

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

COUNCIL

Minutes from the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday, 25th January, 2022 at 4.30 pm in the Corn Exchange, Tuesday Market Place, King's Lynn

PRESENT: Councillor H Humphrey (Chair)
 Councillors B Ayres, Miss L Bambridge, J Bhondi, R Blunt, F Bone, C Bower, A Bubb, A Bullen, Mrs J Collingham, S Dark, M de Whalley, I Devereux, P Gidney, G Hipperson, A Holmes, B Jones, C Joyce, A Kemp, J Kirk, P Kunes, A Lawrence, B Lawton, J Lowe, C Manning, G Middleton, J Moriarty, C Morley, S Nash, E Nockolds, T Parish, S Patel, J Ratcliffe, C Rose, 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, S Collop, C J Crofts, A Dickinson, M Howland, G Howman, C Hudson, B Long, J Rust and A Tyler

C:65 MINUTES SILENCE

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Council held a minutes silence in memory of former Mayoress Teresa Brandon and Honorary Alderman Ian Stockwell, both of whom had sadly passed away since the previous Council meeting.

C:66 PRAYERS

Prayers were led by Rev Canon Ling.

C:67 MINUTES

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

C:68 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

C:69 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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The Mayor informed Council that he had attended the funeral of former Mayoress Teresa Brandon and intended to attend that of Honorary Alderman Ian Stockwell. He had also attended a service for Sir Timothy Coleman. He had attended the Holocaust Memorial Service.

C:70 **URGENT BUSINESS**

None

C:71 **PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None

C:72 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL BODIES**

i **Cabinet: 11th January 2022**

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Councillor Dark proposed the recommendations to Council, seconded by Councillor Middleton.

In debating CAB92:COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT - FINAL SCHEME FOR 2022-2023 the Labour Group confirmed that 84% was better than the previous 75%, but that they were working on a proposal to improve that.

The Leader was encouraged to lobby MPs to end the unfair legislation and to provide for those in need. It was also requested that the scheme be overtly promoted.

In summing up the Leader confirmed the Administration had chosen to review the scheme in order to support those in need in the borough and was proud to have made a 9% increase in that support.

On being put to the vote the recommendations were approved.

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The recommendation for CAB93: APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS was approved without debate.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations from the Cabinet meeting on 11 January 2022 be approved.

C:73 **CABINET MEMBERS REPORTS**

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The Mayor invited questions of members for Cabinet members.

In response to a question from Councillor Morley on the funding allocated to the Town Deal Youth and Re-training Pledge and the transparency of the business case, Councillor Blunt reminded Members that the lead on the scheme was the College of West Anglia's principal officer. It had also been externally assessed and deemed as thorough. He agreed to send a copy to the councillor.

Councillor Kemp asked if the Council's skills shortages were being fed into the process. Councillor Blunt confirmed they would be.

Following a question from Councillor Nockolds, Councillor Kunes confirmed that the major tree planting programme would commence shortly with 6500 trees at Lynnsport, 500 at King's Reach along with other smaller schemes.

Councillor Holmes asked Councillor Sandell if the Council was associated and actively working with the Norfolk Domestic Abuse Service. Councillor Sandell confirmed that the Council worked with and provided support for the Pandora domestic abuse organisation. Details of the support available was on the Council's web site with relevant contact details. She agreed to send the Councillor the details.

In response to Councillor D Tyler's question on CIL, Councillor Blunt confirmed the latest round of applications closed at the end of January. He gave a summary of the types of applications received to date and confirmed the next round would be in July.

In response to a question from Councillor Parish on the number of planning officer vacancies within the authority, Councillor Blunt confirmed that the industry generally was employing people with planning experience resulting in officers leaving. He confirmed that the council was looking at external support to help produce reports etc, but that corners would not be cut, which may result in it taking longer to process planning applications.

Councillor Kunes confirmed to Councillor Kemp that Winfarthing wood was no longer an allocated site, and that it would be looked at again in terms of tree planting.

Following a question from Councillor Nockolds on the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Councillor Sandell confirmed that a small pot of money would be available within the community grants for that purpose.

Councillor Ryves asked Councillor Middleton in Councillor Dickinson's absence questions on the proposed funding of the Guildhall. Councillor Middleton confirmed that he was not able to comment on Councillor Dickinson's view, and explained the background of the situation and that it was proposed that the May round of bids to the Heritage Lottery Fund was being aimed at.

Councillor Collingham asked what progress was being made on the plans to tackle fly tipping. Councillor Kunes reported that following the Council decision a member of staff had been appointed and the vehicles ordered to commence work on the collection of and identification of fly tippers. A prosecution had recently been made which resulted in a £2,000 fine.

Councillor Holmes asked Councillor Blunt what the latest Government Guidance on housing completion targets was. Councillor Blunt explained the process and that the council had achieved 96% target which meant that no Action Plan would be required, although the figures worked retrospectively meaning the previous years Plan was required.

Following a question from Councillor Bower, Councillor Blunt drew attention to useful and interesting workshops provided by Historic England which members could view on you tube. He undertook to send out links to them.

In response to a question from Councillor de Whalley regarding the Guildhall Advisory Group meeting cancellations and the Bid, Councillor Middleton confirmed the need to ensure people were involved, and advised that he wanted the business plan to be ready to discuss before calling the next meeting.

In response to a question about the Local Transport Plan for West Norfolk, Councillor Blunt confirmed that all applications took into account the transport infrastructure needs, and there was ongoing work in a number of area relating to it.

Councillor Morley asked whether the decision to sell the site in Burnham Market should be reviewed in the light of rising prices. Councillor Lawrence confirmed that the values on the site were relevant, and it was proposed to hold the requirements of the current planning permission with the sale.

The Leader's report

The Mayor invited questions of the Leader.

Councillor Dark gave an update on the covid figures for the area, confirming the figures for the area were slightly higher than the national average. He reminded Members of the briefing they could attend the following day from the Hospital.

Following a question from Councillor Squire on the issue of Independent Group notices of Motion not being progressed, Councillor Dark asked for the information to be provided to him.

Councillor Devereux asked about the replacement of dog waste bins in the borough and the provision of larger bin in some areas. Councillor

Dark confirmed that some bins were due to be replaced, and the size of those provided was being considered at the same time.

In response to Councillor Morley's question regarding the Transport East Road Strategy and the consultation with and involvement with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Councillor Dark commented that he wasn't able to be responsible for other authorities responses, but this authority' response had been submitted and he would share it with members.

Councillor Dark responded to Councillor Kemp's question regarding the Ferry and the Carnegie library, explaining that he could not pre judge the Ferry, but had made his position clear on his support for the County Council owned Carnegie library remaining a public space.

Councillor Dark disagreed with the comments made by Councillor Ryves regarding a lack of support for the case for the new hospital. He drew attention to the numerous occasions where that support had been demonstrated.

C:74 **MEMBERS QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions.

The meeting closed at 5.47 pm