

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

COUNCIL

**Minutes from the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 31st July, 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, A Beales, S Bearshaw, J Bhondi, P Bland, R Blunt, F Bone, A Bubb, R Coates, R Colwell, C J Crofts, S Dark, M de Whalley, T de Winton, P Devulapalli, A Dickinson, S Everett, J Fry, D Heneghan, H Humphrey, B Jones, C Joyce, A Kemp, J Kirk, P Kunes, S Lintern, B Long, J Lowe, A Moore, J Moriarty, S Nash, J Osborne, T Parish, S Ring, C Rose, J Rust, A Ryves, D Sayers, Mrs V Spikings, S Squire, M Storey and A Ware

C:39 PRAYERS

Prayers were led by Rev Canon Ling.

C:40 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beal, Collop, Hodson, Lawrence, Morley, Ratcliffe, Sandell and Tyler.

C:41 MINUTES

RESOLVED: The minutes from the meetings held on 26th June and two Extraordinary Meetings on 17th July were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

C:42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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Council was reminded that a dispensation had been granted by the Standards Committee for CAB39: Council Tax Discounts and Premiums Resolution. Members with an interest were advised to declare their interest, but would not have to leave the room during consideration of the item and they could contribute to the debate and vote on the matter.

Councillors Bhondi, Colwell, Dark, Dickinson, Kemp, Kirk, Lintern, Moriarty, Sayers and Storey declared an interest in CAB39: Council Tax Discounts and Premiums Resolution.

C:43 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was none.

C:44 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

C:45 **PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

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Public Question from Karen Chapman:

“As an authority with responsibilities towards air quality, noise levels and waste collection is it time to consider holding more modern forms of celebration than the default to large, noisy, polluting firework displays of Chinese made fireworks?”

The celebrations of the Olympics has shown that there is a huge variety of inspirational ways of celebrating events with light shows, drone based displays and music.

Is it time to show that this authority has moved with the times and stopped spending our hard-earned money on this waste of natural resources?”

Councillor Lintern responded to the question as set out below.

Thank you for your message and for sharing your concerns on behalf of the West Lynn Action Group.

We appreciate your perspective on firework displays and the broader issues of environmental impact, noise, and the evolving expectations around public celebrations. As an authority, we continually strive to balance tradition, public enjoyment, and sustainability.

Our events are planned and budgeted many months in advance, and this year’s firework display has already been scheduled. These displays remain extremely popular, regularly attracting over 20,000 residents and visitors, many of whom see them as a cherished tradition within our community events calendar. Importantly, professionally organised displays are significantly safer than private, at-home fireworks and are offered free of charge—unlike many areas where admission fees apply—making them accessible to families of all income levels. The event also brings economic benefits to the town, as many attendees choose to spend the day locally, dining or shopping in the area.

That said, we have considered more modern and sustainable alternatives, including drone-based light shows. However, at present, the cost of delivering a drone display that offers a similar level of visual

impact is significantly higher than that of a traditional fireworks show - which we currently provide at a cost of less than £1 per head. We will continue to monitor developments in this area and remain open to incorporating such options as they become more accessible and cost-effective.

I also note your comments about West Lynn, and I understand the importance of ensuring all parts of the borough feel represented and included. As someone who also lives outside of King's Lynn, I share your view on the importance of inclusive community engagement. Should the West Lynn Action Group wish to organise a local event, we would be pleased to discuss potential opportunities for support and collaboration.

Public Question from Julie Irving:

"To be a resilient community we need to be informed engaged and proactive. The Borough Council is in a leadership position in the community and could, within the limitations of its powers, nurture that resilient community.

For example, food insecurity is a very predictable outcome of climate breakdown, as crops fail in conditions of drought, extreme heat and flooding, causing food shortages, price increase and severe food poverty, to speak of the very least of the problems. A proactive approach could include collective planning with residents, suppliers and distributors of food, encouraging residents to grow their own food, increasing allotments and community gardens.

As there is not a committee or planning body set up specifically to face and plan for the emergency's consequent upon climate change and ecological breakdown, should one be put in place?

A summary of Councillor Beales response to the question is set out below.

Planning and preparing for the impacts of climate change and the consequences such as flooding, drought and severe weather is an important role which we take seriously. Our planning work for all emergencies is done collaboratively with other agencies in the multi-agency Norfolk Resilience Forum (NRF) where we assess ongoing risk and how we prepare to respond and recover from them.

The NRF members include Police, Fire, Ambulance, Coastguard, Norfolk County Council, all Norfolk District Council, Environment Agency, APHA, HSE, Met Office, Health organisations, transport companies, utility suppliers and voluntary groups. A full list can be found here <https://www.norfolkprepared.gov.uk/article/64190/Our-partners>.

The group assesses many risks including the potential for climate change to change the likelihood and impact and we publish a community risk register [here](https://www.norfolkprepared.gov.uk/article/63531/Norfolk-Community-Risk-Register)
<https://www.norfolkprepared.gov.uk/article/63531/Norfolk-Community-Risk-Register>

We work with communities with specific concerns to develop their own emergency plans to supplement the plans that we write to assist with local response to incidents.

We would suggest residents visit the Norfolk Prepared website which lists how local residents can prepare their own household for emergencies:

<https://www.norfolkprepared.gov.uk/article/63527/Prepare-your-household-for-emergencies>

By way of supplementary Julie Irving raised concern that if one organisation wasn't co-ordinating responses, then things could fall through the cracks. She also mentioned the need to increase land available for people to grow their own food.

Councillor Beales responded that the Borough Council played a full role in the Norfolk Resilience Forum.

C:46 **REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY**

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Council was invited to review its proportionality following the resignation from Councillor Nash from the Independent Partnership.

Councillor Beales proposed the report and Councillor Ring seconded the report.

Councillor Long commented that there was still an issue with rounding up and the Constitution Informal Working Group should look at this issue in more detail.

Councillor Bone commented that he felt the proposals were fair and would be supporting them.

Councillor Joyce commented that he felt the proposals were fair.

RESOVLED: That the review of proportionality was agreed as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

C:47 **APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

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Council were invited to appoint representatives to serve on Outside Bodies as set out in the report.

Councillor Beales proposed the recommendations, seconded by Councillor Ring.

A list of nominations were provided to Councillors along with Ballot Papers for where there had been more nominations than positions. Council were advised that the results of the Ballot would be published to Councillors after the meeting. The results of the ballot are below.

West Norfolk Youth Advisory Group

Councillor Jones withdrew therefore Councillor Rust appointed.

Norfolk Health Overview Select Committee

Councillor Devulapalli – Chair

Councillor Kemp – 20 votes

Councillor Ware – 16 votes

Abstention – 1 vote

Councillor Kemp appointed as the Substitute for 2025/2026.

Queen Elizabeth Hospital Governors Council

Councillor Everett – 7 votes

Councillor Ryves – 14 votes

Councillor Kemp – 20 votes

Councillor Kemp appointed for 2025/2026.

RESOLVED: That the Council appoints representatives to serve on the outside bodies as attached.

C:48

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL BODIES

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

CAB36: Staff Cost of Living Pay Award

Councillor Beales proposed the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Ring. Councillor Beales spoke in support of the proposal to link in with the national pay settlement and felt it was a pragmatic way forward.

RESOLVED: The recommendations from the 21st July Cabinet Meeting were approved in relation to the Staff Cost of Living Pay Award.

CAB37: Changes to Social Housing Allocations Policy

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

Councillor Rust proposed the recommendations, seconded by Councillor Moriarty. Councillor Rust spoke in support of the proposal and provided an overview of the review of the Policy.

Councillor Long commented that he welcomed the necessary review and was pleased to see military connections retaining local connection status.

Councillor Kemp spoke in support of the proposals and raised concerns relating to families in first floor accommodation and asked that the Cabinet Member keep this Policy under review.

Councillor Bone welcomed the updated Policy and praised officers for their work and the consultation exercise carried out.

Councillor Joyce referred to the Choice Based Letting Policy which had been previously approved and commented that he could not support this Policy. He referred to the White Ribbon Campaign and stated that more needed to be done to tackle domestic violence and encourage those affected to speak out.

Councillor Rust summed up and referred to the local connection criteria relating to the military and children in care, which was important. She also referred to overcrowding, which took priority, although she acknowledged that children on the first floor was not ideal. Councillor Rust explained that good quality housing was important and explained that there was a legal requirement to appropriately house those that were fleeing domestic violence.

RESOLVED: The recommendations from the 21st July Cabinet Meeting were approved in relation to the Social Housing Allocations Policy.

CAB39: Council Tax Discounts and Premiums Resolution

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

Councillors Bhondi, Colwell, Dark, Kemp, Kirk, Kunes, Lintern, Long, Moriarty, Sayers and Storey all left the room during consideration of the above item.

Councillor Beales proposed the recommendations, seconded by Councillor Squire. Councillor Beales spoke in support of the recommendations, highlighting the taxation on second home owners, the income projections and the agreement with Norfolk County Council. Councillor de Winton commented that the Borough relied on second homes and tourism and the benefits they had on the economy. He commented that there was a need to evaluate the impact and the money raised through this scheme and suggested that the Audit

Committee or a Scrutiny Panel review this scheme in twelve months time.

Councillor Joyce commented that the Council would only get a small proportion of the income generated through the levies and negotiation with Norfolk County Council was important.

Councillor Dickinson commented that the 12 month discount for properties was not that long for a property to be on the market for.

Councillor Beales summed up and commented that he encouraged scrutiny to review the scheme if required. He also commented that the income generated through the scheme was worthwhile. Councillor Beales commented that there was an exceptions policy available and each case was considered on its own merits to account for exceptional circumstances.

RESOLVED: The recommendations from the 21st July Cabinet Meeting were approved in relation to the Council Tax Discounts and Premiums Resolution.

CAB41: Leisure Facilities Feasibility Study

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

Councillor Ring proposed the recommendations with Councillor Beales seconding. Councillor Ring spoke in support of the proposals to amend the Capital Programme to progress the project and the ambition to make Lynnsport an exemplar site for disabled sport.

Councillor Dark spoke in support of the proposals but sought reassurance that all age ranges were catered for at Lynnsport and the Oasis.

Councillor Devulapalli raised concerns relating to flood risk and mitigation.

Councillor Kemp spoke in support of the proposals and the need to go further to provide additional provision in other parts of the Borough.

Councillor Long hoped that a modern facility would be more economical and it was critical that a top class facility was available as it was important that people learned to swim.

Councillor Ring summed up stating that all ages and demographics would be considered. He also highlighted the importance of activity through play and the recent successful activities held at the Kasset facility. With regard to flood risk it was explained that surveys and flood risk assessments would be carried out and the proposals to be considered today would bring the project ready to planning application stage. Councillor Ring reminded Council of the statutory provision to

provide swimming facilities, as well as the wider benefits to health and wellbeing.

RESOLVED: The above recommendations from the 21st July Cabinet Meeting were approved in relation to the Leisure Facilities Feasibility Study.

C:49

NOTICE OF MOTION

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

Councillor Heneghan, seconded by Councillor Bone, proposed the below Notice of Motion.

“This Council notes that gambling companies have been found to targeting the least well-off areas for new sites. Residents have expressed concerns about this in King’s Lynn and at present the borough council is effectively powerless to stop it. Section 153 of the Gambling Act 2005 enshrines the ‘Aim to Permit’ principle, which requires councils to approve gambling licences where minimum criteria are met, regardless of local community opposition.

This Council resolves to:

- Join a growing coalition of 40+ other local authorities and write to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport calling for urgent reforms to restore decision-making powers to local authorities.
- Support the Six Point Plan for Gambling Reform:
 - Reform the ‘Aim to Permit’ policy to allow councils to refuse gambling premises that pose risks to local welfare and safety.
 - Place all gambling premises (including adult gaming centres and bingo halls) in a single planning category to prevent loopholes.
 - Give councils the power to consider local social and health factors, such as debt and proximity to schools, when reviewing planning applications.
 - Direct the proceeds from the new statutory levy on gambling operators, to independent public bodies and local health authorities for harm prevention and treatment.
 - Introduce greater restrictions on gambling advertising, sponsorships, and promotions – especially those reaching children and vulnerable groups.
 - Halt any proposals that further liberalise adult gaming centres, including spin speeds and staking levels on B3 machines.

Councillor Sayers proposed an amendment to the Notice of Motion to add:

- Write to the Local Government Association (LGA) expressing this Council’s support for national lobbying efforts to strengthen local authority powers over gambling premises to protect residents from harm.

Councillors Heneghan and Bone accepted the amendment to the Notice of Motion.

Council debated the Notice of Motion, as amended.

Councillor Kemp spoke in support of the Notice of Motion and the harms of gambling, especially during a cost of living crisis.

Councillor Moriarty spoke on the Motion, reminding Council that there was legislation in place which the Council had to abide by and he noted that the broader issue would be presented to a future Environment and Community Panel meeting for consideration. Councillor Moriarty reminded Council that the Statement of Licensing Policy was presented to Council in 2024 and had been widely consulted on before adoption. Councillor Moriarty provided an overview of recent licences that had been granted and the consideration the Council had to have in regard to the Licensing Objectives.

Councillor Moriarty agreed to check and confirm to Members that the Council had already written to government to indicate their support for the six point plan for gambling reform.

Councillor Rust spoke in support of the Notice of Motion and the harms of online gambling, for which the Council had no control.

Councillor Sayers thanked Councillor Heneghan for highlighting this important issue and commented that the lack of local control over gambling was serious and he welcomed the chance to strengthen support.

Councillor Long spoke in support of the Notice of Motion and hoped that the government lobbying would be successful.

Councillor Dark spoke in support of the Notice of Motion but felt that it could have been brought to the attention of Council in a better way.

Councillor Joyce spoke in support of the Motion and commented that it was not just about the premises, but who was the designated premises supervisor.

Councillor Devulapalli spoke in support and referred to the cost and pressure that gambling had on the health sector.

Councillor Bone spoke in support and made reference to the impact gambling could have on people who were vulnerable.

Councillor Heneghan summed up and was pleased with the cross party support.

RESOLVED: The Notice of Motion, as amended, was approved, as set out below:

- Support the Six Point Plan for Gambling Reform:
 - Reform the 'Aim to Permit' policy to allow councils to refuse gambling premises that pose risks to local welfare and safety.
 - Place all gambling premises (including adult gaming centres and bingo halls) in a single planning category to prevent loopholes.
 - Give councils the power to consider local social and health factors, such as debt and proximity to schools, when reviewing planning applications.
 - Direct the proceeds from the new statutory levy on gambling operators, to independent public bodies and local health authorities for harm prevention and treatment.
 - Introduce greater restrictions on gambling advertising, sponsorships, and promotions – especially those reaching children and vulnerable groups.
 - Halt any proposals that further liberalise adult gaming centres, including spin speeds and staking levels on B3 machines.
 - Write to the Local Government Association (LGA) expressing this Council's support for national lobbying efforts to strengthen local authority powers over gambling premises to protect residents from harm.

C:50

CABINET MEMBERS REPORTS

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Councillor Beales moved the Cabinet Members report en bloc.

Councillor de Whalley provided a verbal updated to his report stating that a Biodiversity Project Officer had been appointed.

He also announced that the Ferry Service would reopen at 7am on 11th August. He thanked all those involved in the Ferry repairs and urged people to return to using the facility to ensure long term sustainability.

Councillor Rust provided a verbal update on the work of the Energy Efficiency Officer and the Housing Standards Team's Beat the Bills events.

Council adjourned for a comfort break from 6.49pm to 6.57pm

The Mayor invited questions to Cabinet Members.

In response to a question from Councillor Crofts, Councillor Lintern commented that coast parking facilities in the town centre would be looked at within the Car Parking Strategy and the King's Lynn Masterplan.

In response to a question from Councillor Everett, the Leader explained that the Norfolk County Council claims regarding the proposed three

Unitary model were unfounded and all financial assessments would be robust and would only be moved forward if sustainable.

Councillor Kemp was relieved that the Ferry service would reopen soon and referred to improvements to be made. Councillor de Whalley commented that they were in the early stages of reviewing designs and options.

In response to a question from Councillor Parish, Councillor Moriarty explained that officers were liaising with Anglian Water regarding sewage treatment works and water quality and if developers requested pre-application advice then the risk to the local environment was highlighted if appropriate.

Councillor Blunt referred to the New Homes Building challenge and the government housing targets and asked how the Local Plan Task Group would be involved and if consideration could be given to establishing a further Task Group to monitor housing targets. Councillor Moriarty felt that the Local Plan Task Group would be the correct forum for monitoring Housing Targets, and he agreed to keep Council updated on the government requirements as required.

Councillor Bone referred to Government funding for Social Housing and Councillor Beales confirmed that the Council would look at opportunities as they became available.

In response to a question from Councillor Kemp, Councillor Beales agreed to provide a written response on the use of Hardings Way by taxis.

Following the meeting the below response was received from Councillor Beales:

The possibility of taxi access to Hardings Way was raised by Cllr. Andrew Jameson in a meeting of the West Norfolk Transport & Infrastructure Steering Group. As you will all be aware, Norfolk County Council is the highways authority and Cllr. Jamieson raised this matter as an elected member, and Deputy Leader of NCC. Borough representatives pointed out the sensitivities of the area, particularly for residents and raised a number of questions about any forthcoming proposal. It was confirmed that the NCC local member (Cllr. Kemp) would be consulted should NCC move the process forward. I am not clear whether NCC do intend to move this matter forward and suggest that, at this point, the local NCC member is best placed to question NCC about that.

In response to a question from Councillor Sayers, Councillor Lintern commented that opportunities to publicise the new coastal pathway from Weybourne to Hunstanton would be looked at by the Tourism Department.

In response to a question from Councillor Kunes relating to loss of Car Parking following the sale of land in Hunstanton, it was confirmed that the car parking would have been considered as part of the proposal and was detailed in the Cabinet Report.

In response to a question from Councillor Heneghan, Councillor Lintern confirmed that the Tourism Officer did consider and promote the whole Borough. Councillor Ring commented that a Marketing Strategy was in the process of being produced and there would be extensive marketing of the Guildhall.

In response to a question from Councillor Kemp, Councillor Beales reminded Council that they would be considering the Local Government Reorganisation Business Case in September.

In response to a question from Councillor Sayers, Councillor Beales confirmed that the Council would be subject to restrictions as set out in the Public Involvement in Health Act relating to the protection of public assets, once a decision on Local Government Reorganisation had been made by Government and until that stage it was business as usual.

In response to a question from Councillor Blunt, Councillor Lintern explained the reasons for the cancellation of the Mini Meet event and she hoped that it would be reinstated the following year, however it needed support from the car clubs. Councillor Lintern confirmed that all of the car clubs had been written to, to ask for their support.

Councillor Kemp referred to the new Health Hub and Councillor Rust agreed to find out more information and report back on why there had been a quiet opening and if there were other services to be opened up within the facility.

Following the meeting, Councillor Rust provided a response to Councillors which set out the general practice services within the site, occupancy and that an opening even would be held once all services were within the building.

Councillor de Winton referred to Anglian Water and sought assurance that there would be no changes to the way that Planning Applications were determined until there had been direct instruction from Government. Councillor Moriarty outlined the stance of Anglian Water and reminded Council that they were not statutory consultees on planning applications. He explained that officers were in regular discussion with the MHCLG on this issue and would keep the Council updated as required.

Councillor Coates referred to fixed penalty notices for dog breeders and asked what further action council could take to find unlicensed breeders. Councillor Moriarty explained that unplanned visits did take

place if issues arose, and he outlined the work carried out in this area, highlighting successful prosecutions which had taken place.

In response to a question from Councillor Sayers, Councillor Beales confirmed that the Borough Council had engaged with Norfolk County Council and the other Norfolk Local Authorities with regard to Local Government Reorganisation.

Councillor Long thanked Councillor Lintern for following up with the Mini Meet arrangements and asked her to give consideration to liabilities if organisations were being asked to help with arrangements for the event.

In response to a question from Councillor Crofts, Councillor Ring provided Council with an overview of joint working with King's Lynn Football Club, confirming that they did pay for use of Alive facilities.

C:51 **MEMBER'S QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions.

The meeting closed at 7.57 pm

**APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES AGREED BY FULL COUNCIL ON
31ST JULY 2025**

Part Cabinet/part Council appointments

Name of Organisation	Number of Representatives	2025-2026 Appointments
Borough Council/College of West Anglia Liaison Board	1 x Cabinet 1 x nominated by E&C	Beales (Cabinet) Osborne (Council agreed following E&C nomination)
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee	1 x Cabinet 3 x E&C 1 x Council	Bland (Cabinet), Bubb, Lintern De Whalley, Kemp (Council agreed following E&C nomination)

Council Appointments

Name of Organisation	Number of Representatives	2025-2026 Appointments
Brancaster Commons Committee	1	de Winton
Burnham Overy Harbour Management Committee	1	Sandell
Gaywood Allotment Trust	4	Collop, Rust, Christine Hudson, (non-Council), Margaret Wilkinson (non – council)
Hunstanton and District Festival of Arts	1	Bubb
John Sugars and Backhams Almshouses Charity	2	Heneghan and vacancy
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Charity	2	Bubb, Jones
King's Lynn Community Football	1	Rust
King's Lynn Conservancy Board	4	de Winton, de Whalley, Bearshaw, Jill Bennett
King's Lynn Town Football Club	1 E&C	Bland
Norfolk Police and Crime Panel and Norfolk Countywide Community safety	1 + Sub (the same Members need to be appointed to both bodies)	No nominations– Norfolk Police and Crime Panel state nominations should be Labour Members

Partnership Scrutiny Sub Panel		
North End Trust	1	Jones
Norfolk Health Overview Select Committee	1 + 1 sub	Devulapalli Kemp (substitute)
Outwell Charities	1	Crofts
QEH Governors Council	1	Kemp
SNAP Downham Market	2	Chair - Rose Vice Chair - Osborne
SNAP Hunstanton	2	Chair – Beal Vice Chair - Dickinson
SNAP King’s Lynn	2	Chair – Bone Vice Chair - Heneghan
Sibelco – Leziate Quarry	2	Devulapalli de Whalley
West Norfolk and King’s Lynn Girls School Trust	1	Sandell
West Norfolk Community Transport Project	1 x E&C	Everett
William Cleave Educational Foundation	2	Ware
Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	1 and 1 Substitute	Devulapalli and Kemp
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Governors Council	1	Kemp
West Norfolk Youth Advisory Group	1	Rust