

Public Document Pack

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 18 November 2020 in the remotely via Zoom at 6.00 pm

Members Present:

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

Also in attendance: The Chief Executive, the Deputy Monitoring Officer, the Democratic Services Manager, The Democratic Services & Governance Officer, the HR Manager.

37 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting. He said that he had been keeping in touch with his nominated charity, the Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) during the pandemic and he had sponsored a series of online events called 'Cley Calling' which would take place during January, February and March 2021. There would be guest speakers and he asked Members to consider joining the sessions.

38 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader, Cllr S Butikofer, began by saying she would provide an update on how the Council was responding to the pandemic. She said that with the mid-point of the second lockdown approaching and the number of cases of infection rising across Norfolk, the Council was working closely with partners to address the situation. She said that the rate of infection and confirmed cases in North Norfolk remained relatively low, with cumulative total of 481 infections in the District as of 11th November and a total of 47 deaths so far. The situation was being monitored daily, as although numbers remained low compared to other areas, there had been a rise from an average of 3 cases a day in October to 8-10 cases a day in the last two weeks. At the current time, the District still had the lowest rate of cases per 100,000 of population of any local authority area in England. Remaining in the lowest 10% of all local authorities for the number of cases and the lowest 25% for the number of

Covid-related deaths. She said that she believed the actions that the Council had taken had helped keep these figures consistently low.

The Leader then outlined the actions that the Council had undertaken following the announcement of the second lockdown. Core services continued to be provided with minimal disruption, as the majority of staff continued to work from home. Community support arrangements had been stood up with dedicated contact numbers and specific web pages promoted. However, this time around, many people already had support arrangements in place and demand had been much lower.

The Council had reviewed its arrangements for the payment of the Government's local restriction support grant to eligible businesses. Businesses had been contacted and advised on how to apply. The Council had been paid £5.25m by the Government in order to make such grant payments and in addition, the Council had received a further £2.1m to operate a further discretionary grant scheme. The additional support grant programme will run until March 2022. The further discretionary grant scheme would launch in the New Year so that businesses did not feel pressured to apply now. Unlike the first lockdown, the Council had not closed any car parks, children's play parks or country parks. The majority of public conveniences also remained open. Covid testing sites were being operated from two of the Council's car parks to ensure local people could access testing easily.

The Leader said that she was very proud that the Council had been in the fortunate position of being able to offer support to neighbouring local authorities which had faced significant challenges during the pandemic. The Environmental Health team had recently stepped in to support Great Yarmouth and Breckland councils in managing local outbreaks. She said that she would like to record a vote of thanks on behalf of the Leaders of neighbouring authorities, to NNDC staff for all their support and hard work.

The hard work would continue once lockdown ended and areas returned to the tier system. The Council was also continuing to work with partners to look at options for running a mass testing programme.

The Leader then updated Members on other areas of work that the Council had been progressing. She said that over the last few months, several temporary homes had been provided to local people, with additional support in place, to help them rebuild their lives in the community. The Council had also been successful in its bid for further funding to provide accommodation for rough sleepers and this project would start to see results very soon. She then spoke about several other successful projects, including investment in an industrial unit in North Walsham, which had already found a tenant.

She concluded by lauding the success of the Market Towns Initiative (MTI). IN North Walsham this seed funding had led to the Heritage Action Zone funding, which was progressing very well and which would lead to real, positive change in the town.

39 AWARD FOR BACTON TO WALCOTT SANDSCAPING SCHEME

The Portfolio Holder for Coast, Cllr A Fitch-Tillett introduced this item. She said that the Council began working on a solution to protect Bacton Gas Terminal in 2014, following damage from a storm surge. The Council worked with local community representatives and the terminal operators, Shell, on a long term solution to the challenge of erosion along this stretch of the coast. There was no government

funding towards the scheme and the Council worked hard to build up sufficient funds. The success of the scheme was now being recognised by winning the British Construction Industries climate resilience award 2020. The presentation had been done virtually but she looked forward to receiving it in person.

40 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS

None.

41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr T Adams and Cllr K Ward.

42 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September 2020 were approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendment at Minute 30: Senior Management Restructure:

‘Cllr T FitzPatrick raised a point of order in response to the Leader’s comments that the previous administration had appointed two chief executives, clarifying that under the previous model, the post of chief executive was deleted and two Heads of Paid Service) Corporate Directors were retained in its place’

43 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

44 PUBLIC QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS

None received.

45 REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES AND PANELS

The Democratic Services Manager introduced this item. She explained that following a recent change to the political make-up of the Council, it was necessary for Council to agree the revised political balance and the allocation of seats to the political groups.

Cllr S Penfold said that the one of the working parties was incorrectly named. It should read ‘North Norfolk Sustainable Communities Fund Grants Panel’

It was proposed by Cllr L Shires, seconded by Cllr S Butikofer and

RESOLVED

1. That Council approves the revised political balance calculation as per section 2.4 of this report
2. That Council approves 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).

46 PORTFOLIO REPORTS

1. Cllr S Butikofer, the Leader, said that she had nothing to add to her written report.
2. Cllr A Fitch-Tillett, Portfolio Holder for Coast, introduced her report, welcoming Karen Thomas, Head of Coastal Partnership East, to the meeting. Cllr Fitch-Tillett said that gales in September had led to wind-blown sand in Walcott. Partners had worked closely together to address the problem quickly.

She said that she welcomed the development of a coastal supplementary planning document (SPD) which would assist planning officers and developers across the region with coastal developments requiring planning consent. The scope was open for consultation and responses were now being considered.

3. Cllr V Gay, Portfolio Holder for Culture and Wellbeing, said that she wished to express particular gratitude to the Council's countryside team which had worked very hard to maintain the parks and woodlands throughout the two lockdown periods.
4. Cllr G Hayman, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Benefits, said that there was a lot of detail in the written report. He drew Members' attention to the recent successful bid for funding for the provision of accommodation for rough sleepers. The Council had already moved swiftly on this as purchases needed to be completed by the end of March 2021.
5. Cllr R Kershaw, Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Growth, said that he wished to highlight several key issues. Since the pandemic began in March, the Council had paid out £53.255m in business support grants to 4832 businesses. The discretionary grant scheme had distributed £2.76m to 221 businesses across a broad range. The average grant paid was £12,500. The new Local Restriction Support Grant was available for businesses that were open and trading for business on 4th November and were legally forced to close due to lockdown. The Council had identified 4000 businesses as eligible for support. Any businesses that were not eligible for grants had been directed to other potential sources of funding. He said that the Council had consistently out-performed other Councils in getting the support quickly to businesses.

He then spoke about the Kickstart Job support programme. This initiative was led by the DWP and would provide funding for the creation of job placements for 16-24 year olds. NNDC would be acting as a 'gateway' for this scheme and so far 110 placements had been offered by local businesses. He then outlined two exciting potential schemes – Swift Aircraft, who were looking to work with Paston College and National Grid Skills Apprenticeships. Cllr Kershaw concluded by informing Members about an exciting new project SNS 2 scheme, a hydrogen production scheme, which produced hydrogen from the excess electricity from windfarms in the south area of the North sea. This was carbon neutral and was a very innovative, exciting scheme and NNDC was one of the six partners involved in its inception.

Cllr S Penfold asked for more information on the partners involved in the

Kickstart jobs programme. Cllr Kershaw said that a broad range of different industries would be involved – from farming, to carpets, hospitality and the marine industry.

Cllr H Blathwayt asked about the SNS 2 scheme, and asked if the Council was content with the calibre of the partners involved. Cllr Kershaw replied that there were 6 partners involved initially – the New Anglia LEP, Hydrogen East, Oil & Gas Technology Centre, NNDC, Xodus Group and Catapult Offshore Renewable Energy. There were also several other potential investors, who had expressed an interest.

Cllr E Withington referred to the Kickstart scheme and said how pleased Sheringham businesses were with the Council's decision to run the hub from the town.

Cllr D Baker said that he recognised that there was a large number of grants that needed to be paid out. He asked why neighbouring councils had made payments but NNDC were holding back on some grant payments. Cllr Kershaw said that two tranches of changes to the criteria had been received recently and the Council wanted to be certain that everything was resolved before the grants were issued.

6. Cllr N Lloyd began by thanking the Environmental Services team for their hard work in supporting other Councils as well as undertaking their usual roles. He also commended the Public Protection team for their continued efforts.

Cllr J Punchard sought reassurance that the Council would work with Norfolk County Council to resolve ongoing issues with the maintenance of surface water drains in Fakenham which was causing substantial flooding. Cllr Lloyd acknowledged that this was a wider problem and the responsibility sat with the County Council to try and resolve it.

Cllr G Perry-Warnes referred to the Treehouse Community Café in Holt and the community fridge which they hosted. This was extremely well used and she asked for an update on NNDC operated fridges. Cllr Lloyd paid tribute to the Holt community fridge scheme. He said that the one in North Walsham continued to go from strength to strength and was now hosted by the community shop. He also thanked Cllrs Grove-Jones and Millership for their support in opening a community fridge in Stalham. In Fakenham, the fridge continued to operate well. Finally, in Sheringham, the Council was close to setting up an initiative there.

7. Cllr E Seward, Portfolio Holder for Finance & Assets introduced his report, reminding Members that there was a briefing scheduled on 25th November, which all members were invited to attend
8. Cllr L Shires introduced her report. She thanked Members for attending the Digital by Design briefing, which had been very useful.
9. Cllr J Toye, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement, introduced his report. He said that as a new member of Cabinet, he was extremely impressed with the Planning team and their dedication and hard work. Despite many of them being seconded during the first period of lockdown, staff continued to perform at a consistently high level, exceeding their

targets. In addition, work was ongoing regarding the implementation of the new Uniform software. The old system, Acolaid, had closed on 13 November and the new system would go live on Monday 7th December.

Cllr Toye said that despite historic difficulties in recruiting to the Planning Service, three new staff members had joined the Council in recent weeks. Again, he commended all of the staff for their continued efforts.

47 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET 02 NOVEMBER

Cllr E Seward, Portfolio Holder for Finance introduced this item. He said that there were three recommendations. Cllr N Dixon, Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee confirmed that the Committee had supported the recommendations at the meeting on 11th November.

Budget Monitoring 2020/21 Period 6

Cllr A Fitch-Tillett, Portfolio Holder for Coast reiterate the importance of supporting coastal adaptation and urged Members to support the recommendation.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To approve the release of £247,083 capital receipts to increase the coastal adaption fund; reinvesting proceeds previously received from the sale of land.

Treasury Half Year Update 2020/21

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council be asked to RESOLVE that The Treasury Management Half Yearly Report 2020/21 is approved.
2. That the Council be asked to APPROVE changes to the Counterparty Limits

Determination of Council Tax Discounts 2021/22

Cllr V FitzPatrick asked whether the potential benefits of providing Council Tax holidays or deferrals that would allow landlords to make significant improvements and or renovations to properties considered when the discounts were set, adding that not providing such opportunities could act as a disincentive to landlords looking to renovate properties in North Norfolk. Cllr Seward said that he would provide a written reply.

RESOLVED:

That under section 11A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 and other enabling powers one of the following applies:

Recommendation 1

- (a) The discounts for the year 2021/22 and beyond are set at the levels indicated in the table at paragraph 2.1.

- (b) The premium for long term empty properties (those that have been empty for a consecutive period longer than 24 months) is continued at 100% of the Council Tax charge for that dwelling
- (c) The premium for long term empty properties (those that have been empty for a consecutive period longer than 60 months) is continued at 200% of the Council Tax charge for that dwelling
- (d) The premium for long term empty properties (those that have been empty for a consecutive period longer than 120 months) is set at 300% of the Council Tax charge for that dwelling
- (e) To continue to award a local discount of 100% for eligible cases of care leavers under section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended).
- (f) That an exception to the levy charges may be made by the Section 151 Officer in conjunction with the Portfolio holder for Finance, on advice of the Revenues Manager in the circumstances laid out in section 3.6 of this report.

Recommendation 2

- (a) those dwellings that are specifically identified under regulation 6 of the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings)(England) Regulations 2003 will retain the 50% discount and;
- (b) those dwellings described or geographically defined at Appendix A which in the reasonable opinion of the Head of Finance and Asset Management are judged not to be structurally capable of occupation all year round and were built before the restrictions of seasonal usage were introduced by the Town and Country Planning Act 1947, will be entitled to a 35% discount.

In accordance with the relevant legislation these determinations shall be published in at least one newspaper circulating in North Norfolk before the end of the period of 21 days beginning with the date of the determinations.

To set appropriate council tax discounts which will apply in 2021/22 in accordance with the legal requirements and to raise additional council tax revenue.

48 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 11 NOVEMBER 2020

Cllr N Dixon, Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee confirmed that there were no further recommendations to Council.

49 POLLING STATION REVIEW - CONSULTATION RESPONSES

The Chief Executive introduced this item. He said that following the proposals considered at the Council meeting on 23rd September, the Elections team had proceeded to the consultation stage and four representations had been received and he outlined them to Members. Objections had been received from Horsey and Morston and there was a request to retain the existing polling stations.

Cllr H Blathwayt requested further consideration of the proposals for Morston and Horsey to allow time for further consideration and discussion.

Cllr A Fitch-Tillett said that it was regrettable but inevitable that the reading room at Sidestrand was no longer fit for purpose.

Cllr P Butikofer said that he supported the changes in relation to Matlaske as it was such a small parish.

Cllr D Baker said that he was concerned about the proposals. There was no cost associated with the changes and therefore it was important to look at the underlying principle – that it should be easy for people in isolated of rural communities to vote and exercise their democratic right. He felt it was the wrong message to send residents.

Cllr S Butikofer said that she understood Cllr Baker's concerns but said that there was a cost implication for some of the very small polling stations. Having said that, she agreed that this should not over-ride the ability to vote. However, people could vote by post and this was likely to be the preferred option in light of the pandemic. She proposed that Morston and Horsey were removed from the proposals and the existing polling stations retained in those villages.

Cllr E Seward agreed with Cllr S Butikofer's suggestion.

Cllr J Toye said that he supported the proposals in Ingworth and Sustead and neither site was suitable for disabled access.

The Chief Executive summarised the proposals. He said that there was no intention to remove anyone's franchise. The Elections team was preparing for the County Council elections in 2021.

It was proposed by Cllr H Blathwayt, seconded by Cllr A Fitch-Tillett and

RESOLVED by 29 votes in favour, 7 against and two abstentions

To support the changes highlighted within the review, with the exception of Morston and Horsey which are removed, and that they are implemented at future elections held.

50 QUESTIONS RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS

None received.

51 OPPOSITION BUSINESS

None received.

52 NOTICE(S) OF MOTION

Three Notices of Motion had been received.

1. Free School Meals Provision

Proposed by Cllr G Hayman, seconded by Cllr C Heinink

Cllr G Hayman introduced the Motion (outlined in full in the agenda). He said that everyone was aware of the need for free school meals for families suffering real hardship, exacerbated by the impact of the pandemic. He praised the recent campaign by Marcus Rashford which had resulted in free school meal provision being extended until Easter 2021 and said that the Motion hoped to build on this and take it a bit further. He made reference to two local towns where the number of pupils currently in receipt of free school meals was above 20% (the national average being 17%). He said that he spoke from personal experience, having been fortunate enough to receive free school meals as a child. He said there was no shame in admitting this, above all it was important that children didn't go hungry as it affected their wellbeing and ability to learn.

Cllr C Heinink, seconder of the motion, then spoke. He said that, as a teacher, he was only too aware of the pressures placed on families during the pandemic. He said that it was a priority that all children should have enough to eat and these proposals were the best way to achieve this.

Cllr J Rest sought clarification on whether the proposal to expand the provision of FSM was limited to term time only. Cllr Hayman confirmed this was the case, unless the Government did not agree to extend the current scheme beyond next summer. Cllr Rest then referred to the Pupil Premium, saying he believed that this was already funded by the Government and made available to schools. It required the parent to register with the school if they were entitled to free school meals. He suggested that the proposal should be revisited to make reference to the fact the Pupil Premium was available and this should be sought first.

Cllr L Shires clarified that when parents applied for FSM that was when the pupil premium came into effect. It was not separate to FSM but linked to it. The school received additional funding through the pupil premium to help those pupils in receipt of FSM with extra support for their learning.

Cllr W Fredericks reiterated Cllr Shires comments that the pupil premium did not provide free school meals but provided funding for enhanced learning and additional support for those in receipt of free school meals. She felt therefore that an amendment would not make sense. She went onto say that during the last half term, she had helped run a food larder and she had seen a huge increase in families coming forward for help in feeding their children.

Cllr D Baker said that this was a very important Motion and everyone recognised that caring for the most vulnerable in society was crucial. He said that there should be an acknowledgement that the Government was already doing a lot of the work that was outlined in the motion and to some extent superseded it. He made reference to the Child Food Poverty Taskforce and the National Food Strategy and said they underlined the ongoing work that was already being done. He went onto say that the Government had allocated over £400m allocated towards tackling food provision for the poorest families and it was important that the motion should reference this and the holiday meal schemes that were being put in place. He welcomed the reference to the Healthy Start vouchers but said that he felt the Government proposals improved upon those outlined in the motion.

Cllr L Shires said that she found it very upsetting that in 2020, there were still many children struggling with hunger and food poverty. She referred to the working poor – who worked hard and struggled to feed their children and would not meet the current criteria to be eligible for free school meals. She said that the Council should do all it

could to address the problem and to reduce unfairness and inequality.

Cllr S Penfold clarified that if a pupil claimed free school meals, then the school could claim pupil premium funding. However, it went direct to the school not to the family or pupil. He added that the motion went beyond the Government's proposals regarding FSM provision as it sought to provide meals during the school holidays on an ongoing basis – not just in the short term.

Cllr J Rest agreed to withdraw the amendment.

Cllr P Heinrich said that many parents were struggling as they did not meet the threshold for free school meals and consideration should be given as to how they could be helped. He said he supported the motion.

Cllr E Withington said that she strongly supported the motion. She added that the Government proposals to provide FSM via holiday activities could cause issues for some families and ultimately reduce take-up.

It was proposed by Cllr G Hayman, seconded by Cllr C Heinink and

RESOLVED with 29 votes in favour and 8 abstentions

to write to the Secretary of State for Education the Chancellor and our local MPs to call for:

- **Extended eligibility for free school meals to every pupil whose parents or guardians are in receipt of Universal Credit**
- **Food vouchers for every one of those pupils in every school holiday and during any period of lockdown**
- **Extended eligibility for free school meals to pupils from low-income families whose parents or guardians have no recourse to public funds.**

This council resolves to continue to work with local food bank charities, and will collaborate with local community groups to provide support for these groups if Central Government does not improve its haphazard approach to caring for the most vulnerable in our society.

1. Second Homes and Furnished Holiday Lets

Proposed by Cllr E Withington, seconded by Cllr C Heinink

Cllr E Withington introduced the motion. She said that it had the support of Sir Norman Lamb and the Norfolk Association of Local Councils. She said that the current situation was very unfair - in that a person had to prove they had a disability to receive a small discount on their council tax bill, whereas a second homeowner did not have to provide any evidence that they had a fully furnished holiday let to be eligible for business rates relief and consequently pay no contribution towards local services.

Cllr C Heinink, seconder of the Motion, said that he reiterated Cllr Withington's comments and it was imperative that owners of furnished holiday lets paid towards local services and amenities. It was an issue of fairness and to require proof of commercial occupancy levels was a reasonable way to address the potential loss of income the District was losing through this loophole.

Cllr N Dixon said that he recognised that there was a strong case to take action. It was about closing a loophole and to ensure that people were operating on the same level.

Cllr G Hayman requested a recorded vote.

It was proposed by Cllr E Withington, seconded by Cllr C Heinink and

RESOLVED by 35 votes in favour with two abstentions

To urge the Government to take the appropriate legal action requiring evidence of commercial occupancy levels, which will help to address one aspect of the inequality in funding of those rural tourist dependent areas of England such as North Norfolk.

1. Tackling Harassment and Abuse in Public Life both for Members and Officers

Proposed by Cllr S Butikofer, seconded by Cllr J Rest

The Leader, Cllr S Butikofer, introduced the motion. She began by saying that becoming and serving as a councillor was a responsibility, a privilege and a very rewarding undertaking. However, it was becoming increasingly clear that a growing number of councillors were being subjected to considerable harassment, threats and abuse, exacerbated by social media and which was aimed at undermining the democratic process by generating fear amongst elected members and those who advised them. Public intimidation was putting people off standing for election, which would mean that Councils would not reflect the diverse nature of local communities. Diversity in all its forms helped ensure that local decision making was robust and well informed. It was also becoming apparent that officers were increasingly being subjected to harassment and abuse. Ultimately this could lead to the collapse of the democratic system. She outlined the LGA's definition of abuse and harassment. Cllr Butikofer acknowledged that debate and holding different views was part of a healthy democracy, abuse, public intimidation and threats were designed to undermine democratic decision-making by creating fear in elected representatives and those who advised them. This was an issue for those at all levels of Government and she urged Council to support the motion and lead by example.

Cllr J Rest, seconder of the motion, said that he was fully supportive. He said bearing in mind the mental stress that people had been under as a result of the pandemic, he felt it was vital that a shared effort was made, transcending personal and political ambitions, to ensure that all members and officers worked together to support each other.

Cllr J Toye said that it was an important part of conserving democracy by protecting those that worked within it.

Cllr V Gay said that the UK had shaped the ideal of modern democracy throughout the World and it depended on the willingness of ordinary citizens participating through voting as well as standing for election. If people weren't prepared to oppose the climate of harassment and fear then our way of life would be lost.

Cllr C Cushing said that he supported the Motion. He had some concerns about the training on the Nolan Principles being mandatory as this implied that members did not currently abide by it. He said that his group opposed harassment of Members

and officers and he agreed that social media exacerbated the problem. He was aware of a lot of elected members experiencing online abuse and he agreed that it could deter people from standing for election and even from working within local government. He concluded by saying that it was important to distinguish between respectful challenge and abuse. The role of the opposition was to hold the Administration to account and to ask probing questions where necessary and to monitor the implementation of policy. This helped to improve decision making and the development of alternative policies.

Cllr L Shires said that the Motion was an opportunity for Members to lead the way and show where tolerance lies and to set an example to future generations. It was appalling that any member or officer should suffer intimidation and abuse. She added that she supported mandatory training in this instance as it demonstrated commitment.

Cllr N Dixon said that no one could argue against the motion. He added that he was not opposed to mandatory training but cautioned against false comfort in delivering training. Members needed to sign up to abiding by the Nolan Principles and to understand the impact of them and embed them in their role as a councillor. Ideally, he would like to see the motion strengthened to state that Members agree to sign up to delivering the Nolan Principles in their daily activities.

Cllr R Kershaw said that he echoed the motion. It was important to show respect and politeness to your peers and colleagues. He said that he respected challenge – that was why democracy worked but members needed to live by the Nolan Principles or they would suffer.

Cllr S Penfold spoke in support of the Motion and said that he agreed with Cllr Dixon's points.

Cllr E Withington said that she agreed with Cllr Dixon's comments but felt that Members had already signed up to abiding by the Nolan Principles when they were elected and adopted the Code of Conduct. She said that people would push to the edge and it was down to elected members to agree to not tolerate such behaviour. She said that she would like to see this included as an amendment.

Cllr W Fredericks said she agreed with Cllr Dixon's comments and would support an amendment on this basis.

Cllr Dixon said that he agreed that abiding by the Nolan Principles was already embedded in the Constitution and that was why he had stopped short of making an amendment. However, Members needed to be reminded that it was there and that they should abide by it.

Cllr H Blathwayt said that there was no need for an amendment as the principles were outlined in the Constitution, as was the requirement to abide by them.

Cllr S Butikofer then spoke as proposer of the Motion. She said that she supported the right to challenge and hold constructive debate but that it should always be respectful. She said that she wanted to propose an additional point for inclusion in the Motion:

'This Council refuses to accept this kind of behaviour within NNDC for members and officers'

Cllr J Rest seconded the amendment. When put to the vote, the amendment was supported.

The Chairman then asked Members to vote on the substantive motion.

Cllr R Kershaw requested a recorded vote.

It was proposed by Cllr S Butikofer, seconded by Cllr J Rest and

RESOLVED unanimously

- To write to the Districts MPs to seek their support in tackling harassment and abuse in public life.
- To write to the Minister for the Cabinet Office to seek a cross government response in tackling harassment and abuse in public life.
- To write to the Chair and Chief Executive of the Local Government Association to thank them for representations made to date on the issue.
- To arrange mandatory training on the Nolan principles for all Councillors that we are all acting as ambassadors of best practice.

53 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

54 PRIVATE BUSINESS

The meeting ended at Time Not Specified.

Chairman

This page is intentionally left blank