

Minutes of a Meeting of **Full Council** held in the **Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House, Riduna Park, Melton** on **Thursday 24 May 2018** at **7.00pm**

Members present:

J Bidwell, S Bird, C Block, S Bloomfield, C Blundell, M Bond, S Burroughes, P Coleman, A Cooper, D Dean, P Dunnett, J Fisher, A Fryatt, S Gallant, S Geater, T Green, S Harvey, C Hedgley (Vice Chairman), R Herring, G Holdcroft, C Hudson, R Kerry, G Lynch, D McCallum, S Mower, M Newton, D Savage, R Whiting, N Yeo (Chairman)

Officers present:

K Abbott (Democratic Services Business Manager), S Baker (Chief Executive Officer), C Bing (Deputy Monitoring Officer), A Jarvis (Strategic Director), N Khan (Strategic Director), N Rickard (Head of Communities)

Council stood in silence in memory of Councillor Sue Allen, Waveney District Council, who had passed away at the end of April 2018.

1. Election of Chairman

On the proposition of Councillor Burroughes, seconded by Councillor Coleman, it was

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Yeo be elected as Chairman of the Council for the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

The Retiring Chairman, Councillor Blundell, said that his term of office had been both enjoyable and interesting and had enabled him to attend many pleasurable events. Councillor Blundell referred to several events of particular note including Operation Camouflage at Rock Barracks, cathedral and church services in support of various charities, the Dragons' Den breakfast, award events and a Royal Garden Party. Councillor Blundell wished to thank Mrs Cook, the Democratic Services & Cabinet Business Manager and her team for their advice and support and also expressed his gratitude to Mrs Leonard, the Chairman's Secretary, for her invaluable assistance. In conclusion, Councillor Blundell said the memory of his year as Chairman would remain with him always.

The In-coming Chairman, Councillor Yeo, thanked Members for electing her to serve as Chairman for what would be the last year of Suffolk Coastal District Council; the new Chairman said she hoped it would, therefore, also be a memorable year. On behalf of Council, the Chairman thanked Councillor Blundell and his wife for all they had done during the last year

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

On the proposition of Councillor Yeo, seconded by Councillor Fryatt, it was

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Hedgley be elected as Vice Chairman of the Council for the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

Councillor Hedgley thanked Council for electing him as Vice Chairman.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Amoss, Councillor Deacon, Councillor Harding, Councillor Haworth-Culf, Councillor Jones, Councillor Kelso, Councillor Lawson, Councillor Mulcahy, Councillor Poulter and Councillor Smith.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

5. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 March 2018 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. Announcements

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Geater to her first meeting of Council since her election as a Ward Member for Leiston earlier in the month.

The Chairman announced that her Charities for 2018/19 would be the local youth organisations Level 2 (Felixstowe), CYDS (Leiston), Just 42 (Woodbridge), Access Community Trust (Saxmundham) and FAYAP Youth and Arts Centre (Framlingham). The Chairman further announced that she would like to invite all Members to support at least one of these projects from their individual Enabling Communities Budgets.

The Leader of the Council paid tribute to Councillor Sue Allen of Waveney District Council. The Leader of the Council said Councillor Allen had served as Ward Member for Southwold and Reydon for 14 years having been elected in 2005; this had included eight years as the Cabinet Member for Housing and two years as Chairman of Waveney District Council. Councillor Allen had also served as the Mayor of Southwold in 2003 and 2010 and, more recently, had been Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Leader of the Council said Councillor Allen had been described as “the heartbeat of Southwold” and as an “exceptional lady....entirely committed to public service” who “gave everything to seeking better outcomes for local people and communities”. The Leader of the Council said Councillor Allen had played a prominent role in her local community and would be greatly missed.

There were no announcements by Cabinet Members or the Chief Executive.

7. Notices of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

8. Our Future: Enabling Young People in Suffolk Coastal

The presentation was introduced by the Leader of the Council, on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Communities, Customers and Leisure. The Leader of the Council said the enabling of young people involved an extensive range of services and work and he very much welcomed the opportunity to further raise the profile of the Council's existing and future provision.

The Chairman invited the Head of Communities to provide the presentation which included:

Context:

- 20% of the population of Suffolk Coastal was under 18 years of age and this would decrease to 17.8 % by 2039
- The demographic of some areas had higher levels of under 18s which were above Suffolk and national levels e.g. Kesgrave (32%), Rendlesham (28%), Saxmundham (27%)
- These trends were masked by statistics about an ageing population and, therefore, were a "hidden need"
- The County Council's open access Youth Service had disbanded in 2011; this had resulted in a loss of quality assurance, support and training to the voluntary and community sector
- Young Suffolk had been incorporated into Community Action Suffolk

Current youth provision:

- Youth groups in Leiston, Felixstowe, Woodbridge, Kesgrave, Sutton, Rendlesham and Saxmundham
- New initiatives, for example Jetty Lane Community Interest Company in Woodbridge
- Multi-agency groups to address NEETS (not in employment, education or training)
- Community Action Suffolk's "Youth Leaders" programme
- Level 3 Youth Work Diploma funded (£20,000) by the East Suffolk Partnership and the County Council to support quality youth work provision
- Increasing expectations on the voluntary and community sector including supporting those with complex needs
- UK Youth Parliament representatives

East Suffolk Young People's Action Group (ESYPAG):

- A multi-agency network of professionals from organisations which work with young people
- The Group, chaired by the Cabinet Member for Customers, Communities and Leisure, met quarterly
- The Group's aims: Enable action to address young people's priorities and needs; information sharing and awareness raising; enable solutions through partnership working
- The Group's actions: Youth participation strategy; joint training needs identified; partnership working

ESYPAG's Holiday Activities Fund:

- Established in 2016 with £50,000 in funds from the East Suffolk Partnership
- Has supported 28 organisations and 48 projects thus far
- Match funding of £100,463
- Received as Award for Youth Participation in 2017

Suffolk Coastal's Youth Voice:

- Youth Conference Event in April not well attended despite promotion and preparatory work with schools and youth groups
- Preparatory work identified priorities as mental health (including eating disorders, gender issues and self-harm), employment and bullying
- Travelling distances were identified as the main barrier to a frequent single forum for Suffolk Coastal
- Solutions identified: the Council's Communities Officers to work with schools and youth groups in their area; suggestion boxes; on-line polls using menti.com and promoted on Facebook; an Annual Event to be held

Case Studies:

- Crucial Crew Plus
- Operation Camouflage

Enabling Communities Budgets:

- Examples of youth projects and organisations supported included Leiston Long Shop Museum; Music in Felixstowe; Level 2; Catch 22

The Chairman invited questions on the presentation. There being no questions, the Chairman moved to debate.

Councillor Gallant commended the work of the Head of Communities and her team and, in particular, wished to praise the success of the Crucial Crew Plus programme and the way it addressed sensitive topics. Councillor Gallant referred to the significant issue posed by County Lines, whereby criminal gangs set up a drug dealing operation in a place outside their usual operating area, and advised that an action plan in this regard would be brought before Members in due course.

Councillor Fryatt welcomed the presentation and asked that additional promotion of the provision of an extensive range of services and work be undertaken, particularly with town and parish councils.

7.55pm Councillor Harvey left the Meeting

In conclusion, the Leader of the Council thanked the Head of Communities and her team for their work which was very much appreciated. He welcomed the proposal to increase the profile of this area of Council work including the new Chairman's active support.

9. Creation of the East Suffolk Council: Nominations to the Shadow Executive made by Suffolk Coastal District Council

Council received report **CL 11/18** by the Leader of the Council. The report stated that, in order to create the new Council for East Suffolk, the East Suffolk (Local Government Changes) Order 2018 (the Order) had to be made by Parliament. The Order had been approved in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords on 9 May 2018.

The Leader of the Council was pleased to announce that Parliament had, earlier that day, made the Order which meant a new East Suffolk Council would be formed on 1 April 2019. The Leader of the Council recognised that this was the culmination of a great deal of hard work by both Members and Officers and, in particular, he recorded his thanks to those Officers for their tireless work undertaken in addition to continuing to deliver their normal duties. The Leader of the Council emphasised the need to maintain a keen focus so that the successful transition to the new Council continued. The Leader of the Council stated that the East Suffolk Shadow Authority would come into existence on 25 May 2018 and its first meetings would be held on 4 June 2018. The Shadow Authority would remain in place until the new Council took responsibility for local government matters on 1 April 2019; the Shadow Authority would consist of all members of both Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils. The Member Programme Board, Member Working Groups and a multitude of work-streams would continue into 2019 with elections to the new Council being held on 2 May 2019.

The Leader of the Council said the Shadow Authority, at its first meeting on 4 June 2018, was required by Article 8 of the Order to create a leader and cabinet executive which consisted of the two Councillors who were for the time being the leaders of the two District Councils and eight persons, nominated by Suffolk Coastal District Council, each of whom were for the time being members of that Council; similarly eight persons nominated by Waveney District Council. It was noted that Waveney District Council, at its Annual Council meeting on 16 May 2018, had nominated the eight members of its Cabinet.

The Leader of the Council referred to the creation of the new Council having evolved over a number of years and that, as part of its natural progression, the Shadow Executive should, he said, consist of the current Leaders and their existing Cabinets as this gave continuity and ensured the necessary knowledge and experience of the existing Cabinet were retained. He continued that a Shadow Executive drawn from the two existing Cabinets reflected the joint working which had taken place thus far and reflected the evolution of East Suffolk Council to date.

The Leader of the Council asked Council to endorse the nominations of the Member Programme Board on 16 April 2018 and moved the recommendation within report CL 11/18; the recommendation was seconded by Councillor Holdcroft.

The Chairman invited questions. There being no questions, the Chairman moved to debate.

Councillor Blundell referred to the Leader of the Council's statement that, for reasons of continuity, knowledge and experience, the best people to form the Shadow Executive were the existing Cabinets and added that, potentially, a similar argument might also be made in May 2019. This possibility, Councillor Blundell considered, made no provision for other members to

bring their experience to the Cabinet. Councillor Blundell considered this meant that some backbench members might feel unable to participate in the Cabinet's decisions and he asked that there be more scope for involvement.

Councillor Bird referred to the introduction of a system of deputy Cabinet Members at the County Council and considered something similar should be implemented for the Shadow Executive.

Councillor Holdcroft stated that all members were, as always, welcome to attend any meeting of the Cabinet or Shadow Executive and to participate in debates. He also referred to the five Member Working Groups meeting since early in 2018 to consider various aspects of service provision and which had been, and would continue to be, open to all members of both Councils. Councillor Holdcroft said there had been and would continue to be many opportunities to influence and participate in the debate and resolution of many important issues.

The Leader of the Council emphasised the processes which, he said, enabled members to influence a considerable range of matters including, for example, the recommendations for future arrangements which had been developed by the Member Working Groups; he suggested that members should have attended these meetings if they had wished to fully participate in the debate and decisions. The Leader of the Council further stated that there were many opportunities for members to be involved in discussions on budgetary matters, the constitution for the new Council, governance arrangements, service alignments etc. He continued that recommendations for decisions would be made by the Shadow Executive to the Shadow Authority and that an experienced Shadow Executive was essential in helping to formulate those recommendations and to ensure consistency. The Leader of the Council, with reference to previous comments, said he had appointed new members to the Cabinet, sometimes upon election to the Authority and referred Council to the appointments of the Cabinet Members for Resources, Community Health and the Green Environment after the 2015 elections. He reiterated that there continued to be many opportunities for all members to have input and to influence decisions. The Leader of the Council again commended the recommendation to Council.

There being no further matters raised for debate, the Chairman moved to the recommendation.

Councillor Hudson stated that he wished to raise a Point of Order and the Chairman invited him to address Council. Councillor Hudson said that members had the option of agreeing to accept the eight people whom the Leader of the Council had chosen for his existing Cabinet, or to make their own nominations to the new Shadow Executive. It was clarified that Councillor Hudson wished to move an amendment to the report's recommendation, rather than a Point of Order; the Chairman asked that he state the proposed amendment. Councillor Hudson said he considered it better if the nominations to the Shadow Executive were not the sole prerogative of the Leader of the Council and that other members, not currently on the Cabinet, might also have appropriate knowledge and experience to bring to the role. He proposed that Council consider the establishment of a sub-committee of Full Council to nominate a delegated group of members.

In response to a query by the Chairman, the Chief Executive Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer advised that debate had concluded before Councillor Hudson had indicated his wish to move an amendment and, therefore, it could not be so moved.

The Chairman moved again to the original recommendation which was proposed, seconded and by majority vote

RESOLVED:

That, alongside the Leader of the Council, who has a seat on the Shadow Executive by virtue of Article 8 of the East Suffolk (Local Government) Changes Order 2018, the eight persons to sit on the Shadow Executive with the Leader be agreed as the eight Members of the Cabinet

8.25pm Councillor Hudson and Councillor Whiting left the Meeting

10. Appointments to Outside Bodies 2018/19 (Non-Executive)

Council received report **CL 12/18**. The Leader of the Council presented the report which sought Council's consideration of appointments of representatives to Outside Bodies (Non-Executive) for the 2018/19 Municipal Year and as outlined in Appendix A to the report.

The Leader of the Council sought a substitute representative on the Health Scrutiny Committee of Suffolk County Council. Councillor Green was so appointed.

There being no questions or matters raised for debate, the Chairman moved to the recommendations which were proposed, seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED:

1. That, as outlined in Appendix A of CL 12/18, Councillors be appointed to those Outside Bodies for the 2018/19 Municipal Year
2. That, unless otherwise stated, the Leader of the Council be authorised to fill any outstanding vacancies left unfilled by Council.

11. Councillor Request for Extended Leave of Absence

Council received report **CL 13/18** by the Leader of the Council. The report stated that the law required that, if a member of a local Authority failed throughout a period of six consecutive months, from the date of his/her last attendance, to attend any meeting of the Authority, s/he would, unless the failure was due to a reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the Authority.

The Leader of the Council said that, unfortunately, due to ill health, Councillor Raymond Catchpole has been unable to attend any Council or Committee meetings since he attended the Planning Committee meeting on 18 January 2018. Councillor Catchpole had, therefore, made a formal request to Council to approve the reason for his non-attendance prior to expiry of the six month period on 18 July 2018. This would enable him to remain in office.

Council, in considering the report, wished its best wishes to be extended to Councillor Catchpole.

There being no questions or matters raised for debate, it was proposed, seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED:

That the request from Councillor Catchpole for an extension of office beyond the six month period of non-attendance to 30 September 2018, by reason of ill health, be approved.

12. Cabinet Members' and Outside Bodies Representatives' Reports

Council received report **CL 14/18**.

The Chairman stated that the reports would be taken as read, unless Cabinet Members or Outside Bodies representatives wished to provide further updates. The Chairman also invited Council to question Cabinet Members and Outside Bodies representatives on their reports.

Councillor Holdcroft – Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economic Development

Councillor Holdcroft summarised the main aspects of his published report. In addition, he also advised that Scottish Power Renewables' proposals for off-shore windfarms as well as their on-shore facilities would be included in a member briefing on all energy related projects in mid-July.

Councillor Holdcroft also advised that, earlier that day, there had been an opportunity for supporting partners, guests and Councillors to ride a section of the Ovo Energy's Women's Tour ahead of its departure on 13 June 2018.

Councillor Fryatt – Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning

Councillor Fryatt highlighted the key issues within his published report. In particular, Councillor Fryatt informed Council that proposals for the draft Local Plan's consultation, following extensive work by the members and Officers on the Local Plan Working Group, would be considered by Cabinet in July. It was proposed that an eight week consultation would commence on 22 July.

Councillor Fryatt also referred Council to the current calculation of residual housing to be planned for in the Local Plan, as detailed in the report, and advised that the updated five year building land supply figure would be published in June.

Councillor Kerry – Cabinet Member with responsibility for Housing

In addition to his published report, Councillor Kerry highlighted that the recently issued 'balanced scorecard' from the Anglia Revenue Partnership had indicated that, of the seven partners, Suffolk Coastal District Council alone had been 'green' on all targets. Councillor Kerry wished to commend that achievement and formally thanked all the relevant Officers.

In response to a question from Councillor Block regarding active applications to the Gateway to Homechoice Register, Councillor Kerry undertook to provide this information outside of the meeting.

8.40pm Councillor Bidwell left the meeting.

Councillor Poulter – Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Green Environment

There was nothing to add to the published report.

Councillor Gallant – Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health

There was nothing to add to the published report.

Councillor Smith – Cabinet Member with responsibility for Coastal Management

There was nothing to add to the published report.

Councillor Holdcroft – Kyson (River Deben) Fairway Committee

Councillor Block referred to the problems of silting up of the river and that no areas had yet been identified where dredged material might usefully be deposited; she asked if the Kyson (River Deben) Fairway Committee would support local opposition to the costs of transporting such material. Councillor Holdcroft confirmed that it would.

Councillor Poulter – The Mills Charity

There was nothing to add to the published report.

Councillor Gallant – Suffolk Coastal Disability Forum

There was nothing to add to the published report.

Councillor Gallant – Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner's Fund Grant Panel

There was nothing to add to the published report.

The Meeting concluded at 8.45pm