

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of North Norfolk District Council held on 25 July 2018 at the Council Offices, Holt Road, Cromer at 6.00 pm.

Members Present:

Dr P Butikofer	Mr N Lloyd	Mr P Rice
Mrs S Butikofer	Mrs B McGoun	Mr E Seward
Mrs A Claussen-Reynolds	Mrs M Millership	Mr R Shepherd
Mr N Coppack	Mrs A Moore	Mr B Smith
Mrs H Cox	Mr P Moore	Mr D Smith
Mr N Dixon	Mr W J Northam	Mr N Smith
Ms V R Gay	Mr N Pearce	Mr R Stevens
Mrs A Green	Mrs G Perry-Warnes	Mrs V Uprichard
Mr B Hannah	Mr R Price	Mrs K Ward
Mr S Hester	Mr J Punchard	Mr A Yiasimi
Mr M Knowles	Mr J Rest	Mr D Young
Mr J Lee	Mr R Reynolds	

Officers in Attendance: The Corporate Directors, the Monitoring Officer, the Head of Finance & Assets, the Communications and Marketing Manager and the Democratic Services Manager

Press: Present

33. PRAYERS

The Chairman invited Reverend Dines, St Nicholas Church, North Walsham, to lead prayers

34. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman began by saying that the format of Chairman's Communications was changing. From now on his update to members would also include a slide show of images from all of the events that he had attended to give everyone full insight into the role of the Chairman.

He then spoke about the civic events that he had been involved with since the last meeting including the end of the pier show at Cromer, fundraising for cold cuddle cots at Waitrose in North Walsham, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment at St Nicholas Church North Walsham, the Paston exhibition at Norwich Castle and the tour of the County with other civic heads to promote Norfolk Day – covering 10 key attractions in one day.

35. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS

None received

36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs S Arnold, Mr D Baker, Mr T FitzPatrick, Mr V FitzPatrick, Mrs P Grove-Jones, Mrs J Oliver, Ms B Palmer, Mr S Penfold, Ms M Prior, Mr S Shaw and Mrs L Walker.

37. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments:

- i. The Press were in attendance for the meeting
- ii. Page 13, paragraph 4 should read revenue **not** capital

38. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None

39. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS

The Chairman introduced April Simnor, Manager of First Focus, Fakenham, who provided a statement on the work they had been doing on the prevention of food waste in the town.

40. PORTFOLIO UPDATES

The Chairman invited each Portfolio to introduce their reports:

1. Cllr S Arnold, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Planning Policy, was not in attendance. The Chairman asked if any Member wished to put forward a question in her absence. Cllr S Bütikofer requested a written response regarding a commercial client in Holt who had been waiting since February 2018 to have their planning application validated. The Head of Paid Service (SB) confirmed that he would provide a written response. Cllr V Gay said that she was pleased to see the recent Conservation Area Appraisal reviews and she wondered whether there were more in the pipeline.
2. Cllr H Cox thanked April Simnor for coming to speak to Members about the community fridge in Fakenham. She then thanked the Environmental team for the work that they had undertaken recently supporting the emergency services by clearing up after fires. Cllr S Bütikofer asked about progress with garden bin payments, saying that she had attended a recent parish council meeting where the matter was raised. Cllr Cox said that there had been issues with the transition to a digital process but she would look into it. Cllr S Bütikofer then asked when the decision was taken to offer a 10% discount for direct debit payments adding that some residents felt disadvantaged by this. The Head of Paid Service (NB) replied that he believed it was done within the fees and charges regime but agreed to provide a written response.
3. Cllr N Dixon said that he had nothing further to add to his report.
4. Cllr J Lee commended the Legal team for their exceptional performance. He then provided a verbal update on the IT service. Cllr S Bütikofer said that she wanted to ask the Leader a question regarding the proposal for the Police and Crime Commissioner to take on responsibility for the governance of fire and rescue services, following the recent decision to go out to consultation. She asked whether the Leader would consider writing to the Police and Crime Commissioner asking him to extend the consultation period to 8 weeks to enable those most impacted by the changes such as farmers, firefighters and the tourist sector, additional time to respond. The Leader thanked Cllr Bütikofer for raising the issue and agreed to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner making the request.
5. Cllr Northam had nothing further to add to his written report. He extended his thanks to the Finance Team for their continued support and hard work.
6. Cllr Palmer was not in attendance. Cllr Price spoke about the challenges of beach safety and the need for vigilance during the summer period.
7. Cllr R Price began his update by praising the work of the Property Services team and their efforts to ensure that the toilets were updated in Wells in time for the school holidays. He also thanked staff for their support in clearing rubbish from the Parklands site in Pudding

Norton. Cllr E Seward said that as a North Walsham member he welcomed the proposals for the Council to create additional car parking spaces at North Walsham station but he felt it should be acknowledged that the main beneficiaries would be the residents of Mundesley and Trunch and it was important that the new charging policy should attract people to park there not deter them. Cllr Price replied that the policy was in line with that of other NNDC car parks and that the situation would be monitored. Cllr S Bütikofer asked about the new changing places facility in Cromer. She said that the Sheringham facility was well signposted and branded and she asked whether the same could be done at Cromer. Cllr Price replied that this was being looked into together with the facility at Wells. Cllr Cox added that the 'Walkers are Welcome' website could advertise all local changing places facilities.

41. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY 18 JULY 2018

Cllr K Ward, Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, informed Members that there were no formal recommendations to Council. She took the opportunity to update Council on the Committee's recent rapid review of the Local Plan. She said that it had been a positive experience and several recommendations would be coming forward for Cabinet and the Planning Policy & Built Heritage Working Party to consider. She said that she wanted to clarify that these sessions were open to all Members to attend and that there were two more planned for the Autumn – one on recycling and one on housing.

23. REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO COMMITTEES

The Chairman outlined the recommendations, explaining that following further changes to the membership of the political groups the Council was required to review the allocation of seats on committees, sub-committees and working parties to reflect the new political balance.

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

RESOLVED

1. To approve the revised political balance calculation as per section 2.4 of the report
2. To approve the allocation of seats to political groups as shown at Appendix A
3. That delegation is given to the Group Leaders to make any appointments to committees, sub-committees, working parties and panels (in line with the political balance).

24. VICTORY HOUSING TRUST – DEED OF VARIATION

The Chairman summarised the recommendations for Members, explaining that the report outlined the proposed partnership between two housing associations – Victory Housing Trust (VHT) and Flagship Housing Group Ltd and the seeking of consent to change Victory Housing Trust's Articles to enable the partnership to proceed.

Cllr B McGoun asked whether Victory Housing Trust tenants would be still be able to sit on the Board as previously. The Head of Paid Service (SB) referred Cllr McGoun to section 10 of the report which outlined the proposed changes. He said that the new arrangement should strengthen tenant representation on the new Board. In response to a further question from Cllr Ward as to whether tenants would be able to actually sit on the new Board, the Head of Paid Service (SB) replied that he would check.

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

RESOLVED

- a) That the District Council indicates its support for the proposed partnership arrangement between the Victory Housing Trust and the Flagship Housing Group Limited, subject to the retention of the objectives of Paragraph 18 of the original Transfer Agreement.
- b) To advise that it looks forward to maintaining and further developing the strong relationship it has enjoyed with the Victory Housing Trust under the new partnership arrangements in meeting the housing needs of local communities across North Norfolk into the future.

25. TO RECEIVE THE APPROVED MINUTES OF THE UNDERMENTIONED COMMITTEES

The minutes of the meetings below were noted as a correct record;

- 1) Cabinet – 14 May, 11 June 2018
- 2) Development Committee – 14 June 2018
- 3) Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 23 May 2018
- 4) Governance, Risk & Audit Committee – 27 March 2018

26. QUESTIONS RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS

None received

27. OPPOSITION BUSINESS

None received

28. NOTICE OF MOTION

None received

29. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

30. PRIVATE BUSINESS

None

The meeting concluded at 6.48pm

Chairman