

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE KING EDMUND CHAMBER - ENDEAVOUR HOUSE, 8 RUSSELL ROAD, IPSWICH ON TUESDAY, 19 JUNE 2018

PRESENT: Barry Gasper – Chair
Adrian Osborne – Vice-Chair

Councillors:

Clive Arthey	Sue Ayres
Melanie Barrett	Simon Barrett
Tony Bavington	Peter Beer
Peter Burgoyne	Sue Burgoyne
Tom Burrows	David Busby
Tina Campbell	Sue Carpendale
Michael Creffield	Luke Cresswell
Derek Davis	Alan Ferguson
Kathryn Grandon	John Hinton
Bryn Hurren	Jennie Jenkins
Frank Lawrenson	Margaret Maybury
Alastair McCraw	Mark Newman
John Nunn	Jan Osborne
Lee Parker	Stephen Plumb
Nick Ridley	Harriet Steer
Fenella Swan	John Ward
Stephen Williams	

Officers:

Chief Executive (AC)
Strategic Director (KN)
Strategic Director (JS)
Assistant Director – Law and Governance (EY)
Corporate Manager – Tenant Services (LC)
Corporate Manager – Democratic Services (JR)

11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

11.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dawson, Holt, Kemp, Long, Patrick, Rose, Shropshire and Smith.

12 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS

12.1 The Monitoring Officer had granted dispensations for all Councillors relating to Item 9 (BC/18/8) Independent Remuneration Panel report.

13 BC/18/6 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 APRIL 2018

It was Resolved:-

That subject to the title of the Secretary of the State being added to paragraph 42.1 and grammatical amendments being made to the content of the Minutes, the Minutes from the meeting held on 24 April 2018 be approved as a true record.

14 BC/18/7 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 22 MAY 2018

It was Resolved:-

That the Minutes from the Annual Meeting held on 22 May 2018 be approved as a true record.

15 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND LEADER

15.1 The Leader reported that he had attended a breakfast media event on 1 June 2018 to launch the Babergh/Mid Suffolk Business Awards and Local Hero Awards Scheme to recognise the stars across the districts. The awards would be split across sixteen categories that covered both the business and community sectors. The closing date for nominations was 28 September 2018 with the awards ceremony taking place on 18 October 2018 at St Mary's church in Hadleigh.

15.2 The Leader also reported that a second Q&A session hosted by the Leader and Deputy Leader had taken place on 9 June 2018 in Hadleigh. A further session was planned for Shotley on 21 July 2018. More dates were being programmed for other areas.

15.3 Lastly the Leader informed the meeting that the Council had completed the purchase of land known as the Baker's Mill footpath. Once work had been completed on the path and a crossing over a small stream provided, the riverside path would complete an uninterrupted pedestrian route all the way to Friars Meadow, near the Kingfisher Leisure Centre.

16 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

16.1 There were no petitions received.

17 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

17.1 There were no questions received.

18 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

18.1 There were no questions received.

BC/18/8 RECOMMENDATION FROM THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

- 19.1 The Chief Executive introduced the report and highlighted the key elements within it. He went on to say that due to the difficulty of Councillors debating their own allowances, a Cross Party Panel had been formed to undertake an analysis of the Panel's findings.
- 19.2 The Cross Party Panel's recommendations were highlighted in the report in red, to draw attention to those areas where the Panel had deviated away from the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP). The reasoning behind those recommendations were set out in paragraphs 3.4 to 3.12 in the report.
- 19.3 Finally the Chief Executive drew attention to the Terms of Reference of the IRP and informed Council that the IRP had been asked to look at the Scheme on the basis that a period of time had elapsed since the last review, and more specifically because the Council had adopted a Leader/Cabinet model and to consider whether any changes should be backdated to the implementation of the Leader/Cabinet model.
- 19.4 Councillor Ward **MOVED** the recommendations in the report and informed Council of two further amendments to the recommendations as follows:-
- that 2.1C be amended to reflect the current practice "that Babergh does not claim more than one SRA allowance" with the exception of the SRA for Group Leaders.
 - that the increase in allowances be backdated to the start of the new municipal year (22 May 2018).
- 19.5 Councillor Ward then went on to detail the history of the past reviews of the Independent Remuneration Panel informing Council that there had only been two minor changes to the allowances scheme within the past ten years. He also stated that Babergh had the lowest comparable allowance of all authorities that had been surveyed, at a time when Members' workloads had increased over the years.
- 19.6 Councillor McCraw seconded the report and reserved the right to speak.
- 19.7 On the proposal of Councillor Simon Barrett and seconded by Councillor Ferguson an amendment to restrict the allowance for political group leaders to those groups with five members or more was tabled.
- 19.8 This was **PUT** to the vote and **CARRIED**.
- 19.9 On the proposal of Councillor Cresswell and seconded by Councillor Williams an amendment to delay the increase in Members allowances until after the May 2019 elections was tabled.

19.10 Under Part 3 Paragraph 18.5 of the Constitution a recorded vote was requested by five councillors.

19.11 The amendment was **PUT** to the vote and **LOST**, the vote was recorded as follows:-

For	Against	Abstention
Cllr A Bavington	Cllr C Arthey	Cllr F Lawrenson
Cllr D Busby	Cllr S Ayres	
Cllr L Cresswell	Cllr M Barrett	
Cllr D Davies	Cllr S Barrett	
Cllr A Ferguson	Cllr P Beer	
Cllr J Hinton	Cllr P Burgoyne	
Cllr J Nunn	Cllr S Burgoyne	
Cllr S Plumb	Cllr T Burrows	
Cllr S Williams	Cllr T Campbell	
	Cllr S Carpendale	
	Cllr M Creffield	
	Cllr B Gasper	
	Cllr K Grandon	
	Cllr B Hurren	
	Cllr J Jenkins	
	Cllr M Maybury	
	Cllr A McCraw	
	Cllr M Newman	
	Cllr A Osborne	
	Cllr J Osborne	
	Cllr L Parker	
	Cllr N Ridley	
	Cllr H Steer	
	Cllr F Swan	
	Cllr J Ward	
Total 9	Total 25	Total 1

19.12 On the proposal of Councillor Bavington and seconded by Councillor Peter Burgoyne, an amendment to remove the wording “*that with the exception of the SRA for Group Leaders*” no Councillor will be entitled to claim more than one SRA was moved.

19.13 The amendment was **PUT** to the vote and **LOST**,

19.14 Under Part 3 Paragraph 18.5 of the Constitution a recorded vote was requested by five councillors for the amended recommendations as tabled along with the additional amendment as detailed in Minute 9.7 “to restrict the allowance for political group leaders to those groups with five members” as agreed.

19.15 The recommendations were **PUT** to the meeting and **CARRIED**.

19.16 The voting was recorded as follows:-

For	Against	Abstention
Cllr C Arthey	Cllr A Bavington	Cllr A Ferguson
Cllr S Ayres	Cllr D Busby	
Cllr M Barrett	Cllr L Cresswell	
Cllr S Barrett	Cllr D Davis	
Cllr P Beer	Cllr J Hinton	
Cllr P Burgoyne	Cllr J Nunn	
Cllr S Burgoyne	Cllr S Plumb	
Cllr T Burrows	Cllr S Williams	
Cllr T Campbell		
Cllr S Carpendale		
Cllr M Creffield		
Cllr B Gasper		
Cllr K Grandon		
Cllr B Hurren		
Cllr J Jenkins		
Cllr F Lawrenson		
Cllr M Maybury		
Cllr A McCraw		
Cllr M Newman		
Cllr A Osborne		
Cllr J Osborne		
Cllr L Parker		
Cllr N Ridley		
Cllr H Steer		
Cllr F Swan		
Cllr J Ward		
Total 26	Total 8	Total 1

It was Resolved:-

- (i) that the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) as reviewed by the joint, cross party panel of councillors be approved as set out below:-
 - a) That the Basic (Ward Representation) Allowance be set at £5,000.
 - b) That the Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) be set at:-

Role	Multiplier	Amount
Chairman of the Council	1	£5,000
Deputy Chairman of the Council	0.5	£2,500
Leader of Council	2.5	£12,500
Deputy Leader of the Council	1.25	£6,250
Chair of Planning Committee	1	£5,000
Vice-Chair of Planning Committee	0.25	£1,250

Chair of Scrutiny Committee	1	£5,000
Vice-Chair of Scrutiny Committee	0.5	£2,500
Chair of Joint Audit and Standards Committee	0.5	£2,500
Planning Committee Members	0.1	£500
Political Group Leaders (of at least five members)	0.2	£1,000
Chair of Regulatory Committee	0.5	£2,500
Vice-Chair of Regulatory Committee	0.25	£1,250
Cabinet Member with Portfolio	1.25	£6,250
Cabinet Member without Portfolio	0.5	£2500
Lead Member	0.5	£2500

- c) That with the exception of the SRA for Group Leaders, no Councillor will be entitled to claim more than one SRA.
- d) That the Travel and Subsistence Allowance be set at:-
 - Mileage Rate 45p per mile
 - Cycle Mileage Rate 27.7p per mile
 - Passenger Allowance 5p per mile
- e) That the Childcare and Dependants Allowance be set at:-
 - Childcare Allowance up to £13 per hour (subject to a receipt)
 - Dependants Relative Care/Specialist Nursing Care Allowance up to £30 per hour (subject to a receipt)
- f) That the revised Member Allowance Scheme will take effect from the date of the Annual Council meeting (22 May 2018)
- g) That the revised Basic Allowance be increased in line with the Local Government Officer pay awards until the scheme is next reviewed in 2022 or earlier.
- h) That a revised Members Allowances Scheme incorporating the decisions of the Council be prepared by the Monitoring Officer. Further, that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make any typographical and other minor / consequential amendments prior to publication of the final document.
- i) That the Council formally records its thanks to the Independent Remuneration Panel for their work in preparing the report.

20 **BC/18/9 DISBANDMENT OF JOINT HOUSING BOARD**

20.1 On the proposal of Councillor Jan Osborne and seconded by Councillor Bavington,

It was Resolved:-

That the Joint Housing Board be disbanded.

21 **APPOINTMENTS**

It was Resolved:-

That Council note the following appointments:-

- i) **Councillor Creffield to replace Councillor Ayres on Planning Committee.**
- ii) **Councillor Arthey to replace Councillor Davis on Planning Committee.**
- iii) **Councillor Davis to replace Councillor Arthey on Joint Audit and Standards Committee.**

22 **BC/18/10 BABERGH DC HQ REGENERATION PROJECT - APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED OPTION (PART 1)**

22.1 Before the item was introduced the Monitoring Officer gave advice to Planning Committee Members regarding their position about being able to participate in the debate without prejudicing their ability to partake in the planning decision when it eventually came forward to the Planning Committee.

22.2 Councillor Lawrenson introduced the report and **MOVED** the recommendations in the report. He went on to say that the report that he was presenting set out the options that had been considered for the site and explained the rationale for the recommended option.

22.3 He also highlighted that Option 2 (the recommended option) had been amended following further reports and surveys that had concluded that it was not viable to retain Bridge House and therefore it should be demolished.

22.4 A short presentation providing an overview of the proposed design and the iterative process that had been undertaken through the optioneering, assessment and consultation stages of the process was delivered by the Design Consultants.

22.5 Councillor Ward seconded the recommendations in the report and reserved the right to speak.

22.6 Councillor Beer sought reassurance that the very latest parking space sizes were being used for the proposed development and that the size of the second bedroom was of a sufficient size to be useful.

- 22.7 In response the Design Consultant confirmed that in this case the local authorities guidance for car parking space sizes had been used, which was slightly more generous than a standard size car parking space. Regarding the ground floor bedroom or multi-purpose room, these had been designed based on the lifetime homes guidance. All of the designs however, exceeded that guidance.
- 22.8 Councillor Bavington sought reassurance that under no circumstances was the Cabinet seeking to divest the Council of the freehold of the main site.
- 22.9 Councillor Maybury asked if the downstairs toilet should actually be a wet room in line with the lifetime homes standard?
- 22.10 Councillor Hinton commented that there was not enough detail given for each option to gain an understanding of why option 2 had been selected as the preferred option compared to options 1 and 3.
- 22.11 Councillor Grandon stated that there was a lot of positivity from local residents regarding the proposals for the site.
- 22.12 The Monitoring Officer advised at this point in the meeting that if the Council wished to discuss the relative merits of the different options they should move to exclude the public.

23 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC (WHICH TERM INCLUDES THE PRESS)

- 23.1 On the proposal of the Chairman and seconded by Councillor McCraw,

It was Resolved:-

That pursuant to part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the business specified in the report on the grounds that if the public were present during discussion of this item, it is likely that there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as indicated in the report.

24 BC/18/10 BABERGH DC HQ REGENERATION PROJECT - APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED OPTION (PART 2) (EXEMPT INFORMATION BY VIRTUE OF PARAGRAPH 1 OF PART 1)

- 24.1 Council discussed the relative merits of the different options.

25 RE- ADMISSION OF PUBLIC

It was Resolved:-

That the public be re-admitted to the meeting.

26 BC/18/10 BABERGH DC HQ REGENERATION PROJECT- APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED OPTION

It was Resolved:-

That the Council's comments on the proposed option for redeveloping the former Council HQ site at Corks Lane and the Bridge House and car parks (option 2, Section 2.1 of the report and Appendix G) be reported to Cabinet for consideration, prior to a decision being taken to submit a full planning application for the site's redevelopment.

27 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC (WHICH TERM INCLUDES THE PRESS)

27.1 On the proposal of Councillor Peter Burgoyne and seconded by Councillor Bavington,

It was Resolved:-

That pursuant to part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the business specified in the Minutes on the grounds that if the public were present during discussion of this item, it is likely that there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as indicated in the report.

28 BC/18/11 TO CONFIRM THE CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE OF 24 APRIL 2018 MEETING

It was Resolved:-

That the confidential Minute of 24 April 2018 be approved as a true record.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 8.25 p.m.

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Chairman