

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN KING EDMUND CHAMBER - ENDEAVOUR HOUSE, 8 RUSSELL ROAD, IPSWICH ON TUESDAY, 22 MAY 2018

PRESENT: Barry Gasper - Chairman

Clive Arthey	Sue Ayres
Melanie Barrett	Simon Barrett
Tony Bavington	Peter Beer
Peter Burgoyne	Sue Burgoyne
Tom Burrows	David Busby
Tina Campbell	Sue Carpendale
Luke Cresswell	Derek Davis
Alan Ferguson	Kathryn Grandon
Michael Holt	Bryn Hurren
Jennie Jenkins	Richard Kemp
Frank Lawrenson	James Long
Margaret Maybury	Alastair McCraw
John Nunn	Adrian Osborne
Jan Osborne	Peter Patrick
Stephen Plumb	Nick Ridley
David Rose	Ray Smith
Fenella Swan	John Ward
Stephen Williams	

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

1.1 On the proposal of Councillor Ward and seconded by Councillor Smith

It was RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Barry Gasper be elected Chairman of the Council for the Municipal year 2018/19.

Councillor Gasper paid tribute to Councillor Peter Burgoyne for his years of service as the outgoing Chairman to Babergh Council and the excellent job that Peter had made as first citizen of the district.

He then thanked everyone who had voted for him and said that it was an honour for him to be chosen as the new Chairman. He looked forward to working with residents and organisations across Babergh during the coming year. His chosen charity for the next year would be The Bumblebee Children's Charity. This was a specialist centre in Sproughton which provides support for babies and young children who have difficulties with movement and coordination.

Councillor Gasper thereupon made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2 ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN

- 2.1 On the proposal of Councillor Ayres and seconded by Councillor Patrick

It was Resolved:-

That Councillor Adrian Osborne be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for the Municipal year 2018/19.

Councillor Osborne thereupon made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 3.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Creffield, Councillor Dawson, Councillor Hinton, Councillor Newman, Councillor Parker, Councillor Shropshire and Councillor Steer.

4 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS

- 4.1 There were no declarations of interest.

5 BC/18/1 - TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 APRIL 2018 AS A CORRECT RECORD

It was Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2018 be deferred until the next Council meeting.

6 BC/18/2 - ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND LEADER

- 6.1 The Leader announced that he and Councillor Jan Osborne had embarked on a series of engagement events around the district to give residents the opportunity to speak directly with the Council Leadership and for the Leadership to answer any questions and to address any concerns that residents may have. The first event was held in Sudbury with a very good turnout from the public illustrating that there was a demand for this type of direct engagement. Further events were planned throughout the year.
- 6.2 The Leader also announced that following a recent press release Babergh had been shortlisted for the East Anglia Building Excellence Awards 2018 for the best social or affordable new housing development category, thanks to their high quality design, visual impact on the area and their highly sustainable location. The award was for a development of 12 new affordable homes in Lavenham. The Leader added that this was testament to all the hard work of the officers involved.
- 6.3 Continuing further the Leader announced that as part of his approach to improve communications he would be creating a new Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Communications.

Councillor Grandon would therefore be joining the Cabinet to take up this appointment and would be working with the Corporate Manager for Communications on finalising and implementing the draft Joint Communications Strategy.

- 6.4 Finally the Leader announced that following the recent decision of Councillors Peter and Sue Burgoyne to form their own Group, the Babergh Unionists, the Conservatives and Babergh Unionists had now entered a formal coalition to continue as a majority Administration.

7 APPOINTMENTS

a Designation of Committees and Joint Committees

- 7.1 On the proposal of Councillor Bavington and seconded by Councillor Carpendale

It was Resolved:-

That the following Committees be appointed:-

- **Babergh Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
- **Planning Committee**
- **Babergh Licensing and Regulatory Committee**
- **Joint Audit and Standards Committee**
- **Joint Appointments Committee**

- b BC/18/3 - Political Balance and Composition of Committees and Constitutional Amendments

- 7.2 A revised Appendix B was tabled, the Chairman also referred to the proposed amendments to the Joint Audit and Standards Committee Terms of Reference.

- 7.3 The Monitoring Officer advised Council that following concerns relating to the recommendation to allocate named substitutes, that named substitutes were subsequently not appointed at this meeting and that this issue was discussed further by the Constitution Working Group as part of the review of the Constitution. She also referred to Terms of reference of the Constitution Working Group and informed Council that the Terms of Reference should be amended to read “the Constitution Working Group would consist of a Member from each political group”.

It was Resolved:-

- (i) **That the Committees' size and numerical allocation of seats be approved as detailed in the revised Appendix A to the report**
- (ii) **That Committee members be appointed as set out in Appendix B to the report subject to Councillor Alan Ferguson replacing Councillor Sian Dawson on the Licensing and Regulatory Committee and Councillor Sian Dawson replacing Councillor Alan Ferguson on the Joint Audit and Standards Committee.**

- (iii) That a Joint Constitution Working Group be established, that the scope of the review detailed in section 3 of the report be agreed and that a Councillor from each political group be appointed to the working group.
- (iv) That the amendments recommended by the Joint Audit and Standards Committee to its Terms of Reference be agreed.

c Election of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees

It was Resolved:-

That the following Councillors be appointed as Chairs and Vice-Chairs to the Committees as shown below:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Chair Vice-Chair	Cllr A McCraw Cllr S Ayres
Planning	Chair Vice-Chair	Cllr P Beer Cllr M Holt
Licensing and Regulatory	Chair Vice-Chair	Cllr N Ridley Cllr R Smith
Joint Audit and Standards Committee	Chair Vice-Chair	Cllr J Jenkins Cllr T Burrows
Joint Appointments Committee	Chair Vice-Chair	Cllr J Ward Cllr J Osborne

d BC/18/4 - Appointments to Outside Bodies for 2018/19

It was Resolved:-

That Councillors be appointed to Outside Bodies as detailed in the revised Appendix A to paper BC/18/4.

e Appointment of Councillors to the Shared Revenues Partnership Committee

It was Resolved:-

That Councillors Jan Osborne and Peter Patrick be appointed as Members of the Shared Revenues Partnership and that Councillors Sue Ayres and Margaret Maybury be appointed as substitute Members for the Municipal year 2018/19.

f Appointments to the Suffolk Joint Standards Board

It was Resolved:-

That Councillors Bryn Hurren, Adrian Osborne and David Rose be appointed as Members of the Suffolk Joint Standards Board for the Municipal year 2018/19.

- g Appointments to the Joint Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group

It was Resolved:-

That Councillors Sue Ayres, Tony Bavington, Peter Burgoyne and Lee Parker be appointed to the Joint Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group for the Municipal year 2018/19.

8 BC/18/5 - ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2017/18

- 8.1 Councillor Gasper introduced the report and informed Council that the report covered the period since he had taken over as Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee and set out the comprehensive and detailed programme of review that had been undertaken. In short, the Committee had met every month and had scrutinised 22 topics, scoped 13 topics and tracked 9 topics through the information bulletin. In addition, the Committee had accommodated urgent subjects such as homelessness, risk assessments, housing voids and the five-year land supply. The Committee had also scrutinised a Member led Call-In which had been considered at an extraordinary meeting in October 2017. This meeting scrutinised the decision from Cabinet regarding working together and resulted in the decision being returned to Cabinet and a full Council debate.
- 8.2 The Chairman added that the scrutiny process had been undertaken in a spirit of cooperation with no political bias and the Chairman thanked all those Members who had taken part in the process. He also paid tribute to his deputy Chairman Councillor McCraw, the Committee Clerk and members of the Scrutiny Committee.
- 8.3 Councillor Ferguson paid tribute to the outgoing Chairman of the Committee stating that scrutiny was a vital part of the democratic process and said that Councillor Gasper had done a fantastic job as the Chair of Scrutiny. He also sought clarification relating to the work plan for 18/19 for June this year and the scrutiny of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk building services plan. The way it was written up it seemed to have focused on the voids, and he was concerned to make sure that Scrutiny also focused on the business plan that underpins that. He sought assurance that the Committee would be also looking closely at the business plan and not just focussing on voids in that particular element of scrutiny.
- 8.4 In response the new Chairman, Councillor McCraw, stated that these were two separate items, the voids issue was something that the Committee had been examining as a separate basis and although much of that was dealt with by BMBS, the BMBS business plan was a separate item and the Committee would be looking at that in June when it would look at the 12 month period since the implementation of the service.

It was Resolved:-

- (i) **That the Babergh Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report for 2017/18 be noted.**

(ii) That the Babergh Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan 2018/19 be approved.

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

This item was deferred.

10 TO CONFIRM THE EXEMPT MINUTE OF 24 APRIL MEETING

This item was deferred.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 11.57 a.m.

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Chairman