

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

COUNCIL

**Minutes from the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 9th March, 2023
at 4.30 pm in the Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn**

PRESENT: Councillor Miss L Bambridge (Chair)
Councillors B Ayres, P Beal, R Blunt, F Bone, A Bubb, A Bullen,
Mrs J Collingham, S Collop, C J Crofts, S Dark, M de Whalley, I Devereux,
A Dickinson, A Holmes, M Howland, H Humphrey, B Jones, C Joyce, A Kemp,
J Kirk, P Kunes, B Long, J Lowe, C Manning, G Middleton, E Nockolds, T Parish,
S Patel, C Rose, J Rust, C Sampson, S Sandell, Mrs V Spikings, S Squire,
M Storey, A Tyler, D Tyler and D Whitby

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Bhondi, C Bower,
G Hipperson, Lord Howard, G Howman, C Hudson, A Lawrence, B Lawton,
J Moriarty, C Morley, J Ratcliffe, A Ryves, A Ware and M Wilkinson

C:77 PRAYERS

Prayers were led by Fr Michael Sparrow.

C:78 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

C:79 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

C:80 URGENT BUSINESS - APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMAN

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Cabinet meeting - 7 March 2023 – CAB134 - Appointment of Honorary Alderman

In accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Mayor decided that the following matter should be considered in order to take a decision on the above.

The Mayor invited Councillor Dark to propose the recommendations from the Cabinet meeting on 7 March 2023. Councillor Dark proposed the recommendations and spoke in support of them. They were seconded by Councillor Middleton.

Councillors spoke in support of the proposals and on being put to the vote they were approved.

RESOLVED 1) That the Council places on record its deep appreciation of the eminent services to the Council rendered by former Councillor Nicholas Daubney.

2) That a Special Meeting of the Council to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillor Daubney be held at 4.30 pm, prior to the Council meeting on Thursday, 30 March 2023 and the engrossment of recommendation above and an aldermanic badge be presented to the Honorary Alderman, at that Council meeting.

3) That with the consent of the Mayor, the recommendations be submitted to the Extraordinary meeting of the Council on 9 March 2023 as urgent business.

4) That the Council places on record its deep appreciation of the eminent services to the Council rendered by former Councillor Nicholas Daubney.

5) That a Special Meeting of the Council to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillor Daubney be held at 4.30 pm, prior to the Council meeting on Thursday, 30 March 2023 and the engrossment of the recommendation above and an aldermanic badge be presented to the Honorary Alderman, at that Council meeting.

C:81 **MATTERS REMAINING FROM THE 26 JANUARY 2023 MEETING**

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Councillor Joyce proposed that item 6 1) Cabinet members reports for January 2023 and 6 2) Members question time for January 2023 be taken together with items 7 3) Cabinet members reports for February 2023 and 7 4) Members question time for February 2023. This was seconded by Councillor Parish and agreed.

C:82 **MATTERS REMAINING FROM THE 23 FEBRUARY 2023 MEETING**

i **Recommendations from Council Bodies - Cabinet 8 February 2023**

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Councillor Dark moved each of the recommendations from Cabinet on 8 February 2023. These were seconded by Councillor Middleton.

CAB129: Hunstanton Multi User Hub and Transport Interchange
Councillor Parish spoke on this recommendation. On being put to the vote the recommendation was agreed.

CAB130: Officer Delegated Decisions – Call In
Councillor Parish spoke on this item. On being put to the vote the recommendation was agreed.

CAB132: Council Meeting Arrangements
Council debated the recommendations with opinions for and against start timings expressed. It was clarified that should the new council wish to debate and take a decision on this matter before 6 months it would be acceptable. On being put to the vote the recommendations were agreed.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations above from the Cabinet meeting on 8 February 2023 be approved.

ii Notices of Motion

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i) Councillor Dark proposed the following Notice of Motion (4/23), seconded by Councillor Middleton.

Councillor Dark spoke in support of the Motion which he considered was still as meaningful as it had been a year ago. He acknowledged that the support given by the Council its Partners and the people of west Norfolk had gone from strength to strength and he wanted the message of support to be re-iterated:

One year on from the Putin regime's illegal and immoral invasion of Ukraine that has caused intolerable death, destruction and misery this council thanks all those locally who have opened their homes and hearts to the 400 refugees who have settled in West Norfolk and the staff of our reception centre and partner agencies who have worked so hard to support them. We also recommit our condemnation of the war, call for its cessation and withdraw of the invading forces and our support to the Ukrainian people for as long as is needed.

Councillors Joyce, A Tyler and Rust spoke in favour of the motion and on being put to the vote it was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: That the Motion be agreed.

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ii) Councillor Dark proposed the following Notice of Motion (5/23), seconded by Councillor de Whalley.

Councillor Dark spoke in support of the motion reminding members that as well as this Council other surrounding authorities and their MPs were in opposition to the proposal. He expressed the wish to show continued opposition to the incinerator:

The Medworth Incinerator, Wisbech is currently at the 'interested party' submission hearing stage. This application is continuing to be brought forward causing concern to residents, despite in principle opposition from this council, Norfolk County Council and several other councils. It is now several months since our earlier widely supported motion stating our council's opposition to this scheme. At this important stage we clearly re-state our opposition to reassure residents of our consistency in this and instruct officers to continue this approach in their submissions and interactions on this issue.

In debating and supporting the Motion Councillor Long spoke in support of it, drawing attention to the direction of the plume across the Borough and into the Wash.

Councillor Kemp spoke in support of the motion drawing attention to the potential harm to public health and the fact they were aiming to build the incinerator in an area of deprivation.

Councillor Joyce reminded members of the 93% of voters who voted against the proposed incinerator in South Lynn, which was no different to the current situation where all respondents were saying no.

Councillor Rust supported the motion reinforcing the opinions on incineration.

Councillor Parish spoke in support of the motion stating incineration wasn't wanted anywhere.

Councillor Crofts spoke in support of the motion reminding members that the decision would be taken by the Minister.

Councillor de Whalley spoke in support of the motion and informed members that he had received the thanks for the support shown by the Borough Council from the local communities around the proposal. He expressed concern that the developer had proposed the size of the incinerator to be just over the nationally significant level in order to short circuit local democracy.

Councillor Blunt, in representing many of the adjacent parishes confirmed the objections to it. He confirmed attendance at the session with the Examiner in Wisbech and drew attention to the fact that there were 9 schools in the direct path of the plume from the proposal, along with a lot of the soft fruit grown in the area. He urged members to send written submissions by 20 March. The Examiner had to make a recommendation by 21 August, for onward decision by the Minister.

Councillor Dark in summing up drew attention to the fact the proposal was for a mega incinerator to be built on the doorstep which was causing residents considerable concern.

Councillor Devereux, with the required number of supporters requested a recorded vote on the motion.

Councillor Squire declared a non pecuniary interest in the item as she worked for the Forestry Commission and would be expected to respond to the NSIP, would need to remain neutral so would therefore abstain.

For	Against	Abstain
Ayres		Squire
Bambridge		
Beal		
Blunt		
Bone		
Bubb		
Bullen		
Collingham		
Collop		
Crofts		
Dark		
Devereux		
Dickinson		
Holmes		
Howland		
Humphrey		
Jones		
Joyce		
Kemp		
Kirk		
Kunes		
Long		
Lowe		
Manning		
Middleton		
Nockolds		
Parish		
Patel		
Rose		
Rust		
Sampson		
Sandell		
Spikings		
Storey		
A Tyler		
D Tyler		
De Whalley		
Whitby		
38	0	1

RESOLVED: That the Motion be adopted.

iii

Cabinet Members reports - to 26 January and 23 February 2023

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Councillor Dark moved the Cabinet Members reports en bloc. This was seconded by Councillor Middleton.

Councillor Kunes responded to a question from Councillor Holmes regarding EV charging points in the south of the Borough where it was explained the car parks weren't owned by the Borough Council.

Councillor Parish's asked Councillor Blunt if consideration had been given to starting the local Plan again. Councillor Blunt confirmed that all options had been considered and legal advice taken and the route taken in the recent cabinet report.

Councillor Kemp asked Councillor Blunt if he had considered a new Garden city instead of the proposed development at West Winch. Councillor Blunt reminded members that the Inspector had sought the evidence used to justify the numbers proposed at West Winch, not the sustainability of the site which had been in the Plan for a number of years, and a lot of work had been carried out in preparation for the new road.

Councillor Long asked if it was possible to provide the figures for the carbon emissions and money saved with the Refit programme. Councillor Kunes confirmed that one a year of operation had been in place it would be possible to calculate those savings.

Councillor Sandell responded to Councillor Squire's question on whether giving financial advice at the foodbank would discourage people from using it by undertaking to provide a breakdown on the numbers and queries.

In response to a question from Councillor Joyce on why the sites given permission over the years have not yet been delivered, Councillor Blunt reminded Members that the sites were privately owned and could not be forced to be developed.

Councillor Kemp asked what was being done to assist Freebridge bring forward their empty homes for renting. Councillor Sandell explained that several meetings had been held with them and they were trying to bring their stock back on line.

Councillor Long asked Councillor Humphrey if there was a decision on future Councillor's IT equipment. Councillor Humphrey informed members that if they preferred to keep their Ipad they may, if not a laptop would be provided.

Councillor Rust asked Councillor Blunt if the Council was able to shape the governance arrangements of the Town Deal Board so the Council was more influential on it. Councillor Blunt reminded members that he was a Council representative on the Board which he considered to be open to its dealings .

Councillor Joyce asked if landowners and developers didn't come forward with their sites if another should replace it. Councillor Blunt confirmed that landowners were asked what their intentions were with sites.

Councillor Crofts asked for an update on CIL applications from January. Councillor Blunt confirmed there had been 45 infrastructure project applications made to the value of £700,000. He gave an update on some of the applications made.

Councillor de Whalley asked if in the Town Deal updates could be changed to give a red/green status and provide assurances on the risks and costs of the Town Deal. Councillor Blunt reminded members that a summary of key projects and risks was given at the Member Major Projects Board.

Councillor Joyce referred again to the non delivery of sites with planning permission, to which Councillor Blunt explained that explanations had to be taken at face value. E confirmed that deliverability may be a factor in the future but it couldn't influence their decisions..

Councillor Parish asked how many tourists in an area was sustainable, Councillor Middleton responded that it was about what an area could manage, and confirmed that there were a lot of people and businesses which relied on tourism but it had to be sustainable for the area.

Councillor Joyce asked what the plans were for the Council's finances in 3 years time which was currently unfunded. Councillor Dickinson explained the process which would be gone through in the coming years to review budgets.

Councillor Kemp asked about funding for works to the Ferry. Councillor Blunt confirmed that the Borough and County Councils had undertaken a joint inspection of the ferry which showed no imminent or serious hazards needing immediate attention. Potential funding sources were being discussed for any work required.

Councillor Whitby asked whether other developers had also included the environmentally friendly elements to their build as had been included at Parkway. Councillor Kunes reminded members that the Government had targets for their inclusion and the cessation of gas boilers which would mean that developers would eventually provide them.

Councillor Kunes confirmed that the Biodiversity Task Group would be able to start work soon now an Ecologist had been employed.

Councillor Kemp suggested that the provision of houses on Harding's Way should be taken out of the local plan. Councillor Blunt confirmed there was a small number allocated in the plan and they would be kept under review along with other sites.

Councillor Long asked what the situation with County Council funding was for the Lilley service. Councillor Sandell confirmed they were doing a great job and it was hoped that the service would continue and would keep members informed.

Councillor Rust asked what due diligence had been undertaken with Solar Together. Councillor Kunes confirmed this had been undertaken by the County Council.

Councillor Middleton responded to a question from Councillor de Whalley on what role parishes would have with the Rural Community Grant and whether they could bid for it. He confirmed it was being administered by a third party. He undertook to provide the information on what they could apply for.

In response to a point raised by Councillor Parish on the advice available from the Forestry Commission on tree planting, Councillor Kunes explained that the directly operational matters were dealt with by officers.

In response to a question from Councillor Squire, Councillor Kunes gave an update on the work being done to monitor the coastline, sandbanks, cliffs, promenade and groynes along the coast.

Councillor Sandell confirmed to Councillor Nockolds that subject to NHS approvals and planning permission there was due to be a new doctors surgery in South Lynn.

Councillor de Whalley asked if Councillor Kunes was due to visit the trees at Lynnsport soon, to which Councillor Kunes explained that a visit had been arranged to identify the vandalised or dead trees and they would be replaced.

Councillor Kunes responded to a point raised by Councillor Parish on air source heat pumps which were not appropriate in some older buildings, he explained that some installations were waiting on parts from China, but the existing boilers were left in place in the mean time.

Leaders Question Time

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Councillor Parish questioned the benefit to local people of the Levelling Up scheme at the South Gates. Councillor Dark reminded members that the County Council had chosen two to put forward and Government had accepted the scheme which was good news for the town.

Councillor Joyce asked about the County Council's Strategic Transport Area and Regeneration Partnership Committee which was not cross party. Councillor Dark confirmed it was working and discussion projects which were ongoing to between the Councils to ensure they progressed.

Councillor Kemp commented on Norwich's Advisory Group. She asked if funding for the ferry could be obtained from the STAR project. Councillor Dark commented on the LUF bid and re-iterated that the Borough and County Councils were reviewing what was necessary for the ferry which would be considered at the time..

Councillor Rust drew attention to meetings with Secretary of State Steve Barclay and James Wild MP on the hospital and asked if Nick Markham who would now take the decision would be included. Councillor Dark confirmed he would be included.

Councillor Joyce made reference to the ONS information on income deprived areas and asked how the LUF funding would help those areas, to which Councillor Dark responded that jobs, housing, aspiration healthcare and ambition were all taken into account for the area as part of the fund.

Councillor Kemp suggested that resurfacing of West Lynn footpaths could be included in scheme, to which Councillor Dark had already responded with what was included with the scheme.

Councillor Squire asked if consideration had been given to changing the name of the council as she considered it's name too King's Lynn focussed. Councillor Dark drew attention to the focus on the whole borough that the council demonstrated. He commented that there was a long history for the Borough and changing it would effect the Mayoralty.

Councillor Joyce commented that he did not believe the LUF would help the deprived area apart from providing temporary construction jobs. Councillor Dark drew attention to the aspirational work being carried out for the benefit of the whole area such as the RCN college, and the provision of affordable housing within developments.

Councillor Parish made reference to the financial situation of the country in the Autumn and questioned nominations for MP positions. Councillor Dark reminded members that it was not a role of this council to consider, but that the council should focus on what it was delivering.

Following points made by Councillor Joyce on the LUF project Councillor Dark reminded members it was a County Council led project supported and accepted by central Government.

Councillor Kemp asked whether he considered there should be a diabetic clinic in the new South Lynn surgery, to which Councillor Dark responded it was up to the NHS to decide what was needed within its surgeries.

iv **Members Question Time - to 26 January and to 23 February 2023**

The were no questions.

The meeting closed at 7.11 pm