

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

**Minutes from the Meeting of the Council held on  
Thursday, 13th October, 2022 at 4.30 pm in the Assembly Room,  
Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ**

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Beal, A Bullen, S Dark,  
G Howman and J Kirk

**C:38 MINUTE'S SILENCE IN MEMORY OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II**

Council held a minute's silence in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Following the minute's silence the Mayor thanked all the officers who had assisted with the additional work required to ensure the Queen's passing was marked with suitable ceremony in the borough.

**C:39 PRAYERS**

Prayers were led by Canon Mark Dimond

**C:40 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 September 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

**C:41 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None

**C:42 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**C:43 URGENT BUSINESS**

None

**C:44**     **PROPORTIONALITY REVIEW**

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**RESOLVED:** That proportionality be amended by the change of seats as follows:

That Conservatives lose 1 seat from the Licensing Committee and that seat goes to the Group of Independents

**C:45**     **MATTERS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING - COUNCIL LEADER REPORT**

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As the Leader was not able to be present in the meeting he asked for any questions to be emailed to him.

**C:46**     **PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None

**C:47**     **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL BODIES****i**         **Cabinet: 26 September 2022**

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Councillor Middleton proposed the following recommendation from Cabinet on 1 September 2022 - CAB69: Risk Management Policy. This was seconded by Councillor Dickinson. The recommendation was put to the vote.

**RESOLVED:** That the recommendation from 1 September 2022 Cabinet be approved.

**C:48**     **NOTICES OF MOTION**

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- 1) Councillor C Morley proposed Notice of Motion (12/22), this was seconded by Councillor Ryves.

“This Council recognises the support being given by the Government, to all householders, to help combat inflationary pressures and in particular, energy prices this winter.

However, and in accordance with its intention, as described in its Corporate Plan, to support the Health and Well-being of the people of West Norfolk, this Council intends to provide a Hardship Fund for householders in need over the next 2 years.

It will therefore withdraw £1m from its General Reserves for financial year 2023/4 to propagate the Fund and earmark £1m in its budget for 2024/5.

The Fund will open on 1 April 2023 and close 31 March 2025.

It will be available to all households that meet a defined hardship criterion. This criterion will be formulated by an Informal Working Group and agreed by Council. It will be published in sufficient time for applications to commence and be vetted by the opening date."

Councillor de Whalley proposed an amendment to the second paragraph to

Councillor de Whalley proposed an amendment to the second paragraph of the Motion to read "... Hardship Fund for householders, residents and communities in need...."

Councillor Morley accepted this amendment which then became the substantive motion.

Councillor Lowe proposed a further amendment to the third paragraph which would then read:

"It will therefore withdraw £1m from its General Reserves for the present financial year. The fund will open on 10 December 2022." Deleting the remainder of the paragraph.

This amendment was seconded by Councillor Hudson. The amendment was not supported by Councillor Morley.

Councillor Lowe spoke in support of the amendment, as did Councillors Hudson, Rust Parish, Jones, A Tyler, Bone, Ryves and Nash.

Councillor Long spoke against the amendment as it wasn't known if such a scheme could be delivered in such a time frame, and the Government were putting in place other measures.

Councillor Ratcliff spoke of the need to deal with issues in a budgeted way.

Councillor Moriarty sought clarification on the timing of the amendment. Councillor Joyce suggested that if it was set up quickly, it could be looked at again at budget time.

Councillor Morley summed up explaining he was trying to propose a framework for a two year chest of finances for the community.

With the required number of supporters a recorded vote was requested on the amendment.

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Bhondi	Ayres	Lawton
Bone	Bambridge	Moriarty
Collop	Blunt	Morley
Holmes	Bower	Parish
Howland	Bubb	Squire
Hudson	Collingham	
Jones	Crofts	
Joyce	Devereux	
Lowe	Dickinson	
Nash	Hipperson	
Rust	Howard	
Ryves	Kunes	
A Tyler	Lawrence	
De Whalley	Long	
Wilkinson	Manning	
	Middleton	
	Nockolds	
	Patel	
	Ratcliff	
	Rose	
	Sampson	
	Sandell	
	Spikings	
	Storey	
	D Tyler	
	Whitby	
15	26	5

The amendment was lost.

Council then debated the substantive motion. Councillor Rust spoke in support of the substantive. Councillors Joyce, Ryves, Hudson, Parish, Squire, Ratcliff, Lawton Lowe and Bone spoke in support of the substantive. Councillors Middleton listed the measures in place to support the community. Councillor Dickinson spoke against the motion explaining that the funds were allocated in the coming years to continue to provide services with the rising costs.

In summing up Councillor Morley acknowledged the issues with the longer term budget but stressed he was trying to introduce the fund in a constructive manner in order to assist people now. With the required number of supporters a recorded vote was taken on the substantive motion.

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Bhondi	Ayres	
Bone	Bambridge	
Collop	Blunt	
Holmes	Bower	
Howland	Bubb	
Hudson	Collingham	
Jones	Crofts	
Joyce	Devereux	
Lawton	Dickinson	
Lowe	Hipperson	
Moriarty	Howard	
Morley	Kunes	
Nash	Lawrence	
Parish	Long	
Ratcliff	Manning	
Rust	Middleton	
Ryves	Nockolds	
Squire	Patel	
A Tyler	Rose	
De Whalley	Sampson	
Wilkinson	Sandell	
	Spikings	
	Storey	
	D Tyler	
	D Whitby	
21A	25	0

**RESOLVED:** That the Motion is lost.

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- 2) Councillor Squire proposed her Motion 13/22. This was seconded by Councillor Kunes who spoke in support of it. Councillor de Whalley also spoke in support of the motion.

“In light of recent concerns over the Government's growth plans and the effect they may have on the environment, this council confirms its continued commitment to the improvement, preservation and protection of the environment, habitat and biodiversity of West Norfolk.”

The motion was put to the vote.

**RESOLVED:** That the motion be adopted.

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- 3) Councillor Parish proposed his Motion 14/22 and spoke in support of it. Councillor Joyce seconded the Motion and spoke in support of it

“This Council deploras recent announcements by Prime Minister Truss which, if carried through, will severely damage the environment and measures to protect and enhance bio diversity.

These include, diminishing Habitats Regulation rules; changes to current legislation protecting water quality; potentially scrapping the Environmental Land Management Proposals, and allowing fracking.

Given the abhorrence shown to the proposals by all notable environmental organisations, including the RSPB, which represent some millions of people including both residents of and visitors to West Norfolk, this Council will make its concerns known to the Prime Minister.”

Councillors de Whalley, Ratcliff, Rust and Ryves spoke in support of the motion. Councillors Kunes and Hipperson spoke against it. Councillor Parish summed up. At the request of the required number of Members a recorded vote was taken on the item.

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Bhondi	Ayres	Lawton
Bone	Bambridge	
Collop	Blunt	
Holmes	Bower	
Howland	Bubb	
Hudson	Collingham	
Jones	Crofts	
Joyce	Devereux	
Lowe	Dickinson	
Moriarty	Hipperson	
Morley	Howard	
Nash	Kunes	
Parish	Lawrence	
Ratcliff	Long	
Rust	Manning	
Ryves	Middleton	
Squire	Nockolds	
A Tyler	Patel	
De Whalley	Rose	
Wilkinson	Sampson	
	Sandell	
	Spikings	
	Storey	
	D Tyler	
	Whitby	
20	25	1

**RESOLVED:** The Motion was lost.

At 18.23 Council adjourned to 18.30.

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4) Councillor Morley proposed Notice of Motion 15/22 and spoke in support of the Motion. This was seconded by Councillor Moriarty.

"This Council resolves that, in view of its second failure to secure funds from the Heritage Lottery Fund for renovating the Guildhall complex and in recognition of paragraphs 3.26-3.28 of the Government's Town Fund Guidance Paper which confirm the objective of securing matching or contributory funds from business, to seek fiscal support from those companies which operate within the Town.

The extra revenues expected to be secured through this part of the Town Improvement Programme will bring opportunities for additional Town business and in particular to the retail sector"

Councillor Middleton spoke against the Motion reminding members of the amount of funding already received. He did not consider it the right time to go out to businesses for funding when many of them were still recovering from covid times.

He considered there was time to make other funding applications, and it may be appropriate that the CIO as a charitable organisation if businesses wished to contribute to the pot they could do so. He also confirmed the explanatory letter from the Heritage Lottery Fund refusal was awaited.

Councillor Ryves spoke for the motion and against the recommendations from Councillor Middleton. Councillors Joyce, Bone, Rust, Moriarty and de Whalley spoke in favour of the Motion. Councillor A Tyler offered to be a conduit to two experienced individuals who would assist. Councillor Long spoke against the motion, and Councillor Collingham informed members that it would not be appropriate to approach any businesses until the CIO was formed.

Councillor Morley summed up that the Government wanted the local businesses to be approached and he felt the CIO was a red herring, but felt comforted that the funding would not necessarily be found from Reserves, but that the costs should be cut according to the funding available in a sustainable way.

With the required number of members a recorded vote was taken.

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Bhondi	Ayres	Hudson
Bone	Bambridge	Lawton
Collop	Blunt	
Holmes	Bower	
Howland	Bubb	

Jones	Collingham	
Joyce	Crofts	
Lowe	Devereux	
Moriarty	Dickinson	
Morley	Hipperson	
Nash	Howard	
Parish	Humphrey	
Ratcliff	Kunes	
Rust	Lawrence	
Ryves	Long	
Squire	Manning	
A Tyler	Middleton	
De Whalley	Nockolds	
Wilkinson	Patel	
	Rose	
	Sampson	
	Sandell	
	Spikings	
	Storey	
	D Tyler	
	Whitby	
19	26	2

**RESOLVED:** The Motion was lost.

C:49

### **CABINET MEMBERS REPORTS**

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The Deputy Leader proposed the Cabinet reports en bloc. He requested that questions of the Leader be sent to him on email in his absence from the meeting.

Councillor Long responded to a question from Councillor Morley on Council companies governance and confirmed the report should come to 15 November Cabinet.

Councillor Lawrence confirmed to Councillor Bone that the households behind the Somerfeld and Thomas site would be consulted and any concerns they had taken into account.

Councillor Lawrence confirmed to Councillor Devereux that the NWES money from the KLIC had now been paid in full to the council.

Councillor Blunt responded to a question from Councillor Ryves on solar farms that each application would be considered on its merit.

Councillor Collop asked Councillor Kunes about the industrial relations with Serco, to which he confirmed discussions were ongoing.



In response to a question from Councillor Spikings to Councillor Sandell she confirmed that residents not able to access the funding stream recently announced details on line could call the Council's telephone line and they would be assisted.

Following a question from Councillor Parish regarding the properties at Southend Road Hunstanton being sold or rented to people with local connections, Councillor Blunt confirmed that this was being pursued.

Councillor Blunt responded to a question from Councillor Bone who indicated that local people were not happy with the proposals for the Custom House and environs, he confirmed that the consultation process was taking place and feedback welcomed. He agreed to email a fuller response.

In response to a question from Councillor Bower, Councillor Long confirmed that Hunstanton had been awarded a Gold, and also the best Open space for the Esplanade Gardens. Councillor Nockolds had also received a nomination for the work towards and support of In Bloom over the years.

Councillor Ryves asked Councillor Sandell what the situation was for those people having taken in Ukrainian refugees 6 months ago and that time was fast approaching. Councillor Sandell agreed to look into it and respond to him.

Councillor Lawrence agreed to email Councillor Collop with details of the residential area proposed on Gayton Road.

Councillor Blunt gave an update on the CIL payments to date and encouraged members to attend the briefing being held for all members on Teams.

Councillor Kunes responded to Councillor Parish in that the Council was monitoring the Solar Together project and the project was moving well, because of the good uptake the project would go into the following year.

Councillor Sandell, in responding to Councillor Nockolds confirmed that residents and businesses were being asked to respond to a survey so the responses could be used towards the Rural Prosperity Fund work.

Coming up to the 3 hours point, Councillor de Whalley proposed that the meeting continue to sit. This was seconded by Councillor Rust. On being put to the vote the proposal was lost and the meeting closed.

**The meeting closed at 7.37 pm**