

**BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on  
Thursday, 23 April 2015 at 6.30 pm in the  
Assembly Room, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn**

The Deputy Mayor Councillor C Manning

Councillors Miss L Bambridge, R P Beal, A Beales, R Bird, A Bubb, M Chenery of Horsbrugh, Mrs J Collingham, A R Collins, D J Collis, J Collop, Mrs S Collop, P Cousins, C J Crofts, N J Daubney, P Foster, I Gourlay, M Hopkins, Lord Howard, M Howland, G Howman, H Humphrey, C Joyce, A Lawrence, Mrs J Leamon, B W C Long, J Loveless, A Lovett, G McGuinness, T C Manley, J Moriarty, A Morrison, Mrs E A Nockolds, M Peake, M Pitcher, D Pope, C Sampson, Miss S Sandell, L Scott, Mrs S Smeaton, Mrs V M Spikings, M S Storey, J M Tilbury, A Tyler, D Tyler, G Wareham, Mrs E Watson, D Whitby, A White, Mrs M Wilkinson, Mrs A Wright and T Wright.

Apologies for absence were received from The Mayor, Councillor B Ayres and Councillors Mrs Z Christopher, R Groom, Mrs K Mellish, M Langwade and Mrs S Young.

C100: **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**RESOLVED:** That the Ordinary Meeting be held prior to the Special Meeting.

C101: **PRAYERS**

Prayers were led by the Mayor's Chaplain, Father Ling.

C102: **MINUTES**

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

C103: **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor McGuinness declared a personal interest in the item on C111: Notice of Motion 1/15.

C104: **MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE**

The Deputy Mayor reported that a birthday wishes had been sent to HM the Queen on the occasion of her birthday.

C105: **URGENT BUSINESS**

None

C106: **PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None

C107: **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. Councillor Humphreys congratulated Councillor Mrs Nockolds on the funding from the Arts Council East for the Teaching Museum traineeship to be co-ordinated by Norfolk Museums Service. He asked how she felt it would help with tourism in the area. Councillor Mrs Nockolds confirmed that the Council had excellent partnership working with the Museums Service, owning a number of objects in the museums, which the County service kept maintained. She considered that especially with the enhanced bus station almost complete she was sure more people would be encouraged to attend the museum. She reminded Members that there was a special arrangement whereby residents of the Borough had free admission from October to March.

Councillor J Collop drew attention to a point raised by a constituent who had seen a promotional leaflet published by the County Council for Norfolk, which only made reference to West Norfolk by referring to a Royal residence, but no other promotional information. He asked why the opportunity appeared to have been missed as nothing else was mentioned. Councillor Mrs Nockolds explained that there were many guides for King's Lynn and West Norfolk delivered across the Country, the Borough was also part of visitnorfolk.com. She was not aware of the guide he referred to but undertook to raise the matter with the Tourism Team.

Councillor Crofts asked for an update on the GEAR race which appeared to be a continuing success, and whether the children's race was taking place this year. Councillor Mrs Nockolds informed Council that following comments from Parents, the Mini Gear Race, which had over 1,000 young people registered to date, would take place before the main race this year. Bepak had pledged £800 to the school with the highest percentage of entrants to Mini Gear. There were also 2,200 people registered for the main race, which was a record number.

Councillor Mrs Watson expressed pleasure that the pontoons in King's Lynn had been fully booked over Easter, and asked if there were any plans to extend them. Councillor Mrs Nockolds drew attention to the increasing numbers of people asking for information about the Pontoons, including repeat visitors. She referred to the special events held in the town which often encouraged people to sail along the river, and if elected, she commented that the Group would look to continue to try to improve the waterfront.

Councillor A Tyler asked if Councillor Nockolds felt that those Volunteers at the Mayor's Volunteer Awards and other volunteers deserved a big pat on the back for their efforts. Councillor Mrs Nockolds wholeheartedly agreed, and reminded Members that many projects wouldn't happen without volunteers.

Councillor Howman asked whether the cost of the pontoons was providing value for money for the council tax payer. Councillor Mrs Nockolds reminded Council that most things involved the cost up front and take time to be well known and utilised. She commented that those people using the Pontoons also shopped in the town and used the restaurants and other businesses.

Councillor Loveless commended the new cycle racks, which had been installed in the town centre and asked if other places in the town were likely to be considered, such as Broad Street and New Conduit Street. He also made reference to the repairs to the road along the Quay in advance of the Gear Race. Councillor Mrs Nockolds confirmed she would always encourage cycle racks throughout the town to provide safe places to lock bicycles.

ii) **Councillor Mrs V Spikings - Development**

Councillor Mrs Spikings presented her report. Councillor Foster asked if the Portfolio Holder was happy that the information submitted in the LDF documentation was correct. Councillor Mrs Spikings confirmed she was, the document had been submitted on 22 April and the Inspector was to be Mr David Haggar.

iii) **Councillor A Lawrence – Housing and Community**

Councillor Lawrence presented his report. Councillor J Collop asked for a comment on the Right to Move. Councillor Lawrence commented that it was another string to the bow of the authority, offering the chance to work with other local authorities.

Councillor Joyce asked what impact the 1% letting requirement would have. Councillor Lawrence commented that he did not know at this stage what the uptake would be, the matter was still out to consultation which would end on 8 May. If he was Portfolio Holder after the elections he undertook to let Members know more.

Councillor J Collop commented that under Homechoice there were still increasing numbers, and the new initiative would continue to add more to the register. Councillor Lawrence responded that some month's numbers fluctuated, but ultimately if 2,500 more homes could be provided it would be possible to solve the issue. Those on the Register were allocated a priority, some higher than others.

Councillor Collis asked if the decrease in numbers on the Register were due to the changes in the policy which removed people from the list. Councillor Lawrence confirmed that there were a number of reasons why the list had decreased, with some being removed due to changes in the policy, but also others having found accommodation.

iv) **Councillor D Pope – ICT Leisure and Public Space**

Councillor Pope presented his report. Councillor Loveless, in commending the new Trim Trail which was to be installed at Lynnsport, asked whether it would be possible to replicate the Walks Parkour course at Lynnsport. Councillor Pope informed Members that the Trim Trail would be available for public use. He responded that it was unlikely in the foreseeable future for a second Parkour site to be available as the funding obtained for the last one would be unlikely to be available or awarded externally. Councillor Loveless also sought clarification on the breakdown between Alive Leisure Trust and Alive Management. Councillor Pope explained that the Trust dealt with programming and administration of the facilities and Alive Management dealt with the upkeep of the premises and utilities.

Councillor Mrs Leamon asked if the Trim Trail would be free to use, Councillor Pope responded that would be the decision of the Trust.

Councillor J Collop asked when information on Alive Leisure operations would be available for Members knowledge. Councillor Pope explained that the Trust had been running for 7 months and was working well.

Councillor Loveless asked if there was any information relating to attendance figures for the circus in the Walks. Councillor Pope reminded Members that it was a private enterprise so no figures were available, but it had been popular. Councillor A Tyler asked if the circus on Council land permitted performing animals. Councillor Pope confirmed that performing animals were not permitted in circuses on Council land.

Councillor A Tyler asked for an update on the ICT Development Group. Councillor Pope updated that there were a number of issues being dealt with, some of which were the final arrangements for new Members IT.

Councillor Tilbury asked if consideration had been given to introducing parking charges at Lynnsport, even if it were for a minimal amount. He considered that a considerable additional income could be gained from the charges, or people could walk or cycle from within the town. Councillor Pope responded that he thought potentially it was a good idea, but did not know if it would be adopted due to the number of users who came in from the rural areas.

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

Councillor Beales presented his report. There were no questions.

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

Councillor Lord Howard presented his report. Councillor Loveless commented that he felt a better way of writing the comment on the bus station clock would have been that the Clock was given to the town by the Civic Society. Councillor Lord Howard accepted the comment.

Councillor A Tyler asked when the work to the bus station would be completed. Councillor Beales, within whose portfolio the question fell, responded that it was 16 weeks into a 22 week programme of works.

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

Councillor Long presented his report. Councillor Collins, in referring to the cancellation of the Material Works contract, asked if full due diligence on the company's finances had been carried out would the current situation be the same. Councillor Long responded that due diligence was undertaken, and the contract did not cost the Council, unlike the Waste Contract at Norfolk County Council.

Councillor Pitcher responded that in a meeting with officers he and Councillor Langwade had asked and been told it hadn't been completed because it hadn't been possible to get the draw down figures from Material Works. Councillor Long informed Council that the terms and conditions of the contract were not met within the required timescale, so the contract had been terminated in a delegated decision taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and himself. He considered that the technology was worth investigating and was better than what was in place or proposed at that time. He reminded Members that the Regeneration, Environment and Community Panel had the information presented to them, which Councillor Pitcher had been party to, so should have seen it.

Councillor Loveless commended the use of Community Payback for the painting carried out in Hunstanton and the Walks prior to that. He commented that the recycling bins they may have painted were badly labelled. He asked that they and those at Lynnsport showed what could be recycled in them. Councillor Long responded that he was still

not convinced that the bins would not get badly contaminated. Instructions had to be kept short and simple. He undertook to inquire of the operatives who emptied those bins as to the level of contamination in them.

Councillor McGuinness sought clarification as to the need to rinse recycled materials before putting them in the green bin, and whether it was just for the prevention of vermin. Councillor Long explained that the Norfolk Waste Partnership as a whole had decided to request people to wash the recycling before it was put in the bins as it was for the benefit of those dealing with the recycling. He reminded Members that the most important thing was not to bag the recycling but keep it loose in the bin.

Councillor Bubb asked if the recycling on the go rate had been investigated at Sandringham. Councillor Long responded that it was a private business so was not aware of their rates.

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

Councillor Daubney presented his report. Councillor Mrs Smeaton asked why the Leader had posted on social media that a UKIP Member was being expelled from the Borough Council. Councillor Daubney responded that it was what he believed at the time, but was not actually the case.

Councillor Humphreys commended the budget discipline which had been in existence across the authority with staff seeking and implementing cost savings and efficiencies. He suggested that staff be thanked for their help in the Administration achieving its goals throughout the last 4 years. In particular, he asked whether the Leader would also like to thank David Thomason, Deputy Chief Executive who was retiring on 30 April 2015.

Councillor Daubney responded that when the Administration had put in place a commitment that it wouldn't raise Council Tax above inflation they hadn't envisaged that local government finances would be cut to the degree that they had been. The associated cuts to the Council's funding could only have been accommodated with the help and co-ordination of the Management Team and the middle managers, and specifically David Thomason in his finance role.

Councillor J Collop concurred with the words of praise for David Thomason who he and his Group had always found helpful to opposition Groups. Councillor Moriarty proposed a round of applause for David Thomason, which Council then proceeded to do.

Councillor J Collop drew attention to the cuts in funding which had resulted in the College's proposal to close its children's nursery, and the amount of money which had been taken out of the economy

generally. Councillor Daubney responded that given the financial situation the College had found itself in; they had made remarkable efforts to regain its financial position.

Councillor A Tyler wished to pass on his and Councillor S Collop's thanks to the officers who had supported the King's Lynn Area Consultative Committee during its young life. He also asked Councillor Daubney whether any money had been given by the Borough for the Boston Big Local Group. Councillor Daubney responded that the King's Lynn Area Consultative Committee had been working constructively during the year. He explained that no money had been given to Boston, but the Boston Big Local was where Boston had been awarded a considerable sum of money by the Government for community cohesion purposes. They were planning to join the Hanse Group as part of that.

Councillor Foster asked the Leader if he was proud of the Administration's performance in the last 4 years, which the Leader confirmed he was. Councillor Foster went on to list the matters which the LDF documentation stated needed to be addressed for the area. In response Councillor Daubney criticised the stance taken by Councillor Foster.

Councillor Mrs Wright drew Council's attention to the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hanse celebrations which included the involvement of the children from Whitefriar's School. Councillor Daubney informed Members that the celebrations starting on 15 May would be bigger and better than ever. The event included a Hanse Business Conference which to date had 70 businesses subscribed with keynote speakers and representatives from Germany.

C108: **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

None

C109: **CABINET: 31 MARCH 2015**

It was proposed by Councillor Daubney, and seconded by Councillor Long that the recommendations from the meeting on 31 March 2015 be approved.

With regard to CAB175: Review of The King's Lynn Area Consultative Committee, Councillor J Collop stated that when originally set up he believed that consideration would be given to the evolution of the Committee. Councillor Daubney responded that the Committee was a valuable part of the process, and he felt it would evolve over the course of time.

Councillor Collis proposed an amendment in that “the decision be deferred and that the topic be given further consideration by the Council following the 7 May elections”.

He considered that the proposed recommendations sold the residents of King’s Lynn short and the proposals were inadequate as they implied it would remain the same for the next 4 years. He considered it wrong that the Council were considering the matter at this stage as it should be deferred in order for consideration after the elections, when a fresh look at the parishing of King’s Lynn could also be undertaken.

Councillor J Collop seconded the amendment, as he felt that the lack of a parish was a bone of contention for the people of King’s Lynn as they should have a say on how Special Expenses were spent.

Councillor A Tyler commented that he was pleased to have got so far with the Committee, which he was honoured to Chair. He stated he was in favour of parishing of King’s Lynn and would therefore support the idea for it to be considered in the new Council year.

Councillor McGuinness, in supporting the amendment, drew attention to the discussions held in his ward in West Lynn regarding special expenses, where they had been told that, if parished, West Lynn could have sought match funding for the County Council for money put forward by the parish.

Councillor Long commented that the precept raised in many towns and parishes was far in excess of the King’s Lynn Special Expenses. He considered that to defer it at this stage would be wrong, and no comments had been received before now. Any new Administration could change the decision after six months if it chose to do so.

Councillor Mrs Bambridge commented that she had never been asked by a constituent about a parish or town council for King’s Lynn.

Councillor Daubney commented that he was disappointed that some people in unparished areas felt they were not being represented. He drew attention to the fact that the West Lynn Forum had previously had it suggested to them that they formed a Parish Council, but they had declined to do so. He reminded Members that he had supported and put resources into the work of the King’s Lynn Area Consultative Committee and King’s Lynn. He urged Members not to vote in favour of the amendment.

<b>For the Amendment</b>	<b>Against the Amendment</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
R Bird	L Bambridge	C Joyce
A Collins	A Beales	
D J Collis	P Beal	
J Collop	A Bubb	



S Collop	M Chenery of Horsbrugh	
P Foster	J Collingham	
G Howman	P Cousins	
J Leamon	C Crofts	
G McGuinness	N Daubney	
J Moriarty	I Gourlay	
M Pitcher	M Hopkins	
L Scott	G Howard	
S Smeaton	M Howland	
A Tyler	H Humphrey	
M Wilkinson	A Lawrence	
	B Long	
	J Loveless	
	A Lovett	
	T Manley	
	C Manning	
	A Morrison	
	E Nockolds	
	M Peake	
	D Pope	
	C Sampson	
	S Sandell	
	V Spikings	
	M Storey	
	J M Tilbury	
	D Tyler	
	G Wareham	
	E Watson	
	D Whitby	
	A White	
	A Wright	
	T Wright	
<b>15</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1</b>

The amendment was lost, and the substantive motion agreed.

The following recommendations were approved without debate:

CAB178: Planning Scheme of Delegation – Update

CAB179: Scheme of Delegation – Update

**RESOLVED:** That the recommendations from the Cabinet meeting held on 31 March 2015, as amended be adopted

C110: **CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE : 14 APRIL 2015**

There were no recommendations from the above Committee.

C111: **NOTICE OF MOTION**

Cllr McGuinness presented the following Notice of Motion (1/15), seconded by Councillor J Collop:

“Council asks its appointed representative on the College of West Anglia Board of Governors to work with the College Management Team to enable the Applewood Children’s Nursery, currently operated by the College to remain open as a vital facility used by students and staff of the College.”

Councillor McGuinness declared a personal interest in the matter as his son attended the nursery.

Councillor McGuinness, in speaking to the Notice of Motion, commented that the proposal to close the nursery by the College of West Anglia in an effort to save £2m was against the aspiration to improve educational achievement. He acknowledged that education was beyond the authority of the Borough Council, but it had at times exceeded that responsibility. He explained that he had attended a meeting with the Principal on the matter as the proposal would hit mostly young mothers who would be forced to quit college due to no child care. He urged the Council to support the motion.

Councillor Daubney drew attention to the item in his report on the subject, and commented that he was in agreement with much of what Councillor McGuinness had said. He was going to propose a small amendment to the Motion in order to try to achieve the goal. The amended Motion would read as follows:

“Council asks the Leader, as its appointed representative on the College of West Anglia Board of Governors to continue to work with the College Management Team to enable the Applewood Children’s Nursery, currently operated by the College to remain open as a vital facility used by students and staff of the College.”

This amendment was agreed by Councillor McGuinness, and on being put to the vote it was agreed.

**RESOLVED:** That the amended Notice of Motion be adopted.

**The Meeting closed at 8.04 pm**