

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday 01 October 2018 at the Council Offices, Holt Road, Cromer at 10.00 am

Members Present:

Mrs S Arnold	Miss B Palmer
Mr D Baker	Mr R Price
Mr N Dixon	
Mr J Lee (Chairman)	

Also attending:

Mrs A Claussen-Reynolds	Mr N Pearce
Mrs A Fitch-Tillett	Mr J Rest
Mr T FitzPatrick	Mr R Reynolds
Mr V FitzPatrick	Mr E Seward
Mrs P Grove-Jones	Mr R Shepherd
Mr B Hannah	Mr B Smith
Mr S Hester	Ms K Ward
Mr M Knowles	

Officers in Attendance:

The Heads of Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer, the Head of Finance and Asset Management, the Estates & Asset Strategy Manager, the Communications & PR Manager, and the Policy & Performance Manager

Press:

In attendance

50. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr H Cox and Cllr W Northam.

51. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

52. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None.

53. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

The Leader said that there was one item of urgent business – a recommendation to Cabinet from Council, 26th September 2018

‘Council recommends to Cabinet that they reconsider their position in the light of the considerable concerns expressed by Members of all Groups to pursue the investment in the Egmere Business Zone at the current time’

The Chairman informed Members that there was also a recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 19 September 2018 (Agenda Item 7):

'To recommend to Cabinet that the business case for the Egmore Development Zone is passed to an outside agency for stress testing of the risk assumptions and to give advice as to whether this investment is a prudent one for the Council.'

He said that he intended to take these two recommendations together. He then asked Members whether anyone had anything new to add to the considerable debate that had already taken place on this issue.

Cllr E Seward read out the following statement on behalf of Cllr S Bütikofer, Leader of the Opposition:

'Following the unanimous vote of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the vote of over half the majority of Full Council to return this decision to Cabinet, I hope you Cabinet, are in no doubt this morning about the democratic will of this Council. We have placed our faith in the Cabinet to do the right thing, to refer this decision to an external auditor for independent review. If they come back to say that the financial and other risks of the project to this Council are worth taking then let us progress. Let me be 100% clear this is not and for us never has been, about trying to stop the project, it is about ensuring the risks that we as a Council are taking are sound and grounded in evidence not supposition and wishful thinking.

Will Cabinet back the will of the majority of Council Members or is democracy in this Council dead?'

Cllr J Rest said that it would be a sad day for democracy if the views of the majority of Members were disregarded.

The Leader thanked Members for their comments.

He said that he took on the role of Leader in good faith at a difficult time for the council, and that he had promised to talk and listen to everyone and he believed that he had delivered on that promise but that doing so had led to the most trying time of his Council career. The question of Egmore had taken over his life for the last three months. He said that he had received pressure from both sides, either from those who were determined to see it go through or from those who were determined to stop it. He had tried to distance himself from those pushing one way or another and to just concentrate on the facts. However, he felt that the positives had always outweighed the negatives, which is why he agreed to take it through Cabinet in the first place and then agreed for the report to go to pre Scrutiny via the Asset Management Working Group. He thanked those involved saying that Cabinet had taken some of their recommendations on board. The item then went to Overview and Scrutiny Committee followed by a further debate at Full Council.

The Leader said that everybody had had the opportunity to have their say and that over the course of those debates he had heard nothing new to dissuade him that the original Cabinet decision was the correct one. One thing that did come out was that even in the worst case scenario there would still be a return of 1.6%. He went onto say he firmly believed that commissioning a further report into the viability of the project would not help as there was such a complete difference of opinion on it that could never be equalised and Members would take from any new report the segments that supported their view.

He acknowledged that following the debate and vote at Full Council that he would

stand accused of causing a democratic deficit and said that this did not sit comfortably with him, however he believed that the real democratic deficit sat with the voters of North Norfolk because in 2015, 32 of the 48 members of the council were elected as conservatives. He then made reference to the Big Society Fund which had been heavily criticised when it was launched and which was now considered to be very successful.

The Leader then concluded by saying that with the greatest respect to those with a different opinion, he proposed that Cabinet upheld their original decision and rejected any further recommendations.

Cllr R Price seconded the proposal.

Cllr N Dixon asked to speak. The leader refused the request, saying that Cabinet members had been an opportunity to speak earlier.

RESOLVED

Not to accept the following recommendation from Council 26 September 2018:

‘Council recommends to Cabinet that they reconsider their position in the light of the considerable concerns expressed by Members of all Groups to pursue the investment in the Egmore Business Zone at the current time’

Not to accept the following recommendation from Overview & Scrutiny Committee 19 September 2018:

‘To recommend to Cabinet that the business case for the Egmore Development Zone is passed to an outside agency for stress testing of the risk assumptions and to give advice as to whether this investment is a prudent one for the Council’

To implement the Egmore Business Zone Project decision – as agreed at Cabinet on 3rd September 2018

Cllr N Dixon abstained.

54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

55. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

No questions were submitted prior to the meeting but the Chairman confirmed that Members could ask questions as each item arose.

56. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MATTERS

The Leader advised Members that this item had been dealt with under Urgent Business.

57. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM LICENSING & APPEALS COMMITTEE

Cllr R Price introduced this item in the absence of the Portfolio Holder, Cllr Cox. He outlined the proposed changes to the fees and explained that they were in line with previous fee setting and in accordance with relevant regulations.

It was proposed by Cllr R Price, seconded by Cllr D Baker and

RESOLVED

That the proposed fee structure is agreed in line with the Authority's fee setting structure.

58. DEVELOPING COASTAL MANAGEMENT IN NORTH NORFOLK

In the absence of the Portfolio Holder, the Leader, Cllr Lee, introduced this item. He explained that the scheme sought to deliver the 'hold the line' shoreline management policies in strengthening the protection of those communities which continued to be vulnerable to coastal change processes. The projects must be delivered by 2021 in order to be able to secure essential national funds.

Cllr A Fitch-Tillett said that she was very pleased to see this scheme coming to fruition now after several years of hard work.

It was proposed by Cllr J Lee, seconded by Cllr R Price and

RESOLVED to

- a) support the approach outlined in progressing the delivery of the Mundesley Coastal Management Scheme
- b) endorse the approach outlined in progressing the delivery of the Cromer Coast Protection Scheme Phase 2.
- c) approve the inclusion of the Council's contribution of £25,000 for the Head of Coastal Partnership East into the Coastal Management salaries base budget
- d) approve the recruitment of a two-year fixed-term Coastal Adaptation Officer from the balance of the Coastal Pathfinder revenue / recycled funds, final details to be agreed with the Corporate Director in consultation with the Coastal Portfolio Holder.
- e) approve the use of the Coastal Partnership East Dynamic Purchasing System for North Norfolk coast related works and services where appropriate.

Reason for the decision:

To enable the continued delivery and development of coastal management activities as set out in the approved Shoreline management Plan, Corporate Plan and Annual Action Plan

59. DELIVERY OF NEW COASTAL CAR PARK IN BACTON

Cllr R Price introduced this item. He explained that the Bacton to Walcott Landscaping Scheme was likely to increase visitors to the coastal frontage at Bacton and there was currently no existing formal car parking facilities in this location. An investment of £30,000 would enable the car park to be developed. Following completion it was anticipated that ongoing costs would be offset by the income generated.

Cllr E Seward said that he fully endorsed the recommendations and was looking forward to the new beach this time next year.

It was proposed by Cllr R Price, seconded by Cllr N Dixon and

RESOLVED to

- a) Delegate to Corporate Director with Portfolio Holder approval final lease arrangements for the Bacton Car Park.
- b) Allocate an estimated value of £30,000 from the Capital Projects Reserves to complete construction and delivery of the car park.

Reasons for the decision:

To enable the final lease negotiation and following works required to open a public car park at Bacton.

60. MANAGING PERFORMANCE Q1 2018-2019

The Leader, Cllr J Lee, introduced this item. He explained that it was a first quarter progress report of the Council's performance. He explained that the majority of the 37 actions were on track, with two having some problems and one not yet due to start. Overall, good progress was being made and the delivery of the Annual Action plan was progressing well. Where issues had been identified, action was being taken.

It was proposed by Cllr J Lee, seconded by Cllr S Arnold and

RESOLVED

To note the report, welcome the progress being made and endorse the actions being taken by management where there are areas of concern.

Reasons for the decision:

To ensure the objectives of the Council are achieved.

61. CREATION OF A 'MAMMOTH' RUN EVENT AS A MARKETING TOOL TO PROMOTE THE DEEP HISTORY COAST

Cllr B Palmer, Portfolio Holder for Leisure, introduced this item. She explained that the Council was proposing to create and brand a series of runs as the 'Mammoth' runs to draw attention to and increase the profile of North Norfolk's Deep History Coast. This was a new offer and it was hoped that it would attract tourists and visitors to the District.

It was proposed by Cllr B Palmer, seconded by Cllr N Dixon and

RESOLVED that

- the Council puts on a half marathon and marathon in year one and more events in year 2, in order to maximise potential attendees and associated economic benefits
- discussions concerning the 'Mammoth' marathon, including route appraisals, proceed to the next stage of planning in partnership with North Norfolk Beach Runners (NNBR).
- October 2019 (exact date to be confirmed) be agreed as the date for the runs and advertised as such immediately in running diaries/ marketing material.
- the Head of Economic & Community Development, in liaison with the Cabinet member for Leisure, Culture,

Health & Customer Services, be authorised to agree all detailed matters relating to the preparation and planning of the event.

- **a budget of £20,665.50 be identified from reserves to cover the maximum expected outlay for the event.**

Reason for the decision:

These events will bring economic benefits to local businesses in the form of additional footfall, with associated additional spend on overnight accommodation and food / drink outlets plus other local shops.

The events would promote and support the health and wellbeing of both residents and visitors

62. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to the Act.

63. PRIVATE BUSINESS

None

The meeting ended at 10.25 am.

Chairman