

Unconfirmed



Minutes of a Meeting of the **Full Council** held in the **Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House, Riduna Park, Melton** on **Thursday 24 January 2019** at **7.00pm**

Members present:

N Yeo (Chairman), S Bird, C Block, C Blundell, S Burroughes, A Cooper, D Dean, J Fisher, A Fryatt, S Gallant, M Gower, C Hedgley (Vice Chairman), R Herring, G Holdcroft, C Hudson, M Jones, J Kelso, S Lawson, G Lynch, P Mulcahy, M Newton, C Poulter, A Smith

Officers present:

K Abbott (Democratic Services Business Manager), A Jarvis (Strategic Director), H Slater (Head of Legal & Democratic Services)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bidwell, Councillor Bloomfield, Councillor Bond, Councillor Deacon, Councillor Dunnett, Councillor Geater, Councillor Harding, Councillor Harvey, Councillor Haworth-Culf, Councillor Kerry, Councillor McCallum, Councillor Mower, Councillor Savage, and Councillor Whiting.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 November 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Announcements

The Chairman reminded Members of the details of her Reception, as Chairman, in early February.

The Leader of the Council announced that an event to celebrate the 45 years of Suffolk Coastal District Council would be held on 15 March 2019. It was proposed that the event would capture the activities and successes of the Council. A small booklet on the Council's history, major projects and contributions would also be produced. It was intended that the celebration event would act as a thank you to the Council's staff, partners and parishes for their important contribution to the successful delivery of the Council's services over the last 45 years.

The Leader of the Council announced that a new Head of Strategic Housing and Tenant Services had been appointed via a Joint Appointments Committee held the previous week. The Leader of the Council also referred Members to the report at item 10 on the agenda which sought

Council's approval of the appointment of Mr Simon Taylor as the Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer.

5. Written Questions

There were no Written Questions.

6. Notices of Motions

There were no Notices of Motions.

7. Authorisation of the Trainee Solicitor to appear at County Court and at Magistrates' Court

Council was in receipt of report **CL 02/19** by the Leader of the Council. The report was briefly introduced by the Leader of the Council who invited the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to summarise it. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services referred to the provision within Section 60 of the County Courts Act 1984 and Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1972 for local authorities to authorise certain of its Officers, without necessarily holding legal qualifications, to prosecute or defend in Court. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services said Ms Aayeesha Muzondo had recently been appointed to the post of Trainee Solicitor within the Councils' Legal Services team and, as part of her training contract, was required to gain the experience and skills necessary for practice. Council was advised that it would be advantageous to both Legal Services and Ms Muzondo if she were able to undertake advocacy, as appropriate.

There being no questions or matters raised for debate, the Chairman moved to the recommendation which was proposed, seconded and by unanimous vote

RESOLVED

That, under Section 60 of the County Courts Act 1984 and Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1972, Aayeesha Muzondo be authorised to appear at the County Court and at the Magistrates' Court to represent Suffolk Coastal District Council

8. Waiving of Call-in Procedures: Land and Property Acquisition

Council was in receipt of report **CL 03/19** by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources. The Cabinet Member for Resources briefly summarised the report which detailed an opportunity for a beneficial land and property acquisition which had presented itself to timescales which had not allowed for the normal call-in period for Cabinet Members' decisions to be applied. For this reason, the decision had been treated as urgent and, in accordance with the Council's Constitution (Part 4, Scrutiny Procedure Rules, paragraph 15), call-in procedures had been waived. Decisions which were taken as a matter of urgency were required to be reported to the next available meeting of the Full Council.

There being no questions or matters raised for debate, the Chairman moved to the recommendation which was proposed, seconded and by unanimous vote

RESOLVED

That the urgent decision of the Cabinet Member for Resources relating to a land and property acquisition, the reasons for the urgency, and the agreement to waive call-in procedures, be noted

9. Cabinet Members' and Outside Bodies Representatives' Reports

Council received report **CL 04/19**.

The Chairman stated that the published reports would be taken as read, unless Cabinet Members or Outside Bodies representatives wished to provide further updates. The Chairman invited Council to raise any questions on the published reports.

Councillor Holdcroft – Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economic Development

Councillor Holdcroft referred to the section of his report on Sizewell C and reminded Members of the current Stage 3 public consultation period which closed on 29 March 2019; he encouraged Members to stress the need for active participation in the process by all, particularly town and parish councils. Councillor Holdcroft also reminded Members of the briefing arranged for 29 January and highlighted that this would include computer generated imagery of the proposed Sizewell C development and associated infrastructure.

In addition to his written report to Council, Councillor Holdcroft referred to the recent announcement that Marks & Spencer proposed to close its store in Felixstowe, subject to a 45 day consultation with its employee representative group. Councillor Holdcroft also referred Council to an email Marks & Spencer had sent to the Council's Chief Executive, to the Mayor of Felixstowe's letter to Marks & Spencer's Chief Executive to express his dismay at the proposed closure, and to the Council's press release, in Councillor Holdcroft's name, to express his extreme disappointment at the announcement.

Councillor Holdcroft stated that the staff consultation period provided an opportunity for all parties interested in retaining the store in Felixstowe to lobby Marks & Spencer's management on its proposed decision. He said the Council intended to write to Mark & Spencer to highlight the significant planned development in Felixstowe which would have a positive impact on the town centre, including increased footfall and customer base for retailers. In addition, the Council had commissioned a piece of work to identify opportunities and challenges across a number of town centres within east Suffolk and this would be used to enhance these as retail and destination centres. In conclusion, Councillor Holdcroft encouraged Members to sign the petition, organised by the town's Residents' Association, either in-store or on-line.

There were no questions on the published report.

Councillor Fryatt – Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning

Councillor Block, with reference to the section of the Cabinet Member's report on the Ipswich Strategic Planning Area Board asked if a map of this could be provided. Councillor Fryatt replied that this was available on-line. With reference to the Board's discussions about co-operation between local authorities on strategic cross-boundary planning matters, including meeting housing needs and distribution, Councillor Block asked if Ipswich Borough Council

would be able to meet its housing allocation. Councillor Fryatt said this had been confirmed at a recent meeting of the Board and, therefore, no additional requirements would be placed on Suffolk Coastal.

Councillor Kelso referred to a request by Martlesham Parish Council for a further discussion with the Cabinet Member on the Local Plan. Councillor Fryatt referred to the detailed debates on the draft Local Plan which had been held at recent formal Committees, attended by representatives of Martlesham Parish Council, and to the clear statements of the process and next steps. Councillor Kelso said the Parish Council had spent six years preparing its Neighbourhood Plan and, he said, within five months of it being made it had been “over-ruled” by the draft Local Plan, specifically its inclusion of the site of the police headquarters. Councillor Kelso stated that he considered it necessary for the Cabinet Member to meet the Parish Council and explain the district Council’s position. Councillor Fryatt said there was no additional information, further to that already provided, which he could present. He agreed it was regrettable that the Martlesham Neighbourhood Plan had been affected and added that the police headquarters site was not an application but a proposed site. Councillor Fryatt stated that Martlesham Parish Council was obviously able to raise concerns about soundness of the draft Local Plan during the on-going consultation process. Councillor Kelso asked how the decision to include the police headquarters site within the later version of the draft Local Plan had been reached. Councillor Fryatt replied that Officers had made the decision, based on the facts, and that it had also been discussed by the Local Plan Working Group.

Councillor Poulter – Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Green Environment

There were no questions on the published report.

Councillor Gallant – Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health

There were no questions on the published report.

Councillor Fisher – East Suffolk Travellers’ Association

There were no questions on the published report.

Councillor Block – Suffolk Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Councillor Block highlighted the ‘Our Water’ pilot project which provided a mechanism to empower local community groups to follow a step-by-step process to manage minor instances of flooding through improved understanding of drainage systems, recording the condition of small watercourses and ditches etc., as well as helping to identify mitigation measures.

There were no questions on the published report.

10. Appointment of a Chief Finance/Section 151 Officer

Council was in receipt of report **CL 05/19** by the Leader of the Council. The Leader of the Council introduced the report which sought Council’s ratification of Mr Simon Taylor’s permanent appointment as Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer, following a recent joint

recruitment process, and so as to ensure that necessary financial governance arrangements and legislative requirements continued to be met.

There being no questions or matters raised for debate, the Chairman moved to the recommendation which was proposed, seconded and by unanimous vote

RESOLVED

That Mr Simon Taylor be appointed as the Officer responsible for the administration of the Council's finances under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 with effect from 25 January 2019

The Meeting concluded at 7.35pm