

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

**COUNCIL**

**Minutes from the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 26th June, 2025  
at 5.00 pm in the Assembly Room, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's  
Lynn PE30 5DQ**

**PRESENT:** Councillor A Bullen (Chair)

Councillors B Anota, B Ayres, T Barclay, S Bearshaw, P Bland, R Blunt, F Bone,  
A Bubb, R Coates, Mrs J Collingham, S Collop, C J Crofts, M de Whalley,  
P Devulapalli, A Dickinson, S Everett, J Fry, D Heneghan, P Hodson, B Jones,  
C Joyce, A Kemp, J Kirk, P Kunes, S Lintern, B Long, A Moore, J Moriarty,  
C Morley, S Nash, J Osborne, T Parish, S Ring, C Rose, J Rust, S Sandell,  
D Sayers, S Squire, M Storey and A Ware.

**C:17      PRAYERS**

Prayers were led by Reverend Jon Price.

**C:18      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beales, Bhondi, Colwell, Dark, Humphrey, Lawrence, Lowe, Ratcliffe, Ryves and Spikings.

**C:19      MINUTES**

Councillor Kemp requested that names be attributed to questions asked of Cabinet Members at the March meeting.

**RESOLVED:** The minutes from the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were approved as a correct record.

**C:20      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**C:21      MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**C:22      URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

**C:23      PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

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### Public Question from Julia Irving

“Last year the world passed the lamentable milestone of becoming 1.5 0c warmer than the average temperature in preindustrial times.

Our government and this local government and many others declared a climate emergency, but failed to act with appropriate urgency and so we pass the temperature level, which the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change warned, would precipitate unpredictable climate changes .

The natural systems of our home are out of balance and the effects of this are being felt here and around the world, with droughts, flooding, forest fires and degradation of food supplies affecting millions in the global south.

Britain is not protected from these consequences. It is predicted that power failure and food insecurity will be some of the soon felt consequences in the global north as crops fail and power plants are hit by unpredictable and severe flooding. I am sure we all recognise that West Norfolk and The Fens are especially vulnerable to floods as transport, food production and energy supplies are at risk in low lying areas.

Given this is where we are; what steps are the council taking to try to mitigate the consequences of these dire challenges? Is there a committee which is tasked with facing and planning for food insecurity long term power failures and mass evacuations?”

Councillor de Whalley responded to the question as set out below.

“Thank you for the question which covers a number of important local issues.

Climate change is a global challenge, and the threats and risks identified will not solely be resolved by local action. Collaborative action is required, the council is a contributor to the Future Fens Integrated Adaptation (FFIA) programme (<https://awinnovationhub.co.uk/project/future-fens-integrated-adaptation-ffia/>) and Fens 2100 project.

The FFIA brings together key partners such as the Environment Agency, Water Resources East, the Peterborough and Cambridge Combined Authority, Lincolnshire County Council, Norfolk County Council and many district and borough councils. This collaboration is essential for adapting to many challenges including climate change.

The Tyndall Centre, University of East Anglia were commissioned by the FFIA to prepare a recently published climate change risk assessment for the Fens area ( <https://tyndall.ac.uk/news/new-climate->

[report-finds-time-running-out-to-save-the-fens/](#)). This report will inform future programmes and action.

The Environment Agency is leading on the Fens 2100 project which is considering the impact of climate change on the Fens and how we manage this going forward. Details are here <https://engageenvironmentagency.uk.engagementhq.com/fens2100>

Fens 2100 is a pioneering collaborative programme and has developed a Fens-wide flood resilience investment strategy that achieves long-term value for money and generates regional and national benefits. It is being developed with, and for, Flood Risk Management Authorities so they can plan for the next 20-25 years of flood risk management. This work is attracting investment that safeguards land and property from flooding but there is much more to do.

DEFRA would lead on food security issues, and they recently published their Food Security Report 2024 on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025, see here <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-food-security-report-2024-published>

Following the declaration of the climate emergency in 2021, the Council initially responded with the development of a climate change strategy and continues to implement a wide range of projects that aim to reduce the council's operational carbon emissions and encourage the broader community to act in their own ways.

Nationally and locally, the planning system is responding to climate change.

- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out how sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The NPPF is clear that climate change mitigation and adaptation is considered in the planning of new development.
- In line with this the Borough Council's recently adopted Local Plan contains a suite of policies to guide new development. This includes policies related to the natural environment, flood risk, transport, infrastructure, the protection and provision of open space, renewable energy, and climate change specifically.
- Local Plan Policy LP06 Climate Change seeks for new development to minimise and reduce carbon emissions, and to adapt and mitigate the impact of climate change. In addition, it requires developers to submit, alongside their planning application, a sustainability and climate change statement setting out how the proposed development will achieve this. The statement is then used in the determination of the planning proposal.

Links below, if needed:

- The NPPF can be viewed online via the following link:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>
- The Local Plan can be viewed online via the following link:  
[https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20079/planning\\_policy\\_and\\_local\\_plan/1207/local\\_plan\\_2021-2040](https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20079/planning_policy_and_local_plan/1207/local_plan_2021-2040)

We have an outstanding housing standards officer who has worked on grants to help make 252 properties in West Norfolk more energy efficient. Reducing their carbon emissions. I thank Jacob for his continued work on this.

My report also highlights other work we are carrying out in the local community to encourage residents young and old to be more sustainable and environmentally aware. We have a schools' competition and garden wildlife competition, encouraging biodiversity, running at the moment.

Protect our environment remains one of our four key aims in the corporate strategy and I personally will continue banging the drum for this in our borough.

I have received a helpful response from our emergency planning team about the partnership work already in place to handle planning for civil emergencies such as flooding and am happy to share this with you.

We work as part of the Norfolk Resilience Forum to ensure we are prepared to handle this.

Climate change and its impact is always considered and there is a link between the NRF and the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership.

We have already carried out some excellent work for the Climate Change Partnership in Marshland St James. I hope to see some of the learning from that experience taking into the rest of our district.

I've mentioned residents a lot, so should also mention businesses, we are in the process of planning a business expo that will take place before the end of the year to engage with business owners and managers about climate change.

But you are right that we can only do so much as a district council. I hope to see an international, national and community response to many of your questions."

By way of Supplementary, Julia Irving asked what was being done locally and nationally to be proactive to deal with emergencies rather than being reactive. Councillor de Whalley responded that Norfolk

Climate Change Partnership responded proactively to climate concerns where possible and looking forward this could be something considered by the Strategic Authority. He agreed to circulate information on proactive work which was being carried out.

#### C:24 **REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY**

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Council was invited to review its proportionality following the recent by-elections.

Councillor Ring proposed the recommendations, and in doing so welcomed the two recently elected Councillors to the Chamber.

Councillor Long seconded the recommendations, and outlined concerns he had relating to the calculations. He hoped that further discussions could be held with Group Leaders and a further review conducted.

Councillor Joyce commented that, as a non-aligned Member, he received no places on Committees, but still agreed with the recommendations as set out in the report.

In summing up, Councillor Ring acknowledged the concerns raised by Councillor Long and confirmed that a review would be carried out and Group Leaders kept informed.

**RESOLVED:** That the review of proportionality was agreed as set out in the report.

#### C:25 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL BODIES**

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Councillor Ring, seconded by Councillor Rust, proposed the below recommendations from the 15<sup>th</sup> April and 10<sup>th</sup> June Cabinet meetings en bloc, with the exception of CAB12:Appointment of Honorary Alderman, which would be considered separately.

CAB171: Code of Corporate Governance  
 CAB173: Corporate Enforcement Policy  
 CAB174: Review of Outside Bodies  
 CAB10: Corporate Debt Recovery Policy

**RESOLVED:** The above recommendations from the 15 April 2025 and 10 June 2025 Cabinet meetings were approved.

[Click here to view the recording of this item on YouTube.](#)

Councillor Rust proposed CAB12: Appointment of Honorary Alderman. She commented that she was proud to propose this recommendation and spoke in support of the award of Honorary Alderman status to former Councillor Margaret Wilkinson. She commented that Mrs Wilkinson was one of the longest serving Councillors, had held many positions within the Council and worked hard for her Ward.

Councillor Everett seconded the proposal, praising the work carried out by Mrs Wilkinson to her residents and the Council and thanking her for her dedication.

Councillor Joyce supported the proposal and made reference to Mrs Wilkinson's upbringing and the challenges she had faced.

Councillor Ring commented that this award was well deserved and justified and thanked Mrs Wilkinson for all her hard work.

Councillor Long supported the proposal and reminded Council that Mrs Wilkinson had retired rather than resigned from her position as Councillor. He thanked her for all her work over the years.

Councillor Kemp fully supported the proposal and commented that Mrs Wilkinson had done so much for the Borough, was approachable, kind and treated everyone equally.

Councillor Kirk fully supported the proposal and praised Mrs Wilkinson for the work she carried out during her year as Mayor.

Councillor Bone commented that this was a fitting award and Mrs Wilkinson was an amazing woman. He reiterated the comments made by Councillor Long that she had not resigned, she had retired.

In summing up, Councillor Rust commented that it was wonderful that Mrs Wilkinson would be recognised for all her hard work and was touched by the warmth and affection of the Chamber.

**RESOLVED:** The award of Honorary Alderman status to Mrs Margaret Wilkinson was unanimously agreed.

C:26 **NOTICE OF MOTION**

None.

C:27 **CABINET MEMBERS REPORTS**

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Councillor Ring moved the Cabinet Members reports en bloc.

Councillor Lintern provided a verbal update to her report, reflecting on the Hanseatic Watersports Festival and the unfortunate incident which had taken place resulting in a participant being air lifted to Hospital. She stated that her thoughts were with the skier, their family and the other competitors. She praised the work of the Emergency Services and other organisations involved. Councillor Lintern also thanked the Members of the public for showing respect during the accident.

Councillor Lintern condemned the press outlet which had posted a video of the accident and had refused to remove this. She respected the other media outlets who had shown respect by not publishing the video.

The Mayor invited questions to Cabinet Members.

In response to a question from Councillor Long relating to fly-tipping and untidiness around the Southgates, Councillor Ring explained that the team had been instructed to start work on the area and were committed to getting it cleared.

In response to a question from Councillor Heneghan, Councillor Rust praised the work of the RISE project and agreed that there was value in rolling this out wider, however it would need to be tailored to specific areas. Councillor Rust praised the work of Councillor Jones and commented that he had been nominated for an LGA Councillor of the year award. Councillor Rust also highlighted the work of the Youth Advisory Board, some of which were present observing the meeting. Councillor Rust commented that Councillor Jones was a role model and also commended the work of Reverend Jon Price, his wife and all others involved in the Beacon Project.

Councillor Kemp referred to the cost of an Alive Card, which was required in order to benefit from free half term activities and felt that this was a barrier to access services. Councillor Ring commented that he would look into ways to encourage participation and make young people feel as if they were a part of the Borough.

Councillor Joyce referred to flyposting and rubbish and asked Cabinet if they were aware of the excellent job that the clean up team had done along Wisbech Road. Councillor Ring commented that removal of the brambles had really smartened up the area and acknowledged that more work was required.

In response to a question from Councillor Parish, Councillor Moriarty explained that he would formulate a response and share with Councillors, his concerns with Anglian Water and potential objections to future planning applications.

In response to a question from Councillor Sandell, Councillor Moriarty provided an update on the announcement that funding to support Parishes going through the Neighbourhood Plan process would be

removed by Government. He explained that Parish Councils were being kept informed as required and discussions were ongoing with officers.

Councillor Everett made reference to the Leader of Norfolk County Council and social media posts. Councillor Ring commented that this was a matter for fellow County Councillors.

In response to a question from Councillor Parish, Councillor Squire commented that if Anglian Water had commented that they could not cope with any more waste water at Heacham Beach, then it was right that no more connections were put in.

Councillor Kemp referred to the Community Orchard and read out a letter she had received from a nine year old resident. She commented that she was pleased to see that young people had pride of place. She asked if additional bins could be installed along Hardings Way. Councillor de Whalley explained that work was ongoing with Hardings Pits Association.

In response to a question from Councillor Kunes, Councillor de Whalley hoped that the vehicle fleet review report would be available soon.

In response to a question from Councillor Collop, Councillor Ring explained that a revised list of Portfolio Holder responsibilities would be available shortly, following Councillor Bland joining the Cabinet.

In response to a question from Councillor Devulapalli, Councillor Squire explained that water quality in Heacham was improving, however 60% of the pollutants came from birds. She explained that testing would continue and the Council were in contact with the Environment Agency and Anglian Water.

Councillor Coates asked about costs awarded to and against the Council as part of the Planning Appeals process and asked of these could be made available to Councillors along with lessons learned. Councillor Moriarty explained that Planning Training sessions were held after cases had been heard to reflect and go through lessons learned. He also explained that when matters were determined by the Planning Committee, officers did make implications clear. Councillor Moriarty explained that updates were sent to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Planning Committee, and he would arrange for these to be sent to all Members of the Planning Committee going forward.

Councillor Kemp referred to the paper published by Norfolk County Council which supported a single unitary for Norfolk and asked how the Borough Council was responding. Councillor Ring explained that the Leader of the Borough Council was working hard to promote the Borough Council's proposal by representing the Council at events and liaising with other Norfolk Local Authorities and Government. He stated that this Council had a proven track record of good delivery, had



delivered a balanced budget and that local delivery of services were crucial.

In response to a question from Councillor Long, Councillor Lintern agreed to ensure that all those involved previously, were made aware that the Mini Meet event was not taking place this year.

In response to a question from Councillor Devulapalli, Councillor Ring explained that work would be carried out to encourage leisure centre attendances.

In response to a question from Councillor Crofts relating to dog breeders, Councillor Moriarty agreed to provide a written response on the inspection regime. A copy of the response which was provided after the meeting is included below.

*Licensed Breeders are inspected on application, renewal and a mid-term point of the licence. These inspections are arranged with the licence holder in advance and charged for as part of the licence fee. We also carry out unannounced visits to premises when issues arise and allegations or complaints are raised.*

*There are operational reasons which mean unannounced visits are not the norm.*

*Guidance recommends unannounced visits as part of the star rating system for breeders. The main reason unannounced visits are not the standard course of action is due to there being a large number of breeders who conduct their activities at a private residence where we have no rights of access without first giving 24 hours notice, and even commercial premises may not be manned 24hrs a day. We can of course turn up and ask to visit in accordance with regulations but this would be wasteful of resources every time the breeders are not on the premises or if they were to refuse us access when at a private residence. In these circumstances officers would have spent time reviewing licences in advance and travelling to premises only to travel back again having accomplished nothing. This would obviously increase costs as well as wasting officer time and increasing workload. The officer would have to either try again at a later date on the off chance the licence holder may be in attendance and allow for the visit, or arrange an inspection in advance. Initial inspections on application also require a vet to be in attendance, this is payable by the applicant and has to be arranged in advance so is not practical to complete on an unannounced basis.*

*But, to reiterate, we do carry out unannounced visits to premises when issues arise and allegations or complaints are raised.*

In response to a question from Councillor Kunes, Councillor Ring agreed to provide a written response on the timeline for Gayton Road Cemetery.

In response to a question from Councillor Devulapalli, Councillor Ring explained that a review of Industrial assets was in the process of taking place, and where units were not in line with the Council's Portfolio, disposal would be looked at to provide Capital Receipts.

Councillor Bubb commented that he had recently been to South Beach, Heacham and there was a sewage smell coming from a building. Councillor Squire agreed to investigate.

C:28      **MEMBER'S QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions.

**The meeting closed at 6.42 pm**