

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

COUNCIL

**Minutes from the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 30th June, 2016
at 6.30 pm in the Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn**

PRESENT: Councillor D Whitby (Chairman)
Councillors B Ayres, Miss L Bambridge, P Beal, A Beales, R Bird, R Blunt, A Bubb,
Mrs S Buck, Mrs J Collingham, P Colvin, C Crofts, N Daubney, I Devereux,
Mrs S Fraser, P Gidney, I Gourlay, R Groom, G Hipperson, P Hodson, M Hopkins,
M Chenery of Horsbrugh, Lord Howard, M Howland, H Humphrey, C Joyce, P Kunes,
A Lawrence, B Long, G McGuinness, Mrs K Mellish, J Moriarty, A Morrison,
Mrs E Nockolds, M Peake, D Pope, C Sampson, Miss S Sandell, M Shorting, T Smith,
Mrs V Spikings, Mrs S Squire, M Storey, D Tyler, Mrs E Watson, Mrs J Westrop,
Mrs M Wilkinson, T Wing-Pentelow, Mrs A Wright and Mrs S Young

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Anota, Mrs C Bower, J Collop,
Mrs S Collop, C Manning, G Middleton, P Rochford, A Tyler and G Wareham

C:13 THE LATE JO COX MP

Council held a Minutes silence in memory of Jo Cox MP tragically murdered in her constituency.

C:14 PRAYERS

Prayers were led by Father Ling.

C:15 COUNCILLOR TIM TILBROOK

The Mayor welcomed new Councillor Tim Tilbrook who had recently been elected to the Valley Hill Ward.

C:16 MINUTES

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 April and two meetings on 12 May 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

C:17 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

C:18 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that he had send birthday congratulations to HM The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

C:19 **URGENT BUSINESS**

None

C:20 **PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The Mayor invited the following questioners forward to ask their submitted public questions, the responses to which were given as shown:

Question from Wendy Woo

Can the Council tell me how many refugees from the Syrian crisis it has offered to take for the King's Lynn area, and what stage in the arrangements for effecting this has currently been reached?

Councillor Long gave the following answer:

"Following The Prime Minister's commitments made in September 2015 it was agreed that Norfolk County Council would take the lead on a county wide response to the national 'Syrian Vulnerable persons Resettlement scheme' (VPR) - a voluntary scheme. Representatives from a range of relevant services across the public sector formed a task group to prepare some proposals to submit to the Home Office. BCKLWN participated in the work of this group in relation to the accommodation aspects of the proposals.

A proposed approach is set out in a Norfolk County Council document titled 'Syrian Vulnerable Person's Refugee Scheme for Norfolk'. This document has been consulted on earlier this year and its content discussed with Home Office representatives. The proposal sets out arrangements to re-settle 50 refugees (12-15 families). Assumptions are made with regard to the need for education, specialist health and support services, with cost estimates included. The task group advised that the 12 -15 families are located in the same community rather than be separated across the county. For many reasons including: access to worship opportunities (Sunni and Shia mosques); access to social integration initiatives; voluntary and community support; and employment opportunities Norwich was deemed to be the most appropriate location.

The Norfolk County Council's 'Full Council' will make a decision on whether to participate in the Syrian Vulnerable Person's Refugee Scheme for Norfolk at its meeting of the 25 July 2016."

Question from Robert Raab

What is the total number of houses the borough council wants to be built in the King's Lynn area and the Borough area ?

Councillor Blunt responded:

“The Local Development Plan currently in its final stages of approval states that 16,500 homes are proposed for the King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough of which 7,500 are for King's Lynn and by King's Lynn I mean the King's Lynn unparished area, West Lynn, North & South Wootton, Knights Hill and West Winch/North Runcton.”

As a supplementary question Mr Raab asked how much of an increase in infrastructure had been approved, where would the Council get the money needed for the infrastructure when the Government money had been cut. He considered that without guaranteed increases to the NHS additional houses should not be built.

In response, Councillor Blunt informed Mr Raab that for all planning considerations infrastructure and sustainability were considered and consulted upon and considered on their merit.

Question from Joanne Rust

The Discovery Centre in North Lynn has played a large and positive part in that community and the wider community as a whole; from after school and holiday activities at affordable prices to NEET engagement courses for young people. The local community what exact steps has the council taken to safeguard its future for the growing number of young people who need its services?

In response, Councillor Lawrence stated that “between April 1999 and May 2016 the Council have paid the Discovery a total of £1,252,469. However, some of this is third party funding which the Council has assisted with and contributed to in some cases in the region of £830,129.

The amount directly from Borough Council funds is £422,340, and there was a Service Level Agreement for £30,000 pa paid in 4 instalments.

This is in addition to a number of hours of Borough Council officers time to assist the Committee with its governance arrangements. It is a fantastic organisation which does a lot for young people”

As a supplementary, Mrs Rust asked that as he was a committee member what had changed at the centre so they were no longer offering the activities to young people.

Councillor Lawrence informed Ms Rust that he was no longer on the Committee, but she should address her questions to the Chairman directly.

Question from Sue Bruce

It has been reported that developers are having to pay almost £340,000 to provide nearly 30 extra primary school places in Hunstanton if they want to build up to 120 new homes in the resort. As the Borough Council are the developers of the Lynnsport development where at least 397 dwelling are planned and Marsh Lane where 130 dwellings are planned what provision are they making for children to be able to attend schools in these areas?

In response Councillor Beales explained that as with all planning applications there was a proper process which had to be entered into and consultation with the County Council regarding school places in line with other infrastructure requirements including the new road and sporting facilities etc. The Borough Council was working closely with the County Council discussing a new school site for which the land would be transferred to the County Council at no cost, therefore being a significant contribution.

By way of supplementary Mrs Bruce referred to the current level of vacant spaces in schools how could the Council show that with the proposed developments the public that their child would be able to be accommodated in school.

Councillor Beales explained that it was a County Council function but the Borough worked closely with the County regarding the required school places with any proposed developments.

C:21

DEVOLUTION

In response to a question from Councillor Lord Howard as to whether if it was given consent at this stage the further decision of the Council in October would be required, the Monitoring Officer reported that under s14 of the Cities and Local Government Act 2016, amended the s104 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 to acquire that prior to an order being made the consent of the constituent authorities was required.

Councillor Long proposed the recommendations in the report on Devolution, setting out the following elements of the Offer which he considered should be supported:

- Local control of how the normally centrally controlled money was spent.
- A new relationship between the East and Central Government
- £130m new homes allocation for the area, £30m of which was for Ipswich and Norwich, the £100m could be used a pump prime figures for new affordable and starter homes
- £25m pa for 30 years for new infrastructure projects.
- Up to £100m for the Ely North Junction to allow half hourly trains from London to Norfolk
- £20m for adult skills and £2m apprentice fund which would be controlled locally instead of centrally.

- Coastal risk management
- The Offer was the largest Deal for the first round of Devolution to date.

He drew attention to some of the concerns raised such as an elected Mayor, but reminded Members the position would be formed as weakly as possible in order to get the Deal approved. He reminded Members that the recommendations could not be altered, only approved or rejected as they were identical to those being considered by all.

Councillor Beales seconded the proposal and reserved his right to speak.

Council debated the issue with points in favour in addition to those raised by Councillor Long were raised as

- the upgrade of the Ely North Junction would assist in bringing growth, and freight as well as more regular trains
- the ability to have a seat at the table for decisions for the whole area
- if it was voted against the money wouldn't be available for the Borough
- Act now as there was a good chance that the Government would look to make more unitary authorities out of those not signing up to such deals
- Decisions would be taken at a local level including Double Devolution
- The weak Mayor model would allow for a veto by members of the Cabinet and the budget, with no casting vote.
- The Council would remain the owner of its land, the Combined Authority could not take any land without the agreement of all parties.
- The powers taken from Government will be actioned by people the Council know
- The Deal would bring capital funding, jobs and infrastructure to the area
- In turning it down at this stage the Council would be denying the public the opportunity to make their views known
- It was not right to tell the public they couldn't have the decisions taken locally when they hadn't had the consultation process, this decision was to progress through to that stage
- By not agreeing now there was a danger that West Norfolk would fade from decisions regarding funding for the area.
- Grasp the opportunity and make it work
- Take the time to speak to constituents to gauge views before taking a final vote in October

Views expressed against the proposal were

- Why was the housing money specifically targeted at Norwich and Ipswich when others had issues as well
- Because of the make up of the Combined Authority, minority parties would have no say in the decision making process
- There was no public mandate without a referendum
- The money was taxpayers money anyway but was only £30 per head, and didn't meet expectations
- Incompatible with the history of the area.
- No tier of Government would give the same comments on the proposals

- The Council would have to fight with other authorities to get any money
- A Government couldn't commit successive Governments to funding for 30 years, and the Government could review the arrangement every 5 years.
- The question for the consultation had not been seen or approved by Members
- A vote in October may be more difficult to take once the public have been consulted
- The Mayor would have huge powers of veto
- Concern about being isolated in the West with others not approving it
- Any Mayor should only be civic
- Don't all authorities have to agree in order to proceed
- Don't want to be told that a yes today would be binding for the future
- There may be an opportunity to join at a later date
- The Government has no money, and by devolving its powers would ensure they would be blameless
- There was nothing but the Ely Junction specifically for West Norfolk
- Put it on hold for 3 months until a new Government was in place
- Henry Bellingham MP did not support it
- Another layer of bureaucracy

In summing up Councillor Long re-iterated what he felt were the positive elements of the Deal, and its benefits for the Borough. He encouraged Members to vote in favour of the proposals, which would at this stage give the public to be consulted on the proposals.

On being put to the vote the recommendations were approved.

RESOLVED: 1) That the Authority endorses the signing of the Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution Agreement by the Leader.

2) That, on the basis of the Governance Review, and having regard to any impact on equalities explored in the Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) attached, the Authority concludes that the establishment of a Mayoral Combined Authority for Norfolk and Suffolk is the option which most fully permits the effective discharge of the functions that Government is prepared to devolve to this area.

3) That the Authority endorses and supports the publication of the draft Scheme for a Norfolk and Suffolk Mayoral Combined Authority as attached to this report for consultation purposes, subject to such final revisions as may be approved by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader, and prior to the commencement of the formal consultation exercise. Such formal consultation, on the Scheme, to commence once all Norfolk and Suffolk Councils have considered the matters in this report and, in any event, no later than the 4 July 2016. In the event that a Constituent Authority named in the attached Scheme does not agree to endorse the Deal Agreement and/or the Scheme, the Authority authorises, through its Chief Executive the relevant changes to be made to the Deal Agreement, the Scheme and the Governance Review to reflect that Authority's non-participation.

- 4) That the outcome of the consultation exercise is submitted to the Secretary of the State by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, by early September.
- 5) That Council meets no later than 28 October 2016 to consider giving consent to an Order establishing a Mayoral Combined Authority for Norfolk and Suffolk.
- 6) Insofar as any of the matters referred to in this report concern the discharge of functions related to the endorsing and signing of the Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution Agreement and the publication of the Scheme, authority is delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader, to take all necessary steps and actions to progress the recommendations detailed in this report.
- 7) In the event that any technical changes are required to reflect legislative requirements and the contents of the Deal Agreement, authority is delegated to the Chief Executive, in agreement with the other Executives across Norfolk and Suffolk to make the necessary changes to the Scheme
- 8) That further reports are presented to the Authority as appropriate as the Devolution process develops.

C:22 **CABINET MEMBERS REPORTS**

i **Culture Heritage and Health - Councillor Mrs E Nockolds**

Councillor Mrs Nockolds presented her report. She responded to a question on In Bloom, and confirmed she supported the Council continuing to enter the competition which was supported by a large number of volunteers.

Councillor Mrs Nockolds also confirmed that the comments being received on the Borough's grass length were being collated for review at the year end. She reminded Council that not all of the grassland was Borough owned, often County Council owned, those areas cut by the Borough often had different uses which warranted different numbers of cuts. She also explained that Parishes could pay for more cuts to their areas if they wished.

In response to questions on the joint ticketing at the museums, Councillor Mrs Nockolds confirmed that she would report on their sales to the Area Museums Committee. The way mystery shoppers worked in reporting on facilities was explained.

In responding to questions on her visit to the King's Lynn Football Club and its new owners with the Leader and the Council's representative, Councillor Mrs Nockolds confirmed they had not discussed the club's finances.

ii **Development - Councillor R Blunt**

Councillor Blunt presented his report, and agreed to provide the figures for the development contribution for secondary education for King's Lynn and surrounding villages. He also undertook to respond to the question asking if meetings were held with the NHS on future requirements when discussing development boundaries.

In response to the question relating to when the required number of houses would be reviewed, Councillor Blunt confirmed that it related to the strategy.

iii **Housing and Community - Councillor A Lawrence**

Councillor Lawrence presented his report. In response to a question asking if the number of Gypsies and Travellers in West Norfolk would be dispersed across all of Norfolk, Councillor Lawrence explained that the Assessment being carried out was intended to ascertain the number of sites and pitches required.

Councillor Lawrence also confirmed that the meeting with the Discovery Centre mentioned had not taken place. He informed Members that Councillor Middleton is now the Council's representative on the Centre.

iv **Human Resources, Facilities and Shared Services - Councillor Mrs K Mellish**

Councillor Mrs Mellish presented her report. There were no questions.

v **Performance - Councillor N Daubney**

Councillor Daubney presented his report. There were no questions.

vi **Deputy Leader and Regeneration - Councillor A Beales**

Councillor Beales had left the meeting at this point, a question on when the Lynnsport 2 area would receive its protected status was asked in his absence.

Members were invited to submit any further questions in writing.

vii **Leader and Environment - Councillor B Long**

Councillor Long presented his report, and responded to questions on the picking up of dumped trolleys that further discussions were taking place with the supermarkets who owned the trolleys in an effort to get

them to collect them, before a Council collector was re-engaged who would impose fines on the supermarkets. Members were encouraged to continue to report them in order for a log to be kept.

In response to a question on how it would continue to encourage householders to sign up to the green deal, Councillor Long encouraged Members to do so, and drew attention to the high levels of contamination in much of the recycling , and that the worst areas would be targeted to reduce it.

C:23 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME

None

C:24 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL BODIES

i Cabinet: 24 May 2016

The recommendations from the Cabinet meeting held on 24 May were proposed by Councillor Long and seconded by Councillor Daubney.

CAB2: Late Item - Payment Of Allowances For Deputy Cabinet Members

CAB11: Child Protection Policy

CAB13: Constitutional Updates

RESOLVED: That the recommendations be approved.

C:25 COUNCIL NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED: 1) That the representatives to serve on the outside bodies and partnerships listed in the Parish level and General categories as shown below be approved:

<u>NAME OF OUTSIDE BODY</u>	<u>NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES PERMITTED</u>	<u>AGREED REP</u>	<u>TERM OF OFFICE</u>
Backham Almshouse Trust	1 Parish Level	Sally Twyman	Annual
Bexwell Poors Land Charity	1 Parish Level	A White	4 years
Brancaster Commons Committee	1 Parish Level	E Watson	Annual
Burnham Overy Harbour Management Committee	1 Parish Level	S Sandell	Annual
Downham Market Leisure Centre Joint Management	2 General,	J Westrop and M Howland	Annual

Committee	1 Exec	<i>Councillor Mrs K Mellish (Exec appointment)</i>	
Freebridge Community Housing Board	2 General	C Sampson and B Long	Annual
Gaywood Allotment Trust	3 Parish	P Rochford, T Smith and G Middleton	4 years
Hunstanton and District Arts Festival	1 Parish	C Bower	Annual
Hunstanton Green Joint Management Committee	1 Exec and 2 Parish	C Bower and I Devereux (Parish). <i>Councillor Mrs E Nockolds (Exec)</i>	Annual
Hunstanton Regeneration Project Team	1 Exec and 2 Parish	P Beal, C Bower, R Bird <i>A Beales (Exec)</i>	Annual
John Sugars Almshouses Charity	4 Parish Level	L Bambridge, Sally Twyman and Janice Minns	Annual
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee	1 General 1 Exec 3 Scrutiny	A Tyler. <i>Mrs E Nockolds (exec)</i> <i>T Smith, T Wing-Pentelow and Mrs A Wright</i>	Annual
King's Lynn Borough Charity	2 General	R Groom and T Bubb	4 years
King's Lynn Conservancy Board	4 Parish Level	B Ayres to 30.01.19 C Sampson to 31.01.19 P Kunes to 31.01.18 S Squires to 31.01.17	3 years
King's Lynn Emmerich Twinning Club	2 General	A Tyler and T Smith	4 years
King's Lynn Town Centre Partnership	2 Parish Level 1 Exec + sub	L Bambridge and Mrs A Wright <i>Councillors B Long and P Hodson</i>	Annual
Marriotts Warehouse	3 General	Mrs A Wright, Dr P Richards and P Gidney	4 years
North End Trust	1 Parish Level	E Nockolds	Annual
Outwell Charities	1 General	C Crofts	Annual
Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel (SNAP) – King's Lynn	2 Parish	L Bambridge and A Tyler	Annual
Safer Neighbourhood Action	2 Parish	B Long and D Pope	Annual

Panel (SNAP) – Downham Market			
Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel (SNAP) – Hunstanton	2 Parish	P Beal and T Bubb	Annual
Sibelco – Leziate Quarry Liaison Committee	1 Parish Level	A Beales & J Moriarty	Annual
West Norfolk and King's Lynn Girls School Trust	1 General	Mrs E Nockolds	4 years
West Norfolk Youth Advisory Group	1 General	Mrs A Wright	Annual
West Walton Pools Charity	1 Parish Level	Mrs B Porter – Parish Council	3 years
William Cleave Educational Foundation	2 Parish Level	Miss L Bambridge and P Rochford	2 years

2) That the appointment of representatives nominated by the Environment and Community and Corporate Performance Panels to serve on outside bodies and partnerships which fall within the Scrutiny and Regulatory categories be approved as follows:

- Borough Council/College of West Anglia Liaison Board – Councillor T Smith
- Hunstanton Sailing Club Development Sub Committee – Councillor Hodson
- King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee - Councillors A Tyler, T Bubb and T Smith
- Norfolk County Council – Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Sub-Panel – Councillor Mrs Westrop and one vacancy for substitute Member.
- Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Mrs S Young and T Smith (substitute)
- West Norfolk Community Transport Project – Councillor Mrs S Fraser
- West Norfolk Disability Forum – Councillors Mrs S Fraser, T Bubb, M Chenery of Horsbrugh, Mrs S Squire and A Tyler

3) That the reporting arrangements be noted.

C:26

PROPORTIONALITY

Following the by election in the Valley Hill Ward, proportionality had been reconfigured. Council was invited to approve the change.

RESOLVED: That proportionality be amended by the change of 1 seat on the Licensing & Appeals Board moving from Independent to Conservative and the appropriate membership sought.

The meeting closed at 8.24 pm