

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on
Thursday, 26 March 2015 at 6.30 pm in the
Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn**

The Mayor Councillor B Ayres

Councillors R P Beal, A W Beales, A Bubb, Mrs Z Christopher,
A R Collins, D J Collis, J Collop, Mrs S Collop, C J Crofts,
N J Daubney, I Gourlay, G Hipperson, Lord Howard, M Howland, G Howman,
H Humphrey, C Joyce, A Lawrence, Mrs J Leamon,
B W C Long, J Loveless, A Lovett, T C Manley, C Manning,
Mrs K Mellish, J Moriarty, A Morrison, Mrs E A Nockolds, M Peake, M Pitcher,
D Pope, C Sampson, Miss S Sandell, M Shorting, Mrs V M Spikings, M S Storey,
J M Tilbury, D Tyler, Mrs E Watson, D Whitby, A White, Mrs M Wilkinson,
T de Winton, Mrs A Wright, T Wright and Mrs S Young.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss L Bambridge, R Bird,
M Chenery of Horsbrugh, Mrs J Collingham, P Cousins, P Foster, R Groom,
M Hopkins, M Langwade, G McGuinness, L Scott,
A Tyler and G Wareham.

C91: **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 February 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

C92: **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared:

C93: **MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE**

There was none.

C94: **URGENT BUSINESS**

None

C95: **PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None

C96: **CABINET MEMBERS' REPORTS**

In accordance with Standing Order 11.1 reports were submitted from Cabinet Members, upon which they answered questions from Members of the Council.

i) Councillor Mrs E Nockolds – Culture, Tourism and Marketing

Councillor Mrs Nockolds presented her report. There were no questions.

ii) Councillor Mrs V Spikings - Development

Councillor Mrs Spikings presented her report. Councillor Tilbury asked whether, when all the LDF matters were loaded on line, there to be any further involvement by Councillors or did it go directly to the Inspector. Councillor Spikings explained that the LDF Task Group had met that week to see if there were any issues to be addressed and to ensure the Group was happy with what was being sent to the Inspector. It would now be sent to the Inspector for the Examination. She confirmed that Member involvement had mostly finished, and thanked all the Members and Officers who had worked extremely hard on the preparation of the document for submission.

iii) Councillor A Lawrence – Housing and Community

Councillor Lawrence presented his report. Councillor Moriarty commented that he was disappointed with the condition of some of the properties which were being offered to potential tenants of Freebridge. He explained that when he had asked to see the condition reports on the properties he had been informed that he would have to make a formal request to do so. He asked if the relationship with Freebridge had cooled in recent times, and if the Council was to ask for further representation on its Board. Councillor Lawrence informed Members that there had been discussions with Freebridge on the make-up of their Board, which would mean a report coming to the Cabinet around June.

Councillor J Collop asked for an explanation on the food hygiene table set out in the report. Councillor Lawrence explained that the “Category A” premises were those which could potentially be high risk, and high impact should something go wrong. The further down the list, the less risk in the premises. Councillor Collop asked how often the middle category premises would be inspected. Councillor Lawrence responded that approximately every 12 – 18 months, depending on their rating and any complaints etc. He confirmed that those with a lower rating would always be encouraged to improve.

iv) Councillor D Pope – ICT Leisure and Public Space

Councillor Pope presented his report. Councillor Joyce asked for an update on the South Lynn Football Pitch after the inspection carried out. Councillor Pope confirmed that the pitch was in a poor condition, was wet and uneven, unsuitable for children’s football matches. The drainage wasn’t working and appeared not to have been installed

correctly when originally constructed. He explained that he had asked Officers to seek quotations for the correct drainage to be installed so the pitch could be used. He expressed great disappointment that the Borough Council would have to incur costs for the work signed off by the County Council on construction by them. Councillor Joyce asked who had authorised the payment to the contractor originally, when it had not been checked that it had been done correctly. Councillor Pope confirmed it had been the County Council who employed the contractor and signed off the work.

v) **Councillor A Beales – Regeneration and Industrial Assets**

Councillor Beales presented his report. Councillor J Collop asked for an update on the Princess Theatre. Councillor Beales informed Council that the Theatre was doing well and during a recent visit had been vibrant with visitors in the café area during the day. They were booking good acts and were also planning to run a pantomime next Christmas. He explained that there was due to be a Cabinet Members decision issued relating to the work adjacent to the Theatre using part of the Car Park which had aroused local concern about the effect on the Theatre. The final outcome had been that there were 46 spaces left on the car park which was more than the Theatre had expected. As the landlord, the Council was looking to see if there could be any improvements made to assist the tenant.

Councillor Mrs Leamon asked the portfolio holder to ensure there would be sufficient parking spaces behind the Theatre for people with disabilities. Councillor Beales confirmed that was one of the issues they had looked to ensure was the case. He explained that there would be a plan showing the car park with the delegated decision when published.

Councillor Loveless asked what the meeting regarding Bawsey Pits had been about. Councillor Beales confirmed there was no direct involvement by the Council but he had been invited as Ward Member. He considered that the site was an important green space for the area, and as it was changing hands the owner had met with the local community to discuss plans they may have for the area which would include some improvements to the place which was a great asset to the area. Councillor Loveless responded that in the Local Plan the area had been zoned as a recreational asset, so it would be of interest to the wider community to see improvements to it.

Councillor Loveless asked for information on the Lynnsport Public Engagement Forum. Councillor Beales explained that it was the Forum he discussed setting up at the last Council meeting. It consisted of some ward Members, Lynnsport users, residents groups, Pelicans, the Trust, Mrs Franklin, Lovell's were also in attendance. It had discussed a number of issues and explained a number of areas of mis-information, and it was looking at the forthcoming planning application.

The discussions held had been constructive and the input of local knowledge would assist in the preparation of the plans. There would be further meetings.

Councillor Collis congratulated the Portfolio Holder on the Public Engagement Meeting. He was pleased that people had been given the opportunity to put forward valid points, and concern had been raised about the direction and flow of traffic. He asked if Councillor Beales had carried out the site visit he promised for the area discussed. Councillor Beales confirmed the meeting would be taken forward to discuss traffic issues, especially the Reid Way points after the Planning Application had been considered. He confirmed that he would meet on site with the members of the Group along with the traffic expert.

Councillor Collis asked if in the discussions on the Leziate area any mention had been made of the approach road to the site and if any potential remedial works to improve it would take place. Councillor Beales responded that if it was the Sandy Lane access he referred to which was a public right of way, no immediate resolution had been put forward, although the owners were aware of it and would factor it into their plans.

vi) **Councillor Lord Howard – Special Projects**

Councillor Lord Howard presented his report. Councillor Gourlay asked if the Council were looking to purchase a 3D printer. Councillor Lord Howard responded that he thought that the pieces mentioned in his report would be produced for the Council.

vii) **Councillor B Long – Environment and Deputy Leader**

Councillor Long presented his report. Councillor Gourlay, in referring to the fact that the Material Works proposals for the Council was no longer a consideration, asked how much money had been spent on them. He asked if the information would be made available. Councillor Long made reference to the Officer decision made not to extend the contract with Material Works which some members were aware of. He considered it a shame that it was not progressing because they had not been able to comply with some of the contractual issues which had been put forward and deliver for the Borough. Because of the work being carried out across the County on waste he hadn't wanted to jeopardise that County wide position by not working with them. He confirmed that the Authority hadn't paid any money on the contract to Material Works, if they had started work then the Borough would have paid them by the tonne delivered to them, and received recycling credits from the County Council. He was satisfied that the direction of the Councils partner authorities had headed away from incineration and were looking for an improved system of disposal, which the Borough needed to be part of. That did not preclude

Material Works putting forward something to the County Group in the future, a decision on which would be taken by the Board.

Councillor Moriarty made reference to a payment which was made to Material Works for attendance at the Incinerator inquiry and asked Councillor Long to double check if any other payments had been made. Councillor Moriarty made reference to the meeting of the Regeneration Environment and Community Panel which had been held the previous evening and expressed concern about the suggestion that the Refuse and Recycling Informal Working Group be disbanded. He made reference to a position which Councillor Long had been given at the County Council and asked if it would have been helpful for the Panel to be aware of it as he commented that the new Conservative Group Leader could potentially recommend that Incineration be back in plans. Councillor Long responded that the position was not a paid position at the County Council, and they had set out that their position was against incineration. However, with regard to the position of the new Leader of the Group at County, Councillor Moriarty would have to seek his opinion, and Councillor Long's position had not changed.

Councillor J Collop expressed regret that the proposals by Material works hadn't been delivered because it would have been good for it to have done. He asked if the technology used by Material Works was dead or if any other companies would be able to take it forward. Councillor Long concurred that it had been a shame as he had wanted it to succeed, but there were firms out there offering alternative technologies, which would be governed by the same issues, but the County Council could negotiate with them without having to prove end of waste certification. He was pleased that there were alternatives now being considered to just burning or burying waste.

Councillor Collop further asked if it would have been better to have others on board with the project, to which Councillor Long confirmed that the offer had been available to other authorities, but they didn't have the same pressure as the incinerator proposal was for King's Lynn, not their areas. He confirmed he would do the same again if needed, he had seen the process in action at a plant so he knew the technology worked, it boiled down to their finances being in place to make it work at scale.

Councillor Tilbury asked if the decision of the Chief Executive not to extend the contract was subject to call in, to which the Monitoring Officer responded that it was not, but agreed to check the report and requirements.

Councillor Joyce complimented Councillor Long in trying for the new waste technology, and suggested that if the Incinerator really was off the agenda for the County Council they would be selling the site to this Council.

Councillor Loveless asked if there was any information on how the recycling on the go scheme launched in Norwich had progressed. Councillor Long undertook to seek information from local authorities locally who had been operating the scheme and report back in due course.

Councillor Gourlay made reference to a TV programme which showed the amount of food waste there was in fast food restaurants. He asked if Councillor Long knew what happened to the food waste from the restaurants in the Borough. Councillor Long responded that he wasn't aware of the food waste arrangements for the fast food restaurants in the Borough as it was their business to deal with it, but acknowledged that the operators would be subject to food safety requirements.

viii) **Councillor N J Daubney – Leader**

Councillor Daubney presented his report. Councillor Mrs Collop asked for an update on the meeting with Brandon Lewis. Councillor Daubney informed Members that he, Councillor Mrs Spikings and the Executive Director for Planning had met with Brandon Lewis to seek clarity on the Inspection Regime for the LDF, and that he was familiar with the Planning Inspectors decisions which were being taken for West Norfolk. They had been confident that he was aware of them.

Councillor Joyce asked how the Council was in the situation with the South Lynn football pitch, when the County Council had paid a contractor to do the work. He asked if Councillor Daubney had overruled Councillor Pope on the matter. Councillor Daubney responded that he had not overruled Councillor Pope, who hadn't discussed the matter with him. If a situation was not right, Councillor Pope had the responsibility to ensure it was right, which was exactly what he was doing.

Councillor Mrs Leamon made reference to a previous meeting when Councillor Daubney had implied that UKIP members didn't understand the accounts. Councillor Mrs Leamon had taken exception to the matter as she was qualified in accounts and had been employed by a large organisation in that vein. In response, Councillor Daubney commented that he felt that as there was a great inaccuracy in the comments made at the meeting he felt it was clear that they hadn't been understood.

C97: **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

None

C98: **CABINET: 3 MARCH 2015**

It was proposed by Councillor Daubney, and seconded by Councillor Long that the recommendations from the meeting on 3 March 2015 be approved.

In proposing CAB156: Award of The Honorary Freedom of The Borough – Honorary Alderman Dr Paul Richards, Councillor Daubney informed Council that he was proud to nominate Honorary Alderman Dr Paul Richards for this honour as he was a magnificent ambassador for the town of King's Lynn and the rest of the Borough, working hard to promote it and its history.

Councillor Long, in seconding the recommendation supported the proposal whole heartedly.

Councillor J Collop supported the proposal, and referred to Dr Richards membership of the Labour Group and his serving as Mayor on 2 occasions. He supported the award of the proposal as it was an honour which he deserved.

Councillor Joyce also supported the proposal, reminding Members he heralded from South Lynn.

Councillor Pitcher endorsed the comments made about Dr Richards and supported the proposals as he had worked with him specifically on Marriotts and Green Quay.

The following recommendations were not debated:

CAB158: Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2015/2016

CAB160: Byelaws For Skin Piercing Activities

CAB161: Update To The Code Of Corporate Governance

RESOLVED: That the recommendations from the Cabinet meeting held on 3 March 2015, as amended be adopted

C99: **CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE : 19 MARCH 2015**

There were no recommendations from the above Committee.

The Meeting closed at 7.35 pm