

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

**Minutes from the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 14th July, 2022  
at 4.30 pm in the Assembly Room, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn  
PE30 5DQ**

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Beal, A Bullen, J Collop,  
S Collop, G Hipperson, G Howman, C Hudson, C Joyce, J Kirk and S Patel

C:16 **PRAYERS**

Prayers were led by Rev Canon Ling

C:17 **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** The Minutes of the Meetings of the Council held on 25 April and 12 May 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

C:18 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None

C:19 **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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The Mayor gave an update of some of the engagements which had taken place in recent weeks, including the Jubilee celebrations. She thanked Councillor Morley who had undertaken an event on her behalf.

C:20 **URGENT BUSINESS**

None

C:21 **PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

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Under standing order 9, the Mayor invited the 2 public questioners to come forward.

**1- Sue Bruce –**

My question is in regard to the planting of 6000 trees at Lynnsport in April this year as part of the Borough Council's strategy to tackle climate change and offset carbon dioxide emissions, and replacing trees that had previously been planted at King's Reach, at a cost in excess of £83,000. For whatever reason, the vast majority of these trees have died. Can you tell me where the funding for this was received from please?

Cllr Kunes gave the following response:

“You state that the vast majority of the trees have died, I do not believe this is the case. I spent a several hours at the Lynnsport site a couple of weeks ago and examined somewhere in excess of 300 trees, the vast majority of which were alive. But I don't profess to be an expert so I have asked our Tree officer, who is a trained and Qualified Arboriculturalist to pay yet another visit to the site and report back. This is his report.

I've had a walk round Lynnsport; the majority of the trees are still alive, yes, we have some dead trees but that's only to be expected, when planting woodlands/groups of trees you should expect about 20% death rate, that's why the trees are planted so close together, some die leaving space for the others. A lot of the trees haven't come out in leaf yet, but in my experience, they can sometimes sit there and not break into leaf until the end of the summer. Those that haven't come out in leaf are still green under the bark and the buds are soft and swelling. We've also got to remember that the trees have been through a bit of a shock; they would've been lifted, kept in a cold environment to stop them from growing, transported and then put in the ground, it's a big ask to have them planted and expect them all to burst into leaf at the first signs of spring, they need to acclimatise. That is the end of his report.

You also state that the cost of the tree planting across the Lynnsport and Kings reach site was £83,000. This is also not true. The cost was actually just under £27,000.” This money comes from the Environment Budget.”

By way of supplementary Ms Bruce asked if Councillor Kunes would visit the site with interested parties. Councillor Kunes confirmed he had visited the site a number of times recently, so would do so in the spring.

**2- Jenny Walker –**

I understand that this year the council's Open Spaces team are playing their part in tackling climate crises by using only peat free compost. Good news for the environment.

Has the Open Space Team any plans to move to more nature friendly planting? Some councils have done this for example Burnley, where planting has benefitted biodiversity and saved money.

Cllr Kunes gave the following response:

"I have spoken to our open space team, and this is their reply

Within the last five years we have reduced grass cutting regime to encourage local diversity and create habitats for insects and bees, we have reduced annual bedding and replaced with sustainable planting and native species of plants, we have left specific areas to encourage biodiversity and improve local ecology.

Public Open Space teams have created/ seeded perennial floral areas within the main routes for Kings Lynn and Downham Market .

In general we take into consideration sustainability , low maintenance and drought tolerant species within all new planting , as rule of thumb we retain all annual bedding within our formal garden areas ie Tower Gardens / Walks , Esplanade gardens etc where it is appropriate and expected and valued by the general public."

By way of supplementary, Ms Walker asked if the Council could communicate to the public the need to tackle climate change being the reason for changes to areas to more insect friendly overgrown areas. Councillor Kunes undertook to take on board the need to communicate this when it was the case.

## C:22 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL BODIES**

### i **Cabinet: 21 June 2022**

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Councillor Dark, seconded by Councillor Middleton proposed the recommendation CAB17: Planning Scheme of Delegation. The recommendation was put to the vote.

**RESOLVED:** That the recommendation from Cabinet on 21 June be approved.

## C:23 **APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD VACANCY**

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Council was invited to make nominations to outside bodies to be appointed by full Council, and to vote on those nominations made by Scrutiny Panels. The nominations, as attached in the Appendix to the minutes were approved.

With regard to the vacancy on the King's Lynn Internal Drainage Board, Councillors Dark and Morley were both nominated. On being put to the vote, Councillor Dark was appointed.

Councillor A Tyler was nominated to the vacancy on the Emmerich Twinning Club. This was agreed.

**RESOLVED:** 1) That representatives to serve on the outside bodies and partnerships listed in the Parish level and General categories as shown in the attached Appendix be approved with the inclusion of Councillor A Tyler's name for the Emmerich Twinning Club.

2) That the appointment of representatives nominated by the Panels to serve on outside bodies and partnerships which fall within the Scrutiny and Regulatory categories as shown in point 4.1 of the report be approved.

3) That the reporting arrangements be noted, as shown in section 3 of the report.

4) That Councillor Dark be appointed as a representative to serve on the King's Lynn Internal Drainage Board.

C:24

#### **NOTICES OF MOTION**

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i) Councillor S Squire proposed the following Notice of Motion (4/22), seconded by Councillor Ratcliff:

#### **“Debate Not Hate”**

This council believes that elected members should be able to undertake their roles safely without abuse, threats or intimidation. Therefore it agrees to sign as a council, the LGA “Debate Not Hate” public statement calling on local and national government with other relevant partners to form a government convened working group to produce and implement an action plan that addresses abuse and intimidation of members and candidates across all levels of national and local government.

Councillors Squire and Ratcliff spoke in support of the Motion giving examples of their experiences of abuse they and others had received in their role as Councillors. Councillor Dark spoke in support of the Motion, also citing examples of abusive or bad behaviour by Councillors. He suggested that the Council lead by example. Councillors de Whalley and Parish responded to the points made. Councillor Moriarty made reference to the need to consider one's own

conduct. Councillor Long suggested that a line be drawn in the sand and councillors lead by example. Councillor Nash commented that if policy was adhered to there would be less confrontation.

In further debate, Councillors gave further examples of abuse received or bad behaviour. It was suggested that councillors should support each other as an individual's state of mind was not always apparent.

In summing up Councillor Squire endorsed the fact that members should stand together.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was carried.

**RESOLVED:** That the Motion be approved.

- ii) Councillor S Squire proposed the following Notice of Motion (5/22), seconded by Councillor Parish:

**“Introduction of a Tourism Levy”**

This council acknowledges the valuable contribution that tourism makes to our local business economy. However, it also notes that tourism and high visitor numbers affect the level of council services that are required and used by both residents and visitors alike.

With the current financial climate and councils having to find new sources of funding, it is noted that the LGA estimate that a small flat rate tourist levy (tax) introduced by councils could increase council revenues by up to £7 million a year.

This council therefore agrees to join other councils in writing to the government, calling for the government to introduce primary legislation to enable us to levy a tourism tax and for a working group to be set up to investigate the possibility for the introduction of a voluntary levy in the mean time.

Councillor Squire spoke in support of the Motion, as did Councillor Parish who referred to other areas which had introduced such a levy.

Under standing order 14.6, Councillor Dark proposed that the motion be referred to the Regeneration and Development Panel for consideration. Councillor Squire accepted the proposal.

On being put to the vote the proposal was agreed.

**RESOLVED:** That the motion be referred to the Regeneration and Development Panel for consideration.

- iii) Councillor S Squire proposed the following Notice of Motion (6/22), seconded by Councillor Parish:

### **“Provision of overnight parking for suitably equipped camper vans”**

With the National increase in holidaying at home and in particular campervan and motorhome use, together with frequent reports of campervans parking overnight in inappropriate car parks around the borough, particularly in coastal areas.

This council considers it is time to join other councils including those in Wales, Scotland and Northumberland to allow charged, overnight parking to self sufficient vehicles for a maximum 24 hour period as a transient type stopover in a selected council run car park in Hunstanton. This would be run for a trial period of one year so that council could then assess the success of the scheme.

Councillors Squire and Parish spoke in support of the motion.

Under standing order 14.6 Councillor Dark proposed that the matter be referred to the Regeneration and Development Panel for consideration. On being put to the vote the proposal was agreed.

**RESOLVED:** That the Motion be referred to the Regeneration and Development Panel for consideration.

iv) Councillor S Squire proposed the following Notice of Motion (7/22), seconded by Councillor Rust.

### **“Menopause Workplace Pledge”**

It is estimated there are some 13 million women in the UK that are currently peri or menopausal. Menopausal women are the fastest growing demographic in the workforce and almost 8 out of 10 menopausal women are in work.

This council is aware that over 50% of our workforce and 25% of our councillors are women. It recognises that peri-menopause and menopause and the wide ranging symptoms involved can be a difficult time for women, can lead to a loss of confidence which may then lead to women leaving the workforce.

This council would like to demonstrate they are fully supportive of both staff and councillors experiencing menopause and wish to be a Menopause Friendly Employer. Therefore, we agree to sign the Menopause Workplace Pledge, nominate a dedicated Menopause Champion amongst the staff and to arrange regular support and advice sessions that can be accessed by both staff and councillors.

Councillors Squire and Rust spoke in support of the Motion.

Under standing order 14.6 Councillor Dark proposed that the Motion be referred to the Corporate Performance Panel for consideration.

Council debated referring the matter to the Panel. On being put to the vote the proposal was agreed.

**RESOLVED:** That the Motion be referred to the Corporate Performance Panel for consideration.

C:25 **CABINET MEMBERS REPORTS**

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Councillor Dark moved the Cabinet Members reports en bloc.

Cabinet Members responded to questions on the following:

Councillor Long responded to a question from Councillor Morley on the Business Plan for Alive West Norfolk.

Councillor Long responded to a question from Councillor Kemp on the issue of a drain cover and drew attention to the Internal Drainage Board presentations at the Environment and Community Panel meetings.

Councillor Middleton responded to a question from Councillor Nockolds on an email re consultation with stakeholders on the Guildhall proposals. He confirmed that he had provided a response and that further consultations would take place. He also confirmed that minutes being referred to were in draft form, and were amended on approval.

Councillor Kunes responded to a question from Councillor Moriarty on when the additional services on the recycling round would be available. He confirmed that pressure was being brought to bear to bring it to fruition.

Councillor Sandell requested Councillor Jones email with the question regarding Homechoice.

Councillor Blunt gave an update on CIL following a question from Councillor Crofts.

Councillor Middleton undertook to provide a response in writing to Councillor Ryve's question on the reason for the increase in income anticipated for the Guildhall since April.

Councillor Kunes undertook to provide a written response to Councillor Howland on whether there were any electric charging points planned in Downham Market.

In response to a question from Councillor Bower, Councillor Sandell explained that the Integrated Care System was funded from the Covid recovery fund.

In response to a question from Councillor Parish, Councillor Blunt confirmed the Hunstanton Bus Station project was being reviewed.

Following a question from Councillor Kemp, Councillor Middleton confirmed that the view of the County and Borough Councils was that the Carnegie library would be for community use, and that it was for the County Council to make it ready for Community use.

Councillor Blunt responded to a question from Councillor Devereux on the spec building being built on the NoraEZ which were receiving a lot of interest.

Councillor Lawrence confirmed to Councillor Morley that the tenants of the Princess Theatre were being consulted regarding the roof repairs.

Councillor Nockolds asked what benefit In Bloom brought to the Borough, Councillor Long confirmed the wide benefits to the community and individuals well being of who work voluntarily in a number of areas for In Bloom.

Councillor Kunes responded to Councillor Rust on the cost of running and maintaining air source heat pumps. He referred to the lack of CO<sub>2</sub> produced by them, and also that the boilers at Enterprise works were due for replacement.

Councillor Kemp asked Councillor Kunes what the progress was with the community orchard in south Lynn which she was using her Councillor fund to support. Councillor Kunes confirmed there were no objections to this.

Following a question from Councillor Collingham, Councillor Dickinson gave an update on the fuel subsidy distribution the deadline for which was 4 September.

#### Questions to the Leader

Councillor Dark responded to Councillor Kemp regarding inadequacy of the Medway statement of consultation, in that the Planning Committee would be considering the statement.

In response to Councillor Parish's question on collaboration with the County Council on large projects and any mitigation the Borough was taking to ensure any cuts the County Council made did not impact on those projects, Councillor Dark confirmed that the Council had supported the schemes, and their support to the borough was appreciated.

Councillor Moriarty asked the Leader to ensure that any devolved money from government came to the Borough, he also asked that the Guildhall Task Group be invited to contribute to the Guildhall CIO and

governance matters. The Leader confirmed that discussions were ongoing between council leaders on preliminary discussions.

Councillor Rust raised the issue of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the movement of Ministers, Councillor Dark confirmed he had contacted all new Ministers regarding the situation with the decision process for the replacement of the hospital.

The Leader confirmed to Councillor Devereux that the Jubilee celebrations across the borough were excellent, communities, volunteers and borough officers worked hard on the celebrations. He thanked the Chief Executive and staff who worked on them.

Councillor Dark confirmed to Councillor A Tyler that the detail of any new hospital agreed would be down to the experts delivering the services, but he would support them in the process.

C:26 **MEMBERS QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions.

**The meeting closed at 7.00 pm**

**APPOINTMENTS MADE BY FULL COUNCIL ON 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022**

Scrutiny nominations (all confirmed by Council) are also shown below for approval. (Cabinet positions are there for information purposes).

**King's Lynn Internal Drainage Board (as per the report) – Cllr S Dark was appointed**

<b>Name of Outside Body</b>	<b>Cabinet appointed/ Nominated by</b>	<b>Total Number of Representatives</b>	<b>Nominees (or Panel nominee as shown in bold)</b>
Backhams Almshouses Trust	Council	1	Sally Twyman (non-council)
Bexwell Poors Land Charity	Council	1	Tony White (non-council)
Borough Council/College of West Anglia Liaison Board	1 E&C 1 Cabinet - Dark	2	<b>Nominee - Lowe (E&amp;C)</b>
Brancaster Commons Committee	Council	1	Lawton
Burnham Overy Harbour Management Committee	Council	1	Sandell
Downham Market Leisure Centre Joint Management Committee	1 Cabinet – Middleton 2 Council	3	Howland & 1 vacancy (Council)
Gaywood Allotment Trust	Council	4	S Collop, J Lowe, M Wilkinson and S Young (non-council)
Hunstanton and District Festival of Arts	Council	1	Bower
Hunstanton Sailing Club Development Sub Committee	1 CPP observer	1	<b>Nominee -Rose</b>
John Sugars Almshouses Charity	Council	3	Bambridge, Bone and S Twyman (non-council)
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee	1 Cabinet – Nockolds 3 Scrutiny (E&C) and 1 Council	5	<b>Nominees - de Whalley, Kemp and Bubb (E&amp;C)</b> A Tyler (Council)
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Charity	Council	2	Bower and Bubb
King's Lynn Conservancy Board	Council	4	Ayres, Sampson, Kunes and Howland
King's Lynn Emmerich Twining Club	Council	2	Dickinson and A Tyler
King's Lynn Town Football Club	E&C	1	<b>Nominee - Paul Bland (non-council)</b>
Marriott's Warehouse Limited	Council	3	Bower, Gidney and Dr Richards (non-council)

Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Sub-Panel	E&C	1 + 1 sub	<b>Nominees - Kemp and Hudson (sub)</b>
Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	E&C	1 + 1 sub	<b>Nominees - Kemp and de Whalley (sub)</b>
North End Trust	Council	1	Nockolds
Outwell Charities	Council	1	Crofts
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Governors Council	Council	1	Kunes
Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel - Downham Market	Council	2 - Chair and Vice Chair	Rose Chair and Howland Vice Chair
Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel - Hunstanton	Council	2 - Chair and Vice Chair	Beal Chair and Bubb Vice Chair
Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel - King's Lynn	Council	2 - Chair and Vice Chair	Bambridge Chair and Bone Vice Chair
Sibelco - Leziate Quarry Liaison Committee	Council	2	Howland and Manning
West Norfolk and King's Lynn Girls School Trust	Council	1	Nockolds
West Norfolk Community Transport Project	E&C	1	<b>Nominee - Nockolds</b>
West Norfolk Youth Advisory Group	Council	1	Lowe
West Walton Pools Charity	Council	1	Mrs B Porter (non-council)
William Cleave Educational Foundation	Council	2	Bambridge and Nockolds