

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

**Minutes from the Meeting of the Council held on
Thursday, 1st September, 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, A Bullen,
J Collingham, S Collop, C J Crofts, S Dark, M de Whalley, I Devereux,
A Dickinson, P Gidney, G Hipperson, A Holmes, M Howland, G Howman,
C Hudson, H Humphrey, B Jones, C Joyce, A Kemp, P Kunes, A Lawrence,
B Lawton, B Long, C Manning, G Middleton, C Morley, S Nash, E Nockolds,
T Parish, J Ratcliffe, C Rose, J Rust, A Ryves, C Sampson, S Sandell, A Tyler,
D Tyler, D Whitby and M Wilkinson

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Beal, Lord Howard,
J Kirk, J Lowe, J Moriarty, S Patel, V Spikings and S Squire

C:27 THE LATE COUNCILLOR JOHN COLLOP

Council held a minutes silence in memory of the Late Councillor John Collop who had sadly passed away.

C:28 PRAYERS

Prayers were led by Rev Canon Ling

C:29 MINUTES

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 14 July 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

C:30 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

C:31 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

C:32 URGENT BUSINESS

None

C:33 **PROPORTIONALITY CHANGES**

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

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

That Independent lose 1 seat from the Licensing Committee and 1 seat from Corporate Performance Panel.

That those 2 seats go to the Conservative Group

C:34 **PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None

C:35 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL BODIES**

i **Cabinet: 2 August 2022**

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

Councillor Dark proposed and Councillor Kunes seconded the recommendation from the Cabinet meeting on 2 August 2022: CAB47 Contaminated Land Strategy.

RESOLVED: That the recommendation be approved.

C:36 **NOTICES OF MOTION**

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

Council agreed to take Notice of Motion 9/22 first.

1) **Councillor A Tyler proposed the following Notice of Motion (9/22), seconded by Councillor Dark:**

“This Council is very saddened by the recent loss of John Collop, an effective, principled and long-standing councillor and friend to many here.

Therefore, at the first formal Council meeting since his untimely passing this Council initiates a lasting and befitting tribute to pay our

respects to him and his family and give thanks for his years of service to the people of West Norfolk.

This Council therefore agrees steps will be put in place to ensure that one of the roads, community recreation or green spaces on a new Council related development in or near the ward he served so well coming forward will be named in his honour as a lasting tribute and reminder for all.”

Councillor Tyler spoke in support of the Motion and fondly about the late Councillor John Collop and his roles and life which Councillor Tyler had been closely associated with.

Councillor Dark also spoke in support of the motion and drew attention to the fact that the Council buildings had been lit in red and the flags lowered as a mark of respect for John. He also informed Council that as a mark of respect to John Collop the Conservative Group would not be calling for a by election to fill his vacancy or if one was called would not be putting a candidate forward at this stage.

Councillor Joyce, as a long standing friend and colleague also paid tribute to Councillor Collop. A number of other Councillors including the Mayor and Deputy also paid tribute to him, and confirmed that his funeral had been touching and meaningful. A vote was taken on the Motion which was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: That the Motion be approved.

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

2) Councillor A Kemp proposed the following Notice of Motion (8/22), seconded by Councillor de Whalley:

“Tourism and Heritage Assets

This Council supports King's Lynn's heritage that defines Lynn as an international tourist destination. The Carnegie Library is one of Lynn's most prominent heritage assets that was built by the Council, on land belonging to the Council, on Tower Field near the Greyfriars Tower, in 1904 in Tudor Gothic architecture, with a turret that was used as an observation tower in the First World War and which houses the town's two book collections dating from Medieval Times.

Head Librarian Ray Wilson's book, History of Lynn Library, says: The site was excellent for library purposes, being situated centrally in the town, amongst Medieval surroundings, with ease of access from all parts of the town and the outlying Districts.

The previous Administration formed a plan to move the library to the old Argos shop.

The Library was acquired by statute by Norfolk County Council under local government reorganisation in 1974.

The County Council intends to consult the community for a community function for the building.

However, if community groups do not come forward that can afford to buy the Carnegie, or take on a full repairing lease, NCC says it would reassess the situation. This would put the future of the Carnegie at risk as a public building open to all.

If the library moves out of the Carnegie, Norfolk County Council will cease to fund its upkeep and repair.

If NCC declare the building is surplus to service requirements, the Council policy is disposal.

The law says disposals of local government property should be at market value, and leases are at full market rent.

NCC recently expressed the intention to save Holt Hall Education Centre for a community use, but then sold it off to the highest bidder for private use.

This Council does not want to Lynn to lose a key heritage asset open to the public, residents and tourists and asks the Cabinet to make a formal agreement with Norfolk County Council to safeguard its future as a heritage asset.”

Councillor Kemp spoke in support of the Motion. Councillor Middleton drew attention to the previous debates on the issue where this Council and Norfolk County Council’s support of the old library was well documented.

Councillor Parish urged support for the motion so that it would be actioned in the event circumstances were to change. Councillors Joyce and Rust spoke in support of the motion.

Councillors Long and Dark spoke against the motion reminding members of the County Council ownership, and of the often documented comments made.

Councillor Ratcliff stated support for the motion, and also for the proposed MUCH project.

Councillor Morley supported the motion. Councillor Hudson expressed the hope that the reassurances given would be acted upon. Councillor de Whalley made reference to the cost of the MUCH, the lack of maintenance to the existing library which he considered should be a community asset.

Councillor Kemp summed up. With the required number of supporters a recorded vote was taken on the motion.

For	Against	Abstain
Bhondi	Ayres	Howland
Bone	Bambridge	Hudson

Bullen	Blunt	
Collop	Bower	
Holmes	Bubb	
Howman	Collingham	
Jones	Dark	
Joyce	Devereux	
Kemp	Dickinson	
Lawton	Gidney	
Morley	Hipperson	
Nash	Humphrey	
Parish	Kunes	
Ratcliff	Lawrence	
Rust	Long	
Ryves	Manning	
A Tyler	Middleton	
De Whalley	Nockolds	
Wilkinson	Rose	
	Sampson	
	Sandell	
	D Tyler	
	Whitby	
19	23	2

RESOLVED: The Motion was lost.

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

3) Councillor Sandell proposed the following Notice of Motion (10/22), seconded by Councillor Dark :

‘Like many other organisations, this Council recognises diversity training, like other training, is vitally important. It helps us understand the many varied communities, businesses and visitors we serve better, it inputs relevant legislation and evolving best practice and reassures people looking in that we as their Councillors are open to such important personal development.

We instruct officers to bring forward developmental diversity training at the earliest opportunity and agree to attend. This is not for some ethereal purpose, but to have real world benefit, helping us as a council make better strategies, policies and decisions for all.’

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Morley to include Council in its entirety in the training. The amendment was seconded by Councillor Bone which was accepted by Councillor Sandell and became part of the substantive motion.

Council debated the new substantive motion.

Councillor Nash proposed a further amendment that the Motion be amended to include “contractors of the Council”. Councillor Ryves seconded the amendment and further suggested that “employees of the Council’s wholly owned subsidiaries” also be included in the amendment. Councillor Nash accepted the addition to his amendment. The amendment was not accepted by Councillor Sandell.

The amendment was debated, with points raised by Councillor Long that there were potentially considerable financial implications in the amendment which had not been accounted for, and Councillor Dark that to point to the Motion that the Councillors were being held to account was being lost with the amendments being proposed.

Councillors Hudson, Humphrey, Joyce and Kunes commented that it was not the council’s responsibility to train its contractors, that fell to their employers. Councillor Rust suggested including as many employees as possible. Councillor Nash summed up the amendment.

With the required number of supporters a recorded vote was taken on the amendment:

For	Against	Abstain
Bhondi	Ayres	Hudson
Bone	Bambridge	Jones
Bullen	Blunt	Lawton
Collop	Bower	Long
Holmes	Bubb	Middleton
Howland	Collingham	
Howman	Crofts	
Kemp	Dark	
Nash	Devereux	
Ratcliff	Dickinson	
Rust	Gidney	
Ryves	Hipperson	
A Tyler	Humphrey	
De Whalley	Joyce	
M Wilkinson	Kunes	
	Lawrence	
	Manning	
	Morley	
	Nockolds	
	Parish	
	Rose	
	Sampson	
	Sandell	
	D Tyler	
	D Whitby	
15	25	5

The amendment to the motion was lost.

The debate then ensued around the substantive motion.

Councillor Dark spoke in favour of the substantive which showed that the Council as elected councillors were open to development and learning in order to make the best decisions and policies as possible. Councillor Sandell briefly summed up.

With the required number of supporters a recorded vote was taken on the substantive motion which included the Council's officers and employees of the Council.

For	Against	Abstain
Ayres		R Lawton
Bambridge		
Bhondi		
Blunt		
Bone		
Bower		
Bone		
Bubb		
Bullen		
Collingham		
Collop		
Crofts		
Dark		
Devereux		
Dickinson		
Gidney		
Hipperson		
Holmes		
Howland		
Howman		
Hudson		
Humphrey		
Jones		
Joyce		
Kemp		
Kunes		
Lawrence		
Long		
Manning		
Middleton		
Morley		
Nash		
Nockolds		
Parish		
Ratcliff		

Rose		
Rust		
Ryves		
Sampson		
Sandell		
A Tyler		
D Tyler		
De Whalley		
Whitby		
Wilkinson		
44	0	1

The substantive motion was carried.

RESOLVED: That the following motion be adopted:

'Like many other organisations, this Council recognises diversity training, like other training, is vitally important. It helps us understand the many varied communities, businesses and visitors we serve better, it inputs relevant legislation and evolving best practice and reassures people looking in that we as their Councillors are open to such important personal development.

We instruct officers to bring forward developmental diversity training at the earliest opportunity for the Council in its entirety, and agree to attend. This is not for some ethereal purpose, but to have real world benefit, helping us as a council make better strategies, policies and decisions for all.'

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

4) Councillor Jones proposed the following Notice of Motion (11/22) and spoke in support of it, seconded by Councillor Ryves

"This Council recognises that the cost-of-living crisis is adversely affecting many local people, especially people on very low incomes.

This Council additionally notes that it has a very high General Reserve Fund of over £8 million above the recommended level.

This Council further notes to increase the Council Tax Support Scheme to 100% to every eligible Council Taxpayer based on last year's figures will run to less than £30,000 to this Council.

Therefore, this Council approves increasing its Council Tax Support Scheme to 100% to every eligible Council Taxpayer."

Under standing order 14.6, Councillor Dark proposed the motion be referred to Cabinet, via the relevant Panel for consideration of the full

and informed facts of the motion. Councillor Middleton seconded the proposal. This was accepted by Councillor Jones.

Council then debated the item being referred to the Panel and Cabinet, the proposal was put to the vote.

RESOLVED: That the motion be referred to the relevant Panel then to Cabinet for consideration.

C:37 **CABINET MEMBERS REPORTS**

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

Councillor Dark moved all the Cabinet reports en bloc.

Councillor Long responded to a question from Councillor Morley on governance review of the Council's companies in that he was not driving the review but delivering homes through the company.

Councillor Kunes responded to Councillor Kemp explaining that a scheme was being endorsed to register interest in solar panels which would go to auction and customers could choose whether to go ahead.

Councillor Long gave an update for Councillor D Tyler on the progress with the Howdale play area which had recently been installed with the last piece being received imminently. Councillor Long also acknowledged Councillor Bullen's role in the renewals.

Councillor Blunt responded to a question from Councillor Parish and confirmed that the number of houses built had slowed for a number of reasons.

Councillor Sandell responded to Councillor Kemp's question of how the Borough Council could assist Freebridge housing with their renovations. She acknowledged that Freebridge were under a lot of pressure and asked Councillor Kemp to provide the detail of the property she was referring to.

In response to a question from Councillor Bower, Councillor Blunt confirmed he had asked officers to identify the issues with the Hunstanton Bus station development, along with solutions and ways forward.

Councillor Dickinson gave Councillor Ryves an update on the General Fund balance policy which was to keep them at a minimum of 5%, and she explained that due to the inflationary pressure over the coming years it was likely there would be nothing to draw on in 2025/26, with no indication from government that they would meet the additional requirements of councils.

Councillor Sandell gave Councillor Bower an update regarding the Hospital to Home project working with the hospital to assist with getting patients home. She confirmed that its restart after covid was imminent with training being provided in the required processes for hospital staff.

Councillor Kunes confirmed to Councillor Rust that of the trees planted at Lynnsport around 50% were still alive, he acknowledged they had suffered in the drought and heatwave, but they would be re-planted in the spring.

Councillor Sandell confirmed to Councillor Howman that Freebridge properties were being renovated in order to release more properties for those needing them.

Councillor Whitby thanked Councillor Kunes for the work carried out to close down the illegal tipping sites in Clenchwarton, He also asked about the work being done to provide solar panels.

Councillor Kunes acknowledged also Councillor Kemp for her tireless campaigning at the county council on the sites. With regard to the solar panels he further referred to the Solar Together scheme which should held provide some discounts to homeowners through bulk buying.

Following a question from Councillor de Whalley on the release of sewage into water courses, Councillor Long gave an explanation on how the land flooding and coastal flooding bodies were working together to tackle the issue.

Councillor Nockolds asked Councillor Middleton if a meeting of the Guildhall Task Group was likely to be held to consider the terms of reference of the CIO for the Guildhall. He confirmed that he would shortly be looking to call a meeting.

As the 3 hour timeframe for the meeting was imminent the Mayor asked if there were any proposals to continue to meet. Councillor Kemp proposed to continue to meet for 15 minutes. On being put to the vote this was lost and the meeting closed.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm