

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

COUNCIL

Minutes from the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 9th July, 2020 at 3.00 pm in a Remote Meeting on Zoom and available for the public to view on WestNorfolkBC on You Tube - Zoom and You Tube

PRESENT: Councillor G Hipperson (Chair)

Councillors B Ayres, Miss L Bambridge, J Bhondi, R Blunt, F Bone, C Bower, A Bubb, A Bullen, Mrs J Collingham, S Collop, C J Crofts, S Dark, M de Whalley, I Devereux, A Dickinson, P Gidney, A Holmes, Lord Howard, M Howland, G Howman, C Hudson, H Humphrey, B Jones, C Joyce, A Kemp, J Kirk, P Kunes, A Lawrence, B Lawton, B Long, J Lowe, C Manning, G Middleton, J Moriarty, C Morley, S Nash, E Nockolds, T Parish, S Patel, J Ratcliffe, C Rose, J Rust, A Ryves, C Sampson, S Sandell, Mrs V Spikings, S Squire, M Storey, D Tyler, D Whitby and M Wilkinson

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Beal, J Collop and A Tyler

C:80 WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

The Mayor welcomed all to the meeting and explained that it was being broadcast live on you tube.

The Democratic Services Manager carried out a roll call of Members present.

C:81 PRAYERS

Prayers were led by Rev Canon Adrian Ling.

C:82 MINUTES

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

C:83 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

C:84 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor sent best wishes to Councillor John Collop for a speedy recovery.

C:85 URGENT BUSINESS

The Mayor proposed to bring forward to this point in the agenda the two cabinet recommendations which were at the end of the agenda. This was agreed.

C:86 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL BODIES**

i **Cabinet: 20 May 2020**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

Councillor Long proposed and Councillor Mrs Nockolds seconded the recommendation in **CAB130: Future High Streets Fund - King's Lynn.**

In debating the item, some concerns were raised as to the future of the existing library in King's Lynn to which it was explained that the Borough would be actively working with the County Council to encourage continued use of the building.

Concern was also raised as to the protection of the South Gates to ensure they weren't damaged by traffic.

RESOLVED: The recommendation was agreed.

ii **Urgent Cabinet recommendation from 30 June 2020**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

Councillor Long proposed and Councillor Mrs Nockolds seconded the recommendations within **CAB142: Urgent update to standing orders relating to Covid 19.**

RESOLVED: The recommendations were approved.

C:87 **MATTERS CARRIED OVER FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

The following items had been deferred from the previous meeting:

Cabinet recommendations from 4 February 2020

CAB97: Notice of Motion 5/19 Cllr de Whalley – Climate Change

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

The Monitoring Officer informed Council that at the end of the previous meeting Councillor de Whalley had proposed an amendment which was seconded by Councillor Ryves, which was where the debate had to recommence.

With permission of Council Councillor de Whalley withdrew his amendment and moved a further amendment as follows, this was seconded by Councillor Rust:

1) That officers be requested to prepare a climate change policy and separate climate change and biodiversity strategies with action plans, including habitat and pollinator action plans, to be published no later than by the Council Tax setting for 2021/2022 and subject to an active six-monthly review mechanism.

2) That the Council fully recognise the evolving climate and biodiversity crisis and its own duty of care to protect human life by taking actions that are both possible and proportionate to include declaring a climate and ecological emergency. That without prejudice to its own statutory services the Borough Council works towards Borough Council carbon footprint neutrality and net zero district carbon emissions; the dates will be determined taking into account emerging policies at the national and local level with significant progress made by 2030, but not beyond 2040 (sooner if practicably possible) to comply with our fair share of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change commitment to staying 'well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C' global temperature rise above pre-industrial levels.

3) The current 12 month UEA post should be extended to a temporary 2 year fixed term post.

The amendment was debated. Councillor Parish, with the required number of supporters requested a recorded vote on the amendment.

For the amendment	Against the amendment	Abstain
J Bhondi	B Ayres	A Bullen
F Bone	L Bambridge	M Howland
S Collop	R Blunt	
A Holmes	C Bower	
G Howman	A Bubb	
C Hudson	J Collingham	
B Jones	C Crofts	
C Joyce	S Dark	
A Kemp	I Devereux	
B Lawton	A Dickinson	
J Moriarty	P Gidney	
C Morley	G Hipperson	
S Nash	H Humphrey	
T Parish	J Kirk	

J Ratcliff	P Kunes	
C Rose	A Lawrence	
J Rust	B Long	
A Ryves	J Lowe	
S Squire	C Manning	
M de Whalley	G Middleton	
	E Nockolds	
	S Patel	
	C Sampson	
	S Sandell	
	V Spikings	
	M Storey	
	D Tyler	
	D Whitby	
20	28	2

The amendment was lost.

Councillor Long proposed the substantive motion which was seconded by Councillor Nockolds.

Clarification was sought as to whether the term Intern in recommendation 3 was a paid post, to which it was confirmed it was. Therefore it was suggested that the term should be Post, rather than Intern. This was accepted.

Councillor Parish, with the required number of supporters requested a recorded vote on the substantive motion.

For the Substantive	Against substantive	the	Abstain
B Ayres			A Bullen
L Bambridge			B Lawton
J Bhondi			C Morley
R Blunt			T Parish
F Bone			
C Bower			
A Bubb			
J Collingham			
S Collop			
C Crofts			

S Dark		
I Devereux		
A Dickinson		
P Gidney		
G Hipperson		
A Holmes		
G Howard		
M Howland		
G Howman		
C Hudson		
H Humphrey		
B Jones		
C Joyce		
A Kemp		
J Kirk		
P Kunes		
A Lawrence		
B Long		
J Lowe		
C Manning		
G Middleton		
J Moriarty		
S Nash		
E Nockolds		
S Patel		
J Ratcliff		
C Rose		
J Rust		
A Ryves		
C Sampson		
S Sandell		
S Squire		
V Spikings		
M Storey		
D Tyler		
M de Whalley		
D Whitby		
47	0	4

The Substantive motion (amended to say post not Intern) was carried.

CAB98: Notice of Motion 4/19 – Cllr Kemp – Hardings Way

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

Councillor Long proposed the Cabinet recommendations, seconded by Councillor Nockolds

Councillor Kemp proposed the following amendment to the recommendation which was advised by the Monitoring Officer as not a valid amendment.

“Recently published research shows how important open spaces are to people’s physical and mental health during lockdown and recommends more recreational spaces and the greening of urban streets to promote health and take the strain off the NHS. Council therefore agrees to pause the Cabinet decision to bring traffic onto Hardings Way South, pending a full health enquiry into why West Norfolk had the worst impact of Covid in Norfolk, and the 14th highest infection rate in local tier authorities, because Council understands how important the wide first 125 metres of Hardings Way as a recreational space are, enabling social distancing, and fulfilling an important health function for Lynn’s urban town centre and for South and West Lynn which were reported as having the highest rate of Covid deaths in the Borough.”

Council debated Councillor Long’s substantive motion and at the request of Councillor Parish with the required number of supporters a recorded vote was taken.

For the substantive	Against the substantive	Abstain
B Ayres	J Bhondi	C Rose
L Bambridge	F Bone	S Squire
R Blunt	A Bullen	
C Bower	S Collop	
A Bubb	A Holmes	
J Collingham	G Howman	
C Crofts	C Hudson	
S Dark	B Jones	
I Devereux	C Joyce	
A Dickinson	A Kemp	
P Gidney	B Lawton	
G Hipperson	J Moriarty	
M Howland	S Nash	
H Humphrey	T Parish	
J Kirk	J Ratcliff	
P Kunes	J Rust	
A Lawrence	A Ryves	
B Long	M de Whalley	
J Lowe	M Wilkinson	
C Manning		
G Middleton		
E Nockolds		
S Patel		
C Sampson		
S Sandell		
V Spikings		
D Tyler		

D Whitby		
28	19	2

The Cabinet recommendation was carried.

At 4.30pm a short recess was held, Council reconvened at 4.40pm, whereupon a roll call was taken.

CAB99: Notice of Motion 6/19 Cllr Bone – Hardings Way

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

Councillor Long proposed the recommendations in CAB99, seconded by Councillor Nockolds.

Councillor Joyce proposed the following amendment which was advised by the Monitoring Officers as invalid. Councillor Long declined to accept the wording:

With the exceptions of public utilities, blue lights services, flood defence agencies and those acting on the Council's own instructions, the Council will not permit nor allow any whatsoever third party motorised vehicle access to any and all land to the East of Hardings Way in South Lynn that is in the Council's ownership.

Council debated the recommendation.

At the request of Councillor Parish, with the required number of supporters, a recorded vote was taken:

For the substantive	Against the substantive	Abstain
B Ayres	J Bhondi	F Bone
L Bambridge	A Bullen	C Rose
R Blunt	S Collop	A Ryves
C Bower	A Holmes	S Squire
A Bubb	G Howman	
J Collingham	C Hudson	
C Crofts	B Jones	
S Dark	C Joyce	
I Devereux	A Kemp	
A Dickinson	B Lawton	
P Gidney	J Moriarty	
G Hipperson	C Morley	
M Howland	S Nash	
H Humphrey	T Parish	
J Kirk	J Ratcliff	
P Kunes	J Rust	
A Lawrence	M de Whalley	
B Long	M Wilkinson	

J Lowe		
C Manning		
G Middleton		
E Nockolds		
S Patel		
C Sampson		
S Sandell		
V Spikings		
D Tyler		
D Whitby		
28	18	4

The Cabinet recommendation was carried.

CAB104: Hunstanton Coastal Management Plan

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

Councillor Long proposed the recommendations, seconded by Councillor Devereux.

The recommendations were agreed unanimously.

CAB106: Nar Valley Phase 4 (Traditional Build)

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

A discussion took place on whether any debate on this issue should be held in exempt session. Members were reminded not to raise any exempt information whilst in open session.

Councillor Long proposed the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Nockolds, explaining that the option of modular building on the site was no longer possible. Council debated the recommendation, and it was put to the vote. The recommendation was carried with Councillor Rust's abstention noted.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations from the Cabinet meeting on 4 February 2020 be approved with the minor amendment to CAB97.

C:88

PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Mayor invited the following public questioners to pose their questions:

1) Amanda Bosworth

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

In its letter of 29 June addressed to King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council and Hunstanton Town Council, the Hunstanton and District Civic Society outlined a number of serious local

concerns about the sudden, unforeseen closure of the Tourist Information Centre and the decision to replace it with an unmanned space in the Coal Shed Gallery displaying a selection of free pamphlets.

Issues raised include access, monitoring, safety, hygiene - but the fundamental issue for us as a coastal resort is the loss of a service that provides information and advice both for local residents and for the thousands of visitors to the town.

Hunstanton is lauded as the borough's "Jewel in the Crown" and it simply does not make sense to close the highly valued, very well used TIC at the exact moment when restrictions are being lifted and the local economy is trying to recover post-Covid, particularly in view of country-wide efforts to welcome tourism and encourage staycations.

May I ask what steps this Council is willing to take to resolve the issues highlighted in the letter?

Councillor Nockolds gave the following response:

“At the time of the meeting with Hunstanton Town Council on June 2nd, at which we supported the idea that the Town Hall is not suitable under COVID 19 regulations, it wasn't clear which businesses such as the Oasis or Library would be open in time for housing the TIC.

At that meeting we had 2 Options

1. Just rely on visitors using our updated visit west norfolk web-site or phone App.
2. Set up a temporary Tourist Information Centre (T.I.C) in Hunstanton for this season.

A quick decision had to be made. We all agreed that although a huge majority of the visitors would use our web-site, we would transform the Coal Shed Gallery into a T.I.C, which is at the edge of the largest car park in Hunstanton.

Within the next few days after the meeting the building was inspected for Health & Safety issues, such as accessibility, cleanliness and security.

To prepare the building for opening, we expect it to be next week, has taken a while. The main reason is that many of our staff are redeployed into other departments to support the vulnerable or shielding and working from home.

A ramp has been ordered, CCTV is installed and signage is being produced which will includes information on social distancing, stay alert and protect yourself. Hand sanitizer will be available too. Our

Tourism Manager has been producing literature especially designed for installing in the Gallery.

I totally understand your thoughts and comments about having an unmanned Tourist Information Point. We are in very difficult times which will have ongoing effects for at least a year. Some people are frightened to leave their homes after Being sheltered for 3 months. I often meet people who are very concerned about going back to work or shopping.

I firmly believe the scheme we are promoting, approved by Government and marketed by Visit Britain, 'Know before You Go', is the right and important one.

In view of the availability of our web-site and the wide public usage of digital information the TIC is at the moment a secondary source of information. The moving of the TIC into a new Library building in the future will establish it into a permanent location.

I would encourage every business in Hunstanton and around to publicise themselves on the visit west-norfolk web-site.

By way of supplementary Mrs Bosworth drew attention to the average age of the population and visitors of Hunstanton and the potential for no access to the internet. She asked for the Civic society to be consulted on any permanent move.

Councillor Mrs Nockolds drew attention to the number of TICs around the country that had closed, she was keen to produce leaflets for visitors and encouraged Hunstanton businesses to advertise via the visit west-norfolk website, which she was particularly grateful for during this time.

2) Daphne Sampson

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

One spin-off of the pandemic is that we have seen major behaviour changes. Some of this will be short term but many people are at present prepared to change their habits in terms of using cars far less as president of the AA has pointed out. In January I had a conversation with the Leader of the Council where he was very positive about the council taking a real lead in promoting changes of behaviour, by running an advertising campaign linked to directly climate change, for example with posters on bus shelter hoardings.

While being very aware of the extra workload that the council have had through the height of the COVID crisis and grateful for all the work done, please could we have an update on whether this advertising campaign is in the pipeline, or could be soon, through the Borough Council alone or in conjunction with the County Council- at a time when people have shown that they are prepared

to make changes and when it is so very urgent that we do so?

Councillor Long gave the following response;

“Thank you for your question. We are currently preparing our climate change strategy. This will come to Council in either September or October. If agreed, we will certainly be promoting this once we have the capacity following the Covid-19 pandemic.”

3) Robert Shippey

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

West Norfolk must "build back better" in a post-Covid world, both in environmental and economic terms, while also facing the Climate Crisis.

2050 for net-zero is "too little, too late" to avoid the catastrophic effects envisaged by the likes of David Attenborough and countless climate experts. An optimistic target of 2030 would focus the council's energy and expertise towards a greener and fairer future for all people, positioning our area as 'leading the way'.

Do the leaders of our council share in this ambition to make West Norfolk a leader in the country in terms of tackling the climate crisis?

Councillor Long gave the following response:

“Thank you for your question. I do not disagree with you. Our carbon strategy will come to Council in September or October as I have previously said. This will hopefully start us on a journey to achieve your requirements.”

4) Dr Pallavi Devulapalli – the question was read in her absence

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The Covid crisis has occupied us but the climate and biodiversity crisis is far from over, and is indeed making itself felt with greater urgency every passing year. If current trends continue unchecked, West Norfolk is at risk of flash floods, droughts, crop failures and water scarcity.

Will the council take the opportunity of Cllr Devereux's standing down as Cabinet member and Environment portfolio holder to replace him with someone who has a good grasp of this all-important issue which will become increasingly important in the foreseeable future?

The new candidate must be a knowledgeable and approachable person who is able to work with the very many concerned individuals, groups and bodies in West Norfolk, and work towards a greener, more habitable and pleasant West Norfolk that is fit for future generations to live in.

Councillor Long gave the following response:

Thank you for your question. I will be giving careful consideration to the appointment. In the interim I will be covering the environmental issues but I will consider creating a portfolio for carbon reduction working outside of our traditional environment portfolio.

5) Brenda Kent – the question was read in her absence

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

I note that this meeting of the full council is due to start at 3pm on a weekday rather than in the evening. I would like to point out respectfully that other organisations have succeeded in holding virtual meetings in the evening so my question is as follows:

Has the council done an audit to check whether or not holding full council meetings during the day negatively impacts on local democracy by excluding, due to daytime work or other commitments, a disproportionate number of councillors from any section of the council, for example the opposition, thereby leaving wards unrepresented?

I am sorry that I am unable to ask my question personally via Zoom as I myself have an online teaching commitment at this time.

Councillor Long gave the following response:

“Thank you for your question. This change was taken as an emergency measure without which no meeting could happen. Covid-19 has had a huge impact on how we have to work as a council. Our meeting is now more accessible than before. It can be watched on You-Tube repeatedly at your convenience.”

C:89 CABINET MEMBERS REPORTS

i Business Development - Councillor G Middleton

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

Councillor Middleton presented his report. He responded to questions on funding for businesses in the area, the KLIC loan and the fact the

Council now owned the building and had taken over management of it. He responded to questions on the potential for innovative new products and the lack of suitable move on accommodation for businesses, the provision of which he explained would be moving on the NORA Enterprise Zone site in the coming weeks as building progressed. In response to a question regarding the need for the strategic approach to be linked with and benefiting the educational offer for the area, He confirmed that the first unit was for a science lab business, and explained he had not included all information that had been ongoing during the previous months, but pointed members to the web site to see the assistance being given to businesses.

Councillor Middleton also responded that it had been a conscious decision not to place barriers in the town centre as this would make life more difficult for the businesses trying to operate.

RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE TO SIT AFTER 3 HOURS

At 6.00pm Councillor Moriarty proposed that the Council continue to sit after the 6.10 deadline. This was seconded by Councillor Kemp. This was debated, and with the required number of supporters a recorded vote was taken.

For continuing to sit	Against continuing to sit	Abstain
B Ayres	B Bambridge	S Dark
F Bone	R Blunt	G Hipperson
C Bower	A Bubb	H Humphrey
A Bullen	C Crofts	
S Collop	I Devereux	
A Holmes	A Dickinson	
G Howman	P Gidney	
B Jones	M Howland	
C Joyce	J Kirk	
A Kemp	P Kunes	
B Lawton	A Lawrence	
J Moriarty	B Long	
C Morley	J Lowe	
S Nash	C Manning	
T Parish	G Middleton	
J Ratcliff	E Nockolds	
C Rose	S Patel	
J Rust	C Sampson	
A Ryves	S Sandell	
S Squire	V Spikings	
M de Whalley	D Tyler	
M Wilkinson	D Whitby	
22	22	3

As the vote was tied it was put to the casting vote of the Mayor who voted in favour of continuing to sit.

RESOLVED: That Council continue to sit beyond the three hour mark.

At 6.18pm Council took a 10 minute recess and reconvened at 6.28pm.

ii **Commercial Services - Councillor P Kunes**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

Councillor Kunes presented his report. He informed Council that the number of mourners permitted at the crematorium for a funeral service had now increased to 30, and also that the Hardwick Cemetery bridge repairs should be carried out in the next week.

He responded to questions around the football club car park which was being resurfaced and pay and display installed, he undertook to ascertain whether charges would be in force whilst the Saturday morning park run was taking place; questions relating to leaving cemeteries wild; data handling issues by the Borough and an issue with taxi licensing details of which would be passed on to Councillor Kunes.

Councillor Kunes also accepted thanks from Members on behalf of staff who were working during the Covid Pandemic.

iii **Covid 19 and Emergency Planning - Councillor S Dark**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

Councillor Dark presented his report. He thanked all key and essential workers across the board for their work, and Councillors for their communication of key messages during the recent months. He explained that if a further outbreak occurred local outbreak control would have to be introduced.

Councillor Dark responded to questions on the opening of play parks as soon as safely possible, he undertook to ascertain if the Borough could procure sanitising gel in bulk on behalf of parishes. He confirmed that the level of garden waste had increased during lockdown and undertook to ascertain if the level of residual waste had also increased. He also undertook to provide information on the breakdown of cases who had received urgent food parcels from the Borough response.

iv **Development - Councillor R Blunt**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

Councillor Blunt presented his report. He gave an update for the June application figures of 187. The Thornham Neighbourhood plan had gone out to consultation, and the new roundabout on the A47 at Broadend Road had been given the go ahead.

Councillor Blunt undertook to try to find a report on A10 traffic impact relating to West Winch.

v **Housing - Councillor A Lawrence**

Members were advised to email any questions to Councillor Lawrence as he had left the meeting.

vi **Project Delivery - Councillor P Gidney**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

Councillor Gidney presented his report, he corrected a typo in his report- Cowper place rather than Caper place.

He undertook to provide an update on the plans to extend the pontoons and the provision of services to boat users on the quay.

vii **Deputy Leader and Culture, Heritage and Health - Councillor Mrs E Nockolds**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

Councillor Mrs Nockolds presented her report and thanked all the staff who had been working during the pandemic, particularly those who had adapted to new roles many beyond the call of duty.

She responded to questions, confirming the need to respect social distancing and the need to provide information where required for test and trace purposes, along with condemnation of those who abuse any staff who are trying to carry out their jobs during this time.

Councillor Mrs Nockolds responded to a question on safety measures being undertaken in facilities to confirm they would be in compliance with Government guidelines. She responded to questions on beach safety and reminded members that some beaches were privately owned.

Following questions about health and working with partners, Councillor Nockolds confirmed partnership working with the County who were the lead authority on Health along with the CCG and other partners and

ongoing work to tackle deprivation in the area. She outlined some of the work being done in partnership with others on a health front.

viii **Leader and Resources - Councillor B Long**

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Councillor Long presented his report, he also asked for his thanks to be recorded to all staff and key workers for delivering the essential services required during the pandemic.

He thanked opposition members who offered support in lobbying for additional funding from Government. He responded to questions on the length of time since the last meeting, which was due to covid and the requirement for legislation to permit remote meetings along with the work required to get ready to hold them. He confirmed he had been studying the Devolution White Paper and confirmed that he supported a two tier approach with a body large enough to cope.

In response to a question on the increase in littering he deplored the fact that visitors left rubbish in their wake, when they should take it home or put it in bins. He also agreed to give an environmental update in his next report.

Following a question on why communications had ceased with the Independent Group, Councillor Long referred to accounts of the briefings appearing in the press soon afterwards which gave a negative outlook to the hospital which he wasn't prepared to support.

Following a statement decrying the comments made about the Independent Group releasing information, Councillor Long apologised if the comment had caused offence but reiterated the information had been released in a letter to the MP and the press.

He agreed to provide a written response to Councillor Ryves on the questions he had submitted on KLIC.

He responded to further questions confirming that the NHS or CCG would decide on any new doctors' surgeries, and that the money for the relief road for West Winch was part of the plan, and gaining the money to secure it was vital.

In response to a question He reminded Members of the answers to public questions that a climate change strategy was on its way, and responded that he thought that the process for dealing with complaints went through an Independent person.

C:90 **MEMBERS QUESTION TIME**

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Councillor Sampson, Chair of the Environment and Community Panel responded to a question about why the Panel's agenda was limited by reminding Members of the current situation and acknowledging that many of the staff who would prepare reports had been working directly on the covid response, but it would return to normal as soon as possible.

The meeting closed at 7.56 pm