

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

Minutes from the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 9th September, 2021 at 4.30 pm in the Assembly Room, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ

PRESENT: Councillor H Humphrey (Chair)
Councillors B Ayres, Miss L Bambridge, R Blunt, C Bower, A Bubb, A Bullen, Mrs J Collingham, J Collop, S Collop, C J Crofts, S Dark, M de Whalley, I Devereux, A Dickinson, P Gidney, G Hipperson, A Holmes, Lord Howard, G Howman, C Hudson, B Jones, C Joyce, A Kemp, J Kirk, P Kunes, A Lawrence, B Lawton, B Long, J Lowe, G Middleton, C Morley, S Nash, E Nockolds, S Patel, J Ratcliffe, C Rose, A Ryves, C Sampson, S Sandell, Mrs V Spikings, M Storey, A Tyler, D Tyler, D Whitby and M Wilkinson

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Beal, J Bhondi, F Bone, M Howland, C Manning, J Moriarty, T Parish, J Rust and S Squire

C:29 **THE LATE MRS JULIE MANNING**

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Following the sad death of former Mayoress Mrs Julie Manning, wife of Councillor Colin Manning, Council held a minutes silence in her memory.

C:30 **PRAYERS**

Prayers were led by Rev Canon Ling

C:31 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

C:32 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None

C:33 **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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The Mayor reported that he had sent a letter of condolence to Councillor Colin Manning following the sad death of his wife Julie.

The Mayor reported receipt of a letter of thanks from HM The Queen for the message of condolence sent on the death of the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Mayor invited Councillors to join him and members of RAF Marham on the walk for the March For Freedom following the Battle of Britain Service. It was taking place around the Walks in aid of the Wings Appeal and was replicating the many miles walked by prisoners of war.

C:34 **URGENT BUSINESS**

None

C:35 **PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

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The Mayor invited the following questioners under standing order 9:

Question from Paul Williamson

I am concerned about the level of light pollution, noise and car parking facilities for this site as the only access is via Beulah Street which already suffers from double parking how will the council address this problem.

Councillor S Sandell responded that the current car park accommodated parking for football matches, and the 3G pitch would often be used in the evenings. There was also parking in the main car park at Lynnsport. She commented that the noise level would be no different to normal football matches and lights would go out at 10pm. All the detail would be included and dealt with at the planning application stages.

By way of supplementary Mr Williamson commented on the decline of green space and the increase in flood risk. He asked what the Council was doing regarding setting up friends of parks groups which the Government were promoting, in order to protect the green spaces.

Councillor Sandell undertook to give a response in writing.

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Question from Sue Bruce

In September 2017 the council entered into an agreement with Fields in Trust to secure protection of River Lane playing fields for free recreational use. Residents are very concerned that it has been reported that the council are now considering developing a new 3G pitch on the site which could restrict the amount of green space available.

The cost of the proposal is £910,000 of which £660,000 is to be funded by the Football Foundation. Can you advise given that this is such a large amount of money how this money will be allocated and what is planned in regards to size and location of the planned pitch please.

In response, Councillor Sandell stated that the Fields in Trust had indicated that the use of the area for 3G use would be acceptable subject to appropriate applications being made to them. The development was equivalent of a football pitch which would not impede dog walking etc in the green spaces. She confirmed the external funding arrangements and that the CIL spending Panel had reviewed the project and were happy that the project fit their criteria.

By way of supplementary Ms Bruce drew attention to the additional smaller 3G pitches at Lynnsport. She drew attention to the need for space for people to undertake exercise. She asked why a 3G pitch was more important than undertakings given previously.

Councillor Sandell drew attention to the fact that the 3G pitch would be used for all manner of football, including by some schools. She undertook to email a response .

C:36

REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY

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Council was invited to review its proportionality following the Labour Group membership changing.

Councillor Dark, seconded by Councillor Joyce proposed an amendment to the report submitted in that the membership of the Appointments Board remaining as it currently was, with the Labour Group losing a seat on both the Licensing Committee and Licensing and Appeals Board to be replaced by an Independent seat and a Conservative seat.

RESOLVED: That proportionality be amended by the change of seats as follows:

That Labour lose 2 seats – 1 from the Licensing and Appeals Board and 1 from the Licensing Committee.

Those 2 seats to dealt with as follows:

- **Conservative Group to have the additional seat on the Licensing and Appeals Board**
- **Independent Group to have the additional seat on the Licencing Committee.**

C:37 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL BODIES**

i **Cabinet: 3 August 2021**

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Councillor Dark proposed and Councillor Middleton seconded **CAB26: Parkway**. Council debated the recommendations, and the changes proposed to the original proposal. Councillor J Collop suggested a more modest proposal on the site with more affordable homes. Councillor Joyce suggested that the proposal was too large for the area due to the access and egress arrangements for the site.

Councillor Long drew attention to the environmentally sustainable homes being built on the allocated site and the scaled down version of the scheme.

Councillor Hudson drew attention to the number of affordable homes and the level of air pollution in the Gaywood area and the need for another exit.

Councillor Ryves confirmed that the Borough needed to build homes, wasn't sure about the site, but thanked Cabinet for reconsidering the proposals.

Councillor Dark summed up and reminded members of the requirements on the Borough to provide homes, he demonstrated that Cabinet had listened to the concern raised on the original site. He drew attention to the green element of the proposed build.

Councillor de Whalley supported the changes to the original proposal, he drew attention to flood risk for the site and potential problems for the future.

Councillor A Tyler drew attention to the fact that he was trying to reflect residents views which people had indicated they didn't want more development.

Councillor Blunt reminded members that this was not a planning application, but asking for approval to take the allocated site forward. The planning committee would be considering the application.

Councillor Wilkinson asked what facilities such as doctors would be available for the properties.

With the required number of supporters, Councillor Jones requested a recorded vote.

For	Against	Abstain
B Ayres	J Collop	A Bullen

L Bambridge	S Collop	B Lawton
R Blunt	G Howman	A Ryves
C Bower	C Hudson	
A Bubb	B Jones	
J Collingham	C Joyce	
C Crofts	A Kemp	
S Dark	A Tyler	
I Devereux	M de Whalley	
A Dickinson	M Wilkinson	
P Gidney		
G Hipperson		
A Holmes		
Lord Howard		
H Humphrey		
J Kirk		
P Kunes		
A Lawrence		
B Long		
J Lowe		
G Middleton		
C Morley		
S Nash		
E Nockolds		
S Patel		
J Ratcliff		
C Rose		
C Sampson		
S Sandell		
V Spikings		
M Storey		
D Tyler		
D Whitby		
33	10	3

The recommendations in CAB26 Parkway were approved.

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Councillor Dark, seconded by Councillor Middleton moved recommendations **CAB27: Members Enquiries Inbox**. Council debated the recommendation. Clarification was sought from Councillor Howman on where some elements should be directed. Councillor Morley suggested that some of the wording could be refined to make it clear where questions not dealt with by Members enquiries should be sent. Councillor de Whalley explained he often went direct to the officer if it was time critical.

Councillor Dark assured members the wording would be clear, and on being put to the vote it was agreed.

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Councillor Dark, seconded by Councillor Middleton proposed **CAB28: Council Meetings Interim Arrangements**. In doing so Councillor Dark proposed that an amendment be made to the recommendation: “that delegated authority to agree the timings of meetings be given to the Chief Executive in consultation with Group Leaders”.

On being put to the vote the amended recommendations were agreed.

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Councillor Dark, seconded by Councillor Middleton proposed recommendations **CAB29: Appointment of a Monitoring Officer to the Borough Council**. Council debated the proposals and on being put to the vote, the recommendations were agreed.

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Councillor Dark, seconded by Councillor Middleton proposed **CAB30: Councillor Community Grant Scheme**. Councillor Kemp disagreed with the scheme and suggested the money be spent in other budgets. Councillors Howman, Joyce and Long supported the proposal. Councillor Ryes suggested it was run as part of council services, and Councillor Morley questioned the administrative cost of the scheme and the ceasing of it at election time.

Councillor Dark confirmed it would not be in operation during purdah, and Councillors in adjoining wards could merge their budgets for larger schemes. He confirmed that the scheme would be reviewed to ascertain if it was working and if the funding was sufficient. On being put to the vote the recommendation was approved.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations from the 3 August 2021 Cabinet meeting as now amended be approved.

ii **Cabinet : 24 August 2021**

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Councillor Dark, seconded by Councillor Middleton proposed **CAB37: King’s Lynn Town Deal**. Councillors Joyce, A Tyler spoke in support of the proposal, Councillor Ryves supported the scheme and suggested his priorities for development. He expressed concern about the Guildhall proposals should the bid fail. Councillor Morley expressed concern at the lack of Member involvement in the overall scheme. Councillor Dark reminded Members that the Town Deal Scheme came under the Town Deal Board, with the Council as the delivering authority. He expressed the hope that this would be an enabler to draw in further investment in the future.

On being put to the vote the recommendation was approved.

RESOLVED: That the recommendation from the 24 August 2-21 Cabinet meeting be approved.

C:38

NOTICE OF MOTION

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The following Notice of Motion (3/21), was proposed by Councillor Kunes and seconded by Councillor Dark:

‘This Council has recognised the scientific and moral need to act decisively on ‘climate change’ for sometime and has introduced a portfolio, policy and measures to significantly reduce its impact on its carbon emissions and the environment, with an intent to support these going forward with a specific budget. It is now the right time with this Council focussed activity well underway for us to now declare a ‘climate emergency’ to magnify the global message of the need for action to local residents, businesses and partners in West Norfolk and signal our strong commitment to help them make positive changes.’

In proposing the Motion Councillor Kunes explained that proposing this now was as a clear plan of Action was now in place, there was a roadmap to achieve net zero by 2035. He acknowledged the need to engage with businesses and households to make reductions. He confirmed liaison with the Chamber of Commerce on the matter.

Councillor Joyce spoke on the Motion reminding members of the need to slow down the change in the climate and to follow the science.

Councillor de Whalley drew attention to the low lying elements West Norfolk and sea level increases. He commented on the corporate emissions that the action plan concentrated on. He encouraged public consultation and proposed an amendment that the motion includes a commensurate commitment in staffing and resources rather than specific budget.

Councillor Kemp seconded the amendment and commented that the strategy and Action Plan didn’t go far enough, and the Council should provide district heating using creative methods such as utilising the Ouse.

Councillor Ryves supported the amendment reminding Members of the need to educate the community, and that a proportion of the new Communication officers time be spent on that.

Councillor A Tyler sought clarification of who would decide what commensurate was.

Councillor de Whalley summed up in that it would make it clear that sufficient resources were being allocated to the climate emergency.

On being put to the vote the amendment was lost.

Councillor Morley made comments from Councillor Parish who was not present.

In summing up Councillor Dark drew attention to the importance of the position of declaring the Climate Emergency. He drew attention to the work done so far, and that planned, and drew attention that they wouldn't declare until the full extent was known. He drew attention to the forthcoming financial report coming to Cabinet which was allocating £1m of funding over a 4 year period to deliver on Climate Change.

Councillor Kunes drew attention to a proposal to hold an exhibition in the Corn Exchange on green issues which the public and businesses would be encouraged to attend.

With the required number of supporters Councillor Dark requested a recorded vote on the Motion.

For	Against	Abstain
B Ayres		R Lawton
L Bambridge		
R Blunt		
C Bower		
A Bubb		
A Bullen		
J Collingham		
J Collop		
S Collop		
C Crofts		
S Dark		
I Devereux		
A Dickinson		
P Gidney		
G Hipperson		
A Holmes		
Lord Howard		
G Howman		
C Hudson		
H Humphrey		
B Jones		
C Joyce		
A Kemp		
J Kirk		
P Kunes		
A Lawrence		
B Long		

J Lowe		
G Middleton		
C Morley		
S Nash		
E Nockolds		
S Patel		
J Ratcliff		
C Rose		
A Ryves		
C Sampson		
S Sandell		
V Spikings		
M Storey		
A Tyler		
D Tyler		
M de Whalley		
D Whitby		
M Wilkinson		
45	0	1

RESOLVED: That the Motion be carried.

C:39 **APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS**

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Council was invited to appoint to vacancies in outside bodies. The following nominations were made:

Southery and District IDB – Councillor Sampson
 Stoke Ferry IDB – Councillor Long
 Gaywood Fuel Allotment Trust – Councillor Mrs Wilkinson
 Downham Market Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel – Councillor C Rose
 William Cleave Educational Foundation – Councillor Mrs E Nockolds.

RESOLVED: That the above appointments be approved.

C:40 **CABINET MEMBERS REPORTS**

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Councillor Dark moved the following Cabinet Members reports en bloc:

Corporate Services - Councillor B Long
 Environment - Councillor P Kunes
 Development - Councillor R Blunt
 Finance – Councillor A Dickinson

Property – Councillor A Lawrence
People and Communities – Councillor S Sandell
Deputy Leader and Business, Culture & Heritage – Councillor G Middleton

Leader - Councillor S Dark

In the question time for Cabinet Members the following were responded to:

Councillor Lawrence responding to a question from Councillor Howman on the buy back of land sold at Fairstead – that it would have to go to Cabinet.

Councillor Kunes in responding to Councillor S Collop confirmed that some food waste had been put into back bins, and the operatives had been informed not to do so.

Councillor Kunes responded to a question from Councillor Devereux on the actions being taken to address carbon reduction across the rest of the borough. He confirmed that the Council's web site was being updated, and an exhibition was planned in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce and the LEP in the spring in the Corn Exchange to raise awareness of and sell products to reduce emissions. Keynote speakers would be invited to present. Businesses which were the major sources of pollution in the Borough were also being contacted to discuss their plans going forward.

Councillor Dickinson, in responding to a question from Councillor Morley on whether a priority based budget based on the corporate plan, was not aware of such a policy, as it was incumbent to prioritise statutory areas first. She agreed to look into the subject.

Councillor Blunt responded to a question from Councillor Crofts on the complexity of CIL. He explained he had been looking at the process which he was looking to simplify. Paper was to be taken to the CIL Spending Panel before its route through to Cabinet. He encouraged all members to remind their parishes and wards that they needed to be ready for the next round of bids.

Councillor Dickinson responded to Councillor Ryves regarding the target for reserves in that by the end of the four year period reserves would be diminished to the minimum advisory level, and there may be a deficit on the revenue budget.

Councillor Dickinson requested that Councillor Jones email the detail of the case of taking a long period of time to receive test and trace payments.

Councillor Lawrence answered Councillor Whitby's question regarding the level of occupation of Council owned premises by confirming that

all food and retail units and kiosks were occupied, with the exception of one, which was in the process of being advertised.

In response to a question from Councillor Lawton regarding an email regarding having trees available to plant whereas the trees may not be suitable for small gardens Councillor Kunes explained that the email was from the County Council not the Borough.

Following a question from Councillor A Tyler, Councillor Middleton confirmed he would absolutely encourage people to attend the weekends activities in King's Lynn.

Councillor D Tyler asked for views on the accelerated construction programme on NORA 4. Councillor Blunt firstly congratulated South Wootton Parish Council on their CIL funded project. He then confirmed he had visited the site and explained the new construction method being used to bring down the build time. He explained that the cost factors were still to be confirmed but they would be on the market by the end of the year.

Councillor Morley asked whether Councillor Kunes would look into the petitioning of the Government by parishes on the preference for off shore transmission networks from wind farms, as opposed to over land cables. Councillor Kunes undertook to investigate, but confirmed he had some cables installed close to his house which did not cause a lot of disruption.

Councillor Sam Sandell responded to a question from Councillor Nockolds on work carried out by Alive West Norfolk over the summer period with children and activities. She acknowledged that 18,500 children had attended schemes, with 26,460 attended activities overall. She concurred that they were doing an excellent job.

Following a question from Councillor Ryves on the County Wildlife Team on the Parkway site, Councillor Kunes reported he had not received a reply from the person dealing with it.

In response to a question from Councillor Morley on the future of a TIC in Hunstanton, Councillor Middleton acknowledged that CPP had asked him to speak to people in Hunstanton, he confirmed he would need clarification of what was being asked of him.

In response to a question from Councillor Lowe, Councillor Middleton listed the events which had been and were due to take place in the town centre and thanked officers for engaging with partners to make them happen.

Councillor Long responded to Councillor Ryves question of whether parking incentives could be offered to encourage people to come into town, in that incentives had been tried in previous years but it was

apparent that putting events on in the town attracted more visitors to the town centre.

The Leaders Question was as follows:

Councillor Kemp asked what steps were being taken to ensure the Queen Elizabeth Hospital got its funding. Councillor Dark responded that the key thing was to assist, not to hinder it. He had met with the previous Health Secretary highlighting the urgency, and the QEH was giving councillors an update on their situation on 22 September 2021.

As the length of the meeting was reaching 3 hours, Councillor Long proposed that the meeting not continue. This was seconded by Councillor Patel. On being put to the vote the proposal was carried and the meeting ended.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm