

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

**Minutes from the Meeting of the Council held on
Thursday, 29th August, 2024 at 5.00 pm in the Assembly Room, Town Hall,
Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ**

PRESENT: Councillor P Bland (Chair)

Councillors B Anota, B Ayres, A Beales, S Bearshaw, J Bhondi, R Blunt, F Bone, A Bullen, R Coates, S Collop, R Colwell, C J Crofts, M de Whalley, P Devulapalli, S Everett, D Heneghan, P Hodson, H Humphrey, B Jones, A Kemp, J Kirk, P Kunes, B Long, J Lowe, J Moriarty, C Morley, S Nash, J Osborne, T Parish, J Ratcliffe, S Ring, C Rose, J Rust, A Ryves, S Sandell, D Sayers, S Squire, M Storey, A Ware and M Wilkinson

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Bartrum, P Beal, A Bubb, Mrs J Collingham, S Dark, T de Winton, A Dickinson, A Jamieson, A Lawrence, S Lintern and Mrs V Spikings

C:37 **MINUTES SILENCE FOR THE LATE FORMER MAYOR GEOFFREY WAREHAM**

Council held a minutes silence for the Late Geoffrey Wareham, former Mayor of the Borough.

C:38 **PRAYERS**

Prayers were led by Rev Canon Ling.

C:39 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the meetings held on 27 June 2024 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

C:40 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared.

C:41 **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Mayor's communications.

C:42 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

C:43 **PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

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1) Question from Julia Irving

“Why, how often, where and in what circumstances does the council use insecticides on council land.”

Councillor Anota gave the following response:

Why. To control weeds on hard surfaces. Weed growth can spread quickly during the growing season and can cause damage to hard surfaces which can be costly to repair. The presence of weeds encourages a build-up of detritus/litter which does not make for a clean, tidy, and welcoming environment.

How often. Twice-yearly application of chemical treatment Borough wide: 1st Application – March 3rd – April 1st 2nd Application May 4th – June 2nd There may be some additional spot treatment for public complaints that come in to us.

Where Central Town Areas/Tourist Areas, High footfall pedestrian areas, carparks, building back lines, kerb edges and other municipal hard surfaced areas.

Neighbourhoods, Hard standing public open space, BC owned residential pathways (if required).

Sports Centres/Fields, Around buildings, 3G pitches, MUGAs, athletics tracks, car parks

Circumstances. In General, we avoid using chemicals where practical, we do not use pesticides/herbicides in formal parks and gardens. Our main method of weed control is by daily operations and these are removed manually or by street sweepers. From this we actively promote non – chemical methods of weed control to be used where practically possible in preference to chemical methods. But in certain circumstances chemical control is required.

Chemical. We have now moved to a pre-mixed chemical that includes a residual herbicide and a much lower rate of Glyphosate; this is applied using controlled droplet application; this should now allow us to apply less chemical Borough wide. All Operatives are qualified to National standard and complete a comprehensive record of their work carried out which is kept on record for minimum of 5 years.”

By way of supplementary, Ms Irving asked the following, which Councillor Anota undertook to respond to in writing:

“I have read the draft Pollinator Action Plan which highlights the catastrophic decline in flying insect populations by 60% since 2024. However the only insecticide mentioned in the report is neonicotinoids,

which are to be phased out 'in the long term' . My understanding is that this insecticide has already been banned and use of it in any circumstance, requires a special licence. What, therefore, is the plan to stop the use of other insecticides such as organophosphates , sulfaxaflor, pyrethroids and fipronil to ensure that insect populations are not decimated further?"

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2) Question from Alastair Kent

"What steps are the Council taking to ensure that those eligible for assistance to insulate their homes and meet the criteria for a boiler replacement or retrofit are helped to apply for the appropriate scheme (e.g. ECO4, GBIS etc) and to ensure that they are able to find an approved surveyor and contractor to undertake the work in a timely and efficient manner?"

Councillor Rust gave the following response:

"Thank you for your question. I'm always glad to be able to talk about the ways in which our council supports our local residents to ensure that those who are eligible for a boiler replacement or a retrofit, are able to access it. And we have had considerable success in supporting our residents since we have taken on the services of an energy efficiency officer. Prior to that, our take-up was quite low.

Firstly, we use all our available data on housing conditions, which include EPCs, to target properties likely to benefit from the energy efficiency grants and make contact directly. As many of the people who are eligible are also likely to feel vulnerable to scams, we do this using our council telephone number which is easily verifiable as well as a letter. We hold regular roadshows called Beat the Bills. I've seen first hand how successful these have been.

Our Borough councillors can also refer in their residents to our energy efficiency officer. I have done this myself. I have also been to talk at a number of events where those who attend are more likely to meet the criteria for the grant and I have made them aware of the facility. Our energy efficiency team will go out and speak at events and they are very accessible.

We are working closely with the NHS and the ICB (Integrated Care Board) on a data sharing agreement and are at an advanced stage of this which will mean the NHS sharing specific data with us so that we can directly aim our efforts at those who qualify for the schemes. This agreement has been some time in the making and does demonstrate the continued difficulties with sharing data even though it would lead to a direct benefit to the individual or couple.

At the Borough Council the Housing Standards team are responsible for ensuring that applicants are directed to the most appropriate scheme for them based on their needs, wants and eligibility. This is usually done through individual consultations with each respective applicant, but it is now also done through the online referral form found on the council's website. [Funded energy efficiency improvements | Funded energy efficiency improvements | Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk \(west-norfolk.gov.uk\)](#)

ECO 4 & HUG 2 accommodate full house retrofits, whereas GBIS accommodates singular retrofit measures.

Due to our impartial stance as a local authority, we are unable to recommend any installers to prospective applicants, however we can point them in the direction of the TrustMark register - [Find trusted tradespeople with quality at heart • TrustMark](#)

TrustMark is the only government endorsed quality scheme for domestic retrofit.2.”

By way of supplementary Mr Kent asked if the council would publish quarterly the approval figures with the schemes. Councillor Rust undertook to ascertain if that would be possible.

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3) Question from Susan Bruce

“The planning application for a new 3G pitch on River Lane playing field has been extended due to the many objections from residents, consultees, and agencies about a range of issues including traffic on Beulah Street, environmental and health concerns, contamination of the Bawsey Drain, effects on wildlife, the loss of green space and noise and light disturbance.

Are the council considering alternative sites for the pitch, so they don't lose the funding and if not why not?”

Councillor Ring responded as follows:

“Firstly, for context, there is currently one full-sized 3G football turf pitch in King's Lynn and West Norfolk, There is a recommendation for an additional three full-sized 3G football turf pitches within the borough to meet demand and, as the speaker rightly pointed out, Football Foundation Funding has been allocated to the project, conditional that the 3G is located at Lynnsport.

The initial application was withdrawn due to concerns expressed by Highways. The location was changed to nearer Lynnsport to an area of existing, bookable football pitches. The revised location is adjacent to the existing 3G pitch and access will be via Lynnsport. Lynnsport also hosts the changing facilities required. The current objections that have caused the extension of time are from Highways, Public Rights of Wat

and Sport England. The final decision on the 3G will be a planning decision.

Officers are looking at alternative options should planning permission not be granted. Discussions with the Football Foundation are ongoing and I have been in contact with their Chief Executive, Robert Sullivan, thanks to an introduction from James Wild MP. It is my belief that we should be identifying all of the locations in our Borough that we need pitches and we are able to make good sustainable use of. With the expected population growth and the increased housing targets coming from the new Government, it is important that we plan properly and not just react to available funding opportunities.

The council is committed to providing sports facilities to meet local demand but is mindful of resident's concerns regarding any development."

By way of supplementary, Ms Bruce asked if the Fields in Trust (FIT) were being consulted on any new proposals.

Councillor Ring made reference to the fact that FIT had given permission for the use of the site for that purpose and commented that none of the field areas in the site were free to use, they were bookable and payable. He commented that the FIT were able to comment on any of the applications.

C:44 **REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY**

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Council was invited to review its proportionality after Councillor Bartrum left the Labour Group.

RESOLVED: That the review of proportionality be agreed and that a Labour seat on the Licensing and Appeals Board be given to the Independent Partnership.

C:45 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL BODIES**

i **Cabinet: 30 July 2024**

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Councillor Beales proposed the recommendation CAB28: Audit Committee Chair's report to Council, from the Cabinet meeting held on 30 July 2024. This was seconded by Councillor Ring. Councillor Beales thanked the Audit Committee for the work carried out.

RESOLVED: That CAB28: Audit Committee Chairs report be approved.

C:46 **LORRAINE GORE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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Councillor Beales drew attention to the fact that this Council meeting was the last one that Lorraine Gore, Chief Executive, would be in post for. He proposed that the Council move a vote of thanks to Lorraine for her years of service to the Borough Council, where she had led the Council's staff with a calm and measured approach, through what were often difficult times such as the Pandemic.

The Mayor spoke in support of the vote of thanks and gave the history of Lorraine's career at the borough council which started in 2001. He wished her well for her retirement and made reference to her love of golf and Norwich City Football Club which was also reiterated by other speakers.

Councillor Long spoke in support of the vote of thanks, and thanked Lorraine for her service to the council, and the support and assistance given to him when he was Leader.

Councillor Parish thanked Lorraine for the support she had shown him and his new Administration when he became Leader. He drew attention to the work she would be carrying out following her retirement and acknowledged the fact that the organisations would benefit from her input.

Councillor Bone spoke in support, and commended the advice and assistance she had given to new councillors, he wished her well.

Councillor Humphrey spoke of Lorraine's quiet confidence and competence, and the interactions he had had with her over the years. He wished her well.

Councillor Moriarty commented that the last year of the Council had been his favourite, he commended Lorraine's professionalism in her role and her poker face. He wished her rest and refreshment for the future.

Councillor Wilkinson thanked Lorraine for the support she had shown her in recent years, and wished her well in her retirement.

Councillor Kemp commended the vote of thanks to Lorraine who she considered had shown strength and support to her during their regular meetings. She spoke of Lorraine's can do attitude which was borne out with the setting up of the Purfleet Pantry.

RESOLVED: That a vote of thanks to Lorraine Gore, retiring Chief Executive, be recorded for her service to the Borough Council.

C:47 **CABINET MEMBER'S REPORTS**

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Before Councillor Beales moved the reports, Councillor Moriarty gave an update to his report. He informed members that the Local Plan Task Group on 12 September would contain an update of the Council's response to the NPPF, the response to consultation on the Local Plan elements, and Neighbourhood plans.

Councillor Moriarty also informed members that the CIL Panel arranged for the following week had been postponed in order to review the paperwork.

Councillor Beales moved the Cabinet Members reports to council.

Councillor Long asked a question on penalty notices for the fly posting of notices tied to street furniture, Councillor Squire agreed that they were unsightly and she would look at the response to it.

Councillor Morley responded to a question from Councillor Collop on where the remainder of the Councillor Community grant which she asked for a proportion of it to go towards the security required for the Gaywood Remembrance ceremony. He suggested a request be made so it could be considered.

Councillor Kemp asked Councillor Moriarty about changes to CIL scoring. He responded that he had informed council that the meeting was postponed to review the paperwork.

Councillor Parish asked about the public consultations carried out in the planning process, and asked if the public's views on the changes to the NPPF dictated by the Government would be taken into account in responding to the consultation documents. Councillor Moriarty confirmed some of the information was on the agenda for the Local Plan Task Group. He confirmed parishes had been contacted regarding the changes. He re-iterated the importance of having a robust Local Plan.

Councillor de Whalley confirmed to Councillor Kunes that the Carbon Audit would be published the following week.

Councillor Kemp asked about the Eco 4 Government Scheme which had some issues for some householders in South Lynn. She asked who at the Council they should contact. Councillor Rust explained that the housing standards team administered the scheme, but the installer was responsible for the fitting so it should be raised with the installer in the first instance.

Councillor Nash asked for any feedback on the audit of the environmental impact of the council's recycling. Councillor de Whalley undertook to respond in writing.

Councillor Coates asked if it was possible to give more publicity to dog breeders needing to be licensed. Councillor Moriarty made reference questions previously answered.

Councillor Everitt asked what measures were being taken to encourage Freebridge Community Housing to turn round its voids. Councillor Rust confirmed that the council was working with Freebridge to turn these round by the end of the year. She also made reference to those properties which Freebridge would dispose of because the area was not popular.

Councillor Ryes asked if the Council was to adopt a policy for dealing with renewable energy. Councillor Moriarty confirmed it would be considered as part of the new Local Plan.

Councillor Crofts asked if Councillor Aota wished to thank the Grounds Teams on behalf of the whole Council for the work they carried out in the Borough. Councillor Aota confirmed he would do so.

Councillor Long asked what the situation was with additional cemetery space at Gayton Road with the high water levels in the existing cemetery. Councillor Aota confirmed work was underway to find new land and would keep council informed.

Leaders Questions

Councillor Beales responded to a question from Councillor Crofts on the conditions on the development at Southend Road Hunstanton. Councillor Beales explained that the Best Value implication of the conditions were a concern he had flagged, but the properties may sell quickly but the properties were not yet built for people to see their preferred property.

Councillor Kemp made reference to her lobbying of Government on the funding for the West Winch road. She asked the Leader to lobby Government to get the funding for the road. Councillor Beales confirmed that after the county council Cabinet meeting he would be happy to do so.

Councillor Ryves asked the Leader about thoughts on ensuring the hospital would be the right hospital for King's Lynn. The Leader reminded members that lobbying had been taking place and made reference to a meeting he attended at the hospital where they had indicated that the view of the borough council was important. He confirmed he had put questions to them including about proposed and suggested sites to which he had received an invitation for councillors to

come to the hospital to ask questions in person. The Hospital Chief Executive was optimistic for funding for the hospital. He encouraged members to attend the tour, and undertook to send round his notes of the meeting to members.

Councillor Long made reference to the Government plans of pay by mile tax which he considered would have an adverse effect on Council finances due to the size of the Borough, he asked the Leader if he would lobby the Government through the Rural Services Network on the matter. The Leader confirmed it was a pertinent point and undertook to do so, also through the MPs, alongside the lobbying for the funding for the IDB funding.

Councillor Kemp made reference to the funded bus from south lynn to the new doctors surgery was only funded for a further 2 years. The Leader agreed to do so..

Councillor Sayers asked how the Borough was working to ensure a cohesive strategy for active travel across the schemes in King's Lynn. The Leader responded that he was working hard to ensure there was linkage between the regeneration schemes in the town. He reminded members that a special scheme needed to be delivered for the Southgates area. He informed members that a meeting would be hosted next week for the County Council representatives to see the area.

C:48 **MEMBERS QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions.

The meeting closed at 6.26 pm