National Playing Fields Association and undertook that she would consider any additional sites proposed by Councillors. Councillor Mrs Nockolds also explained that if in future a developer proposed plans to

develop a site included in the programme, they would have to identify a similar piece of land to replace the existing one.

Councillor D J Collis stated that publicity for the programme was key and was concerned that some Members were unaware of the programme and should be encouraged to nominate sites. Councillor Mrs Nockolds explained that the programme was being actively promoted by the National Playing Fields Association and that she had also held meetings with the Norfolk Playing Fields Association. An article promoting the programme had also been published in the Members Bulletin and she had also raised awareness of the programme in a report to a previous meeting of Full Council. Chris Bamfield also reiterated that at the recent Regeneration, Environment and Community Panel meeting, a request had been made to promote the programme and as result an article had been published in the Members Bulletin.

Councillor D J Collis stated Parish Councils appeared unaware of the scheme. Councillor G Howman concurred with this and whilst not against the sites that had already been selected, questioned how additional sites would be considered. Councillor Mrs Nockolds confirmed that there was still an opportunity for other sites which were owned by the Borough Council to be nominated and that she was happy to accept any nominations via email.

In response to further questions from Councillor J Collop, Councillor Mrs Nockolds confirmed that there was no limit to the number of sites that could be included. She also confirmed that she was aware that the Friends of the Walks were not in favour of "The Walks" being included in the programme. Chris Bamfield highlighted that there were resource implications for his staff in terms of the number of sites that were included in the programme. Councillor Mrs Nockolds explained that the programme offered some protection for the sites included but reiterated if a developer proposed plans to develop a site included in the programme, they would have to identify a similar piece of land to replace the existing one.

Councillor Manley queried what the financial implications were for the Council and whether the funding that had been identified (£10 million) applied across the country and whether the Council could apply to obtain some of the funding. Councillor Mrs Nockolds stated that the cost implications for the Council amounted to approximately £50 per field and was associated with drawing up the necessary 'Deed of Dedication'. The funding of £10 million would apply across the Country and the Council could apply for funding via Sport England.

Councillor D J Collis highlighted the importance of promoting and ensuring that all Councillors were aware of the scheme.

Councillor J Collop stated that as King's Lynn did not have a Town Council it was important to ensure that the relevant Councillors were also kept fully informed.

CSC73: **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

CSC74: **PROCUREMENT UPDATE FOR BLACK BIN RECYCLING PROJECT**

The Chairman explained that the item was a late report considered by Cabinet at their meeting on 6th March 2012 and therefore there had been no opportunity for it to be considered by a Panel.

Both the Portfolio Holder and Dale Gagen, Project Manager responded to questions from Members in relation to the tender and contract arrangements. It was confirmed that there was no financial risk to the Council because of the nature of the proposed contract. The Portfolio Holder explained that it was hoped that a contract would be signed in June/July of this year.

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that as the proposals would result in a change of policy, a further report would be considered by the Regeneration, Environment and Community Panel, Cabinet and Full Council. The Chief Executive also confirmed that all Members would be kept fully informed during the process.

CSC75: **PORTFOLIO HOLDERS’ DECISIONS MADE UNDER DELEGATED POWERS**

The delegated decision in relation to “The Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site Management Project – Fourth Memorandum of Agreement 2012 – 2015” was noted.

CSC76: **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee was scheduled to be held on Wednesday 18th April 2012 at 6pm.

Meeting closed at 7.15pm