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COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday, 17 December 2019 in the Council Chamber - Council Offices, Holt Road, Cromer, NR27 9EN at 6.00 pm

Members Present:

Mr T Adams	Mr H Blathwayt
Ms P Bevan Jones	Mr C Cushing
Mr D Birch	Mr H Blathwayt
Mr A Brown	Mr C Cushing
Mrs S Bütikofer	Mr P Fisher
Mrs A Fitch-Tillett	Mr V FitzPatrick
Mr T FitzPatrick	Ms V Gay
Mrs W Fredericks	Mr G Hayman
Mrs P Grove-Jones	Mr P Heinrich
Mr C Heinink	Mr R Kershaw
Mr N Housden	Mr G Mancini-Boyle
Mr N Lloyd	Mrs M Millership
Mr S Penfold	Mrs G Perry-Warnes
Mr J Rest	Mr J Punchard
Miss L Shires	Mr E Seward
Dr C Stockton	Mrs J Stenton
Mr A Varley	Mr J Toye
Mrs E Withington	Mr A Yiasimi

Also in attendance: The Democratic Services Manager, The Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal Services, The Head of Finance & Asset Management/S151 Officer, the heads of Paid Service, The Head of Environmental Health

20 PRAYER

The Chairman invited Reverend Canon Paul Thomas OBE, Chaplain to the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association, to lead prayers.

21 CHRISTMAS CAROLS BY 'PLAYING FOR CAKE'

Cllr Gay, Portfolio Holder for Arts & Culture, introduced 'Playing for Cake'. She explained that Playing for Cake was a not-for-profit social enterprise based in Sheringham. They provided fun, community, participatory music-making workshops that promoted better health and wellbeing. Playing for Cake worked in community-based settings, day-care centres and residential care homes alongside health care professionals to help achieve specific health goals for service users. The Group had been awarded funding by NNDC, via an Arts & Culture grant.

A member of the group thanked Cllr Gay for her comments and said that they were moving towards social prescribing next year. Attendance for participants at any of their workshops was free and funding was fundamental to ensuring viability. They then played two carols.

22 PRESENTATION OF AWARD FOR LIFE-SAVING ACTIONS AT A LOCAL LEISURE CENTRE

The Chairman introduced Lady Agnew, High Sheriff of Norfolk, who was in attendance to present certificates to Fiona Wolstenhome, Charlotte Wolstenholme and Sonia Jaggard, in recognition of their actions in rescuing a young man who had become unconscious whilst swimming at a local leisure centre.

23 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman began by congratulating Cllr D Baker on becoming the Member of Parliament for North Norfolk. He also congratulated Cllr Liz Withington on her recent election as member for Sheringham North.

He then spoke with sadness about the recent death of former councillor, Henry Cordeaux. Mr Cordeaux, who had died on 30 October 2019, had been an elected member of the Council for over 20 years. During that time he had sat on 25 committees and 9 outside bodies. He asked that members observe a minutes silence in memory of Mr Cordeaux.

The Chairman then informed Members of his attendance at recent events:

20th November - memorial service at Templewood, Northrepps

25th November - National tree week launch

1st December - civic celebration and carol service at Cromer Parish Church

2nd December - service of Reflection at Norwich Cathedral

5th December – ‘at home’ reception at Kings Lynn Town Hall with the Mayor and his wife

6th December – first of several Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Chairman’s charity school events at Neatishead CE Primary School. Local ward member, Cllr Mancini-Boyle also attended this event and said that it was very enjoyable. The Chairman encouraged members to attend similar events that were being planned in schools across the District.

7th December – Mayor of Wisbech – port, cheese and wine evening.

9th December – civic carol concert and presentation of honorary freedom of the borough at Great Yarmouth Minster.

The Chairman concluded by reminding Members of the Council’s carol service on 19th December in the reception area.

24 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader began by saying that she would like to thank all of the staff who had been involved in supporting the recent parliamentary election. Their hard work and professionalism was much appreciated. She then thanked the catering team for hosting the annual Christmas lunch. They had been ably assisted by the Property Services team and it had been a very enjoyable occasion.

The Leader then spoke about the capability review which had been commissioned earlier on in the year. It had been the subject of recent press reports and a Freedom of Information request and she said that she had been very disappointed that there had been a leak of information to the media whilst an investigation had been ongoing. The investigation had found that there had been no wrongdoing by staff and the Constitution Working Party and the Governance, Risk & Audit Committee

would be working with officers to review the procurement process going forward. She concluded by saying that the review had been commissioned to make sure that the new administration was able to act on their ambitions for the Council. Cabinet would not place on 6th January but there would be a special meeting of Council on 15th January 2020.

25 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS

Cllr T Adams declared an interest in relation to agenda item 19: Notice of Motion – Public Fireworks Displays, stating that he served on the Fireworks Committee for Cromer Town Council.

26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllrs D Baker, P Butikofer, N Dixon and K Ward.

27 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Cllr G Hayman referred to page 4 of the minutes and asked Cllr V FitzPatrick to confirm whether he had now received a response to his question. Cllr Fitzpatrick replied that he had but that it had not answered his query.

28 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

29 PUBLIC QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS

Mr D Russell read out the following statement:

‘May I thank you Chairman for joining those at Templewood at Northrepps to remember the three young RAF Volunteer Reserve Airmen from 44 Squadron RAF Waddington who lost their lives in the service of this nation in the early hours of the morning 20 November 1940. Might I respectfully request that this Council send the relevant parts of the Chairman's report/ pictures to the families of the young men who lost their lives on that day. I know that it would mean so much to them to know that their loved ones are not forgotten. May I remind this Council that next year 2020 the 80th anniversary a special service of commemoration to mark this.

30 PORTFOLIO REPORTS

1. Cllr A Brown, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Planning Policy and Housing drew members' attention to the Local Plan Review consultation, which had received 900 responses from 400 consultees. However, only 15 parish councils had responded which was disappointing. He said that the responses would be collated and a summary document would be prepared for members.

Cllr Brown then spoke about the annual review of brownfield sites, with 10 being identified. These could potentially provide over 200 properties which could be fast-tracked.

Fifteen homes were being built in conjunction with Broadland Housing Association.

Regarding homelessness, Cllr Brown said that the Council was working with charities to try and identify triggers and potential causes to prevent it before it occurred.

He concluded by commending the Council's Housing team for setting up an Integrated Adaptations team.

2. The Leader, Cllr S Butikofer, said that she had two updates. Work was progressing well on the North Norfolk Information Centre in Cromer with a new visitor centre for the Deep History Coast Project being developed and new public toilet facilities. A soft launch was planned for early January. She then said that a recent Public Services Network (PSN) health check of the Council's IT systems, had resulted in positive comments from the inspection team.
3. Cllr A Fitch-Tillett, Portfolio Holder for Coast, said that the coastal team was working with local representatives and the Environment Agency to improve the ramp at Sea Palling to overcome issues with the launching of fishing vessels and the lifeboat. She then referred to recent seal deaths and thanked the Friends of Horsey Seals for their support in educating people about how to behave around seals and their pups. Cllr Fitch-Tillett concluded by reminding Members that there was no funding for coastal adaptation and she said that she hoped the newly elected MP for North Norfolk would campaign for this.
4. Cllr V Gay, Portfolio Holder for Arts & Culture, said that a full update on her portfolio had been circulated and that details of arts and community grants had been shared with Members. She added that there had been an attempt to spread grant funding geographically across the District.
5. Cllr G Hayman, Portfolio Holder for Commercialisation & Assets informed members that the tender documentation for the electric vehicle charging points (EVCP) had been issued on 29 November. The timescale was tight as the deadline for completion was March 2020. He went onto say that a condition survey was being undertaken on the Council's chalets. Cllr V FitzPatrick commented that there was no single standard for EVCP and asked whether the Council intended to provide a mix of different types. The Head of Paid Service (NB) replied that there was no common standard but that in order to 'future proof' the Council would be using the version recommended by the Government and they would all be the same.
6. Cllr R Kershaw, Portfolio Holder for Economic and Career Development, informed Members that a consultant had been appointed to undertake the work relating to the North Norfolk Growth Sites Delivery Strategy. He referred to the North Walsham High Street Heritage Action Zone Working Party and thanked officers for working to such a tight timescale.
7. Cllr N Lloyd, Portfolio Holder for Environment, updated members on funding for the installation of EV charging points. He said that the grant had been received and installation would be complete by the end of March 2020. He then informed members of the disbandment of the Norfolk Civil Protection Volunteers. He said that arrangements were being made to move the storage of rest centre equipment. He thanked all of the volunteers who had supported the Council and other organisations for so many years. Cllr J Rest asked when members would be informed about the new contractor for waste collection. He was advised that the successful bidder would be announced once the contract was signed.

8. Cllr E Seward, Portfolio Holder for Finance, informed Members that the business rates NHS appeal had been rejected by the High Court. This meant that 45 local authorities had been spared associated costs. He added that the Business Rates Pool would be reviewing the situation and the impact on the Pool as soon as possible.

31 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET 6TH DECEMBER 2019

Agenda Item 9: Fees and Charges 2020-2021

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Cllr Seward, introduced this item. He recommended its approval to Members.

It was proposed by Cllr E Seward, seconded by Cllr S Butikofer and

RESOLVED

- a) To approve the fees and charges from 1 April 2020 as included in Appendix A.
- b) That Delegated Authority be given to the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and relevant Heads of Service, to agree those fees and charges not included within Appendix A as required as outlined within the report

Agenda item 10: Treasury Management Half Yearly Report 2019 -2020

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Cllr Seward, introduced this item. He recommended its approval to Members.

It was proposed by Cllr E Seward, seconded by Cllr J Toye and

RESOLVED

1. That The Treasury Management Half Yearly Report 2019/20 is approved.
2. That the Council be asked to APPROVE changes to the Counterparty Limits.

Agenda Item 11: Medium term Financial Strategy

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Cllr Seward, introduced this item. He explained that the strategy was the first stage in the budget setting process and had been through Cabinet and Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr E Seward, seconded by Cllr R Kershaw and

RESOLVED

To approve the revised reserves statement as included at Appendix 2 to the financial strategy.

32 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 11TH DECEMBER 2019

The Vice-Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Cllr T Adams, informed Members that there were no recommendations to report.

33 NNDC RESPONSE TO NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL BOUNDARY REVIEW

Cllr E Seward, Deputy Leader, introduced this item. He explained that the Council had been invited to respond to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) review of Norfolk County Council divisions. It was proposed that the number of county councillors would remain at 84, but that there would be a reduction from 11 to 10 councillors within the North Norfolk district boundary. Where possible, County Council divisions would be made up of District Council wards.

Cllr Seward said that there were two proposals before Members – an officer proposal and a Cabinet proposal. For five divisions, Cabinet agreed with the officer proposals. However, there were some differences regarding the remaining divisions, which were outlined on pages 136 -137 of the report.

It was proposed by Cllr E Seward, seconded by Cllr R Kershaw and

RESOLVED

- a) That the District Council submits comments and proposals to the LGBCE at the initial stage in the process of developing new divisional boundaries as it relates to the North Norfolk District Council area of Norfolk County Council
- b) To support the submission of the Cabinet proposals (as outlined in the report) to the LGBCE.

Four members voted against the proposals, 1 Member abstained.

34 FORMATION OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL TO REVIEW THE MEMBERS' SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES

The Leader, Cllr S Butikofer, introduced this item. She explained that the Members' Scheme of Allowances needed to be reviewed in accordance with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) Regulations 2003. An independent panel must be convened to undertake the review and report its findings and recommendations to Full Council. Members were requested to make any representations to the Group Leaders by 10th January and the Democratic Services Manager would report them to the Panel. The Panel would report its findings and recommendations to the February meeting of Full Council.

It was proposed by Cllr S Butikofer, seconded by Cllr P Grove-Jones and

RESOLVED that

- (1) Members approve the convening of the Independent Remuneration Panel.
- (2) Members approve the Terms of Reference for the Independent Remuneration Panel.
- (3) Any representations that Members wish the Independent Remuneration Panel to take into consideration should be made in writing through the Group Leaders, to the Democratic Services Manager, by 10th January 2020.

(4) The Independent Remuneration Panel reports its findings and recommendations for consideration by Full Council at its meeting in February 2020.

(5) Members resolve to delegate to the Democratic Services Manager the appointment of the individual members to the Independent Remuneration Panel.

35 DRAFT PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2020-2021

Cllr S Butikofer, Leader of the Council, introduced this item. She explained that the schedule of meetings was approved on an annual basis and several factors had been taken into consideration before finalising dates of meetings.

RESOLVED

To adopt the Programme of Meetings for 2020-21.

36 QUESTIONS RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS

The following question had been submitted by Cllr N Housden:

To Cllr Rest - Chairman of GRAC.

'Are there any updates on the Audit Reports being prepared on Sheringham Splash and aborted proposals at Egmere?'

Cllr Rest thanked Cllr Housden for his question. He said that the draft report for the Sheringham Leisure Centre project (Splash) been prepared and shared with the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT). The final report would go to Full Council in March having been to Governance, Risk & Audit Committee first.

Regarding the Egmere Business Zone, due to the complexity of this project, the process had been more challenging, however, Cllr Rest has been assured that the report would be ready by the end of March 2020.

37 OPPOSITION BUSINESS

None

38 NOTICE(S) OF MOTION

The following Notices of Motion had been received:

1. Public Firework Displays

Proposed by Cllr John Rest, seconded by Cllr Nigel Housden

This Council resolves:

- To require all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.
- To actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people-including the precautions

- that can be taken to mitigate risks.
- To encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock 'quieter' fireworks for public display (as currently used in Italy and France)

Fireworks are used by people throughout the year to mark different events. While they can bring much enjoyment to some people, they can cause significant problems and fear for other people and animals.

They can be a source of fear and distress for many animals (including pet animals, farm livestock and wildlife). Animals affected not only suffer psychological distress but can also cause themselves injuries, sometimes very serious ones, as they attempt to run away or hide from the noise

The unpredictable loud and high intensity noises that many fireworks make can cause fear. For example studies have found fireworks to be the most common causes of fear in dogs according to the (Applied Animals Behaviour Science) 45% of dogs show signs of fear when they hear fireworks.

Debris produced by fireworks, if found on the ground, can also pose a hazard to animals such as horses, farm animals and wildlife.

The short lived nature of firework noise can make it difficult for the police or local authority officers to pinpoint locations and take action. In fact the RSPCA believes that a licensing system would help with better enforcement by allowing enforcement bodies to know where licensed events are being held.

There is a real need to raise awareness amongst owners of animals and the general public about firework phobia. This phobia can be treated (in dogs at least) in the long term, if owners prepare themselves and their pets sooner rather than just before the fireworks are let off.

This motion is NOT intended to deter properly authorised public firework displays from going ahead. We would like to thank the RSPCA for some of the content in this motion.

Cllr Rest introduced the motion and explained that it was supported by the RSPCA and Grove Veterinary Clinic in Fakenham.

The Chairman invited Members to comment:

1. Cllr A Fitch-Tillett said that she wholeheartedly supported the motion. She had previously been involved in the successful campaign to ban balloons and Chinese lanterns. The use of fireworks should be limited to 5th November, public holidays and New Year. In addition to the distress caused to animals there was also significant damage to the environment through litter.
2. Cllr T Adams said that he understood the reasons behind the motion, however, he felt that he could not support it. He said that he had looked into it and had been advised by officers that it was not something that could be regulated and there were no resources available to monitor firework displays. In addition, there were no powers to act if any requirements were not abided by. He said that he accepted that more could be done to limit the impact of firework displays – particularly on animals, in the same way that the plastic beach rings and Frisbees could

be reduced. He concluded by saying that he suggested the use of social media to encourage friendly firework displays.

3. Cllr G Perry-Warnes proposed that the first resolution should be amended to read 'require to *advise* all public firework displays to be advertised' and that the word 'actively' should be removed from the second resolution.

The Monitoring Officer advised Members that they could refer the motion to the Licensing & Appeals Committee for consideration. The Committee could then explore the options available for monitoring and overseeing firework displays.

It was proposed by Cllr T Adams, seconded by Cllr A Fitch-Tillett and

RESOLVED

To refer the above motion to the Licensing & Appeals committee for consideration and reporting back to Full Council with findings and recommendations.

Cllr J Rest abstained.

2. Adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance

Proposed by Cllr G Mancini-Boyle, seconded by Cllr T FitzPatrick

'That this council accepts the request from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (letter attached) to adopt the following non legally binding working definition of anti-semitism:'

'Anti-semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities'.

Cllr Mancini-Boyle proposed that the motion was adopted as stated. Cllr Fitzpatrick reserved hi right to speak.

The Chairman invited Members to comment:

1. Cllr E Seward thanked Cllr Mancini-Boyle for bring the motion forward. He said that as we approached the 75th anniversary of the second world war ending and the discovery of the concentration camps, it was shocking that Members were even debating anti-semitism. He said that a climate of aggressive behaviour and loose remarks led to abuse and it was not surprising that this ultimately led to hatred because of religion. Cllr Seward said that the Council's Diversity & Equality Policy had not been reviewed since 2006 and he proposed that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the motion, together with the policy so that it could be updated and reviewed accordingly. He concluded by saying that it was easy to point fingers and ignore challenging decisions and now was the time to stand firm.
2. Cllr S Butikofer said that she supported the motion but felt that it needed to go further. It was not just about Jewish people but anyone affected by hatred and aggression due to their beliefs. She said that she seconded Cllr Seward's proposal to refer the motion to Overview & Scrutiny

Committee for further work to be undertaken. She concluded by saying that she was appalled by the recent comments by some parliamentary candidates about refugees.

3. Cllr T FitzPatrick said that he accepted the points about wider issues, however, the motion as it stood had been adopted by local authorities and other organisations across the country. He said that anti-semitism was the oldest form of racism and that this was not just about religion but about race. He said that the Council was being asked to adopt the non-binding definition at the current meeting. It was important that Members showed leadership in this. He was supportive of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee reviewing the Diversity & Equality Policy but this should not prevent the motion from being supported now.

Cllr Mancini-Boyle agreed to accept the amendment.

It was proposed by Cllr G Mancini-Boyle, seconded by Cllr T FitzPatrick and

RESOLVED

1. To adopt the definition as outlined in the motion
2. To request that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee reviews the Council's Diversity and Equality Policy

3. Support for the Local Electricity Bill and community-scale renewable energy

Proposed by Cllr N Lloyd, seconded by Cllr S Butikofer:

That North Norfolk District Council

(i) acknowledges the efforts that this council has made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy;

(ii) recognises that councils can play a central role in creating sustainable communities, particularly through the provision of locally generated renewable electricity;

(iii) further recognises

- that very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers result in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so,
- that making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier's operation would create significant opportunities for councils to be providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses and organisations, and
- that revenues received by councils that became local renewable electricity providers could be used to help fund local greenhouse gas emissions reduction measures and to help improve local services and facilities;

(iv) accordingly resolves to support the Local Electricity Bill, currently supported

by a cross-party group of 115 MPs, and which, if made law, would make the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate by establishing a Right to Local Supply; and

(v) further resolves to

- inform the local media of this decision,
- write to local MPs, asking them to support the Bill, and
- write to the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People, (at [8 Delancey Passage, Camden, London NW1 7NN](https://www.powerforpeople.org.uk) or info@powerforpeople.org.uk) expressing its support.

Cllr Lloyd said that one of the most significant causes of climate change was mankind's reliance on fossil fuels. The Council understood this and believed the science behind climate change and was working towards a carbon neutral position by 2030. An important tool in combating increasing CO2 levels was by replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy sources.

However, community-scale renewable energy was being blocked by unfair regulations and hugely disproportionate costs. So lots of renewables that could and should be being built were not. He concluded by saying that if the Local Electricity Bill was made law it would give community-scale renewable energy a massive boost by enabling local generators to sell their energy to local people.

Cllr S Butikofer, in seconding the motion, said that there was wide cross-party support from a number of MPs for the Bill and support for the motion would help lobby for change and push for regulation.

It was proposed by Cllr N Lloyd, seconded by Cllr S Butikofer and

RESOLVED

(i) To acknowledge the efforts that this council has made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy;

(ii) to recognise that councils can play a central role in creating sustainable communities, particularly through the provision of locally generated renewable electricity;

(iii) to further recognise

- that very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers result in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so,
- that making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier's operation would create significant opportunities for councils to be providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses and organisations, and
- that revenues received by councils that became local renewable electricity

providers could be used to help fund local greenhouse gas emissions reduction measures and to help improve local services and facilities;

(iv) accordingly resolves to support the Local Electricity Bill, currently supported by a cross-party group of 115 MPs, and which, if made law, would make the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate by establishing a Right to Local Supply; and

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39 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

40 PRIVATE BUSINESS

The meeting ended at 7.25 pm.

Chairman