

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **MID SUFFOLK COUNCIL** held in the King Edmund Chamber - Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich on Monday, 20 May 2019

PRESENT:

Councillor: Derrick Haley (Outgoing Chair)

Councillors:	Oliver Amorowson	Gerard Brewster
	David Burn	Terence Carter
	James Caston	Rachel Eburne
	Paul Ekpenyong	John Field
	Julie Flatman	Jessica Fleming
	Dr Helen Geake	Peter Gould
	Kathie Guthrie	Lavinia Hadingham
	Matthew Hicks	Barry Humphreys MBE
	Sarah Mansel	John Matthissen
	Andrew Mellen	Richard Meyer
	Suzie Morley	David Muller
	Mike Norris	Penny Otton
	Timothy Passmore	Stephen Phillips
	Daniel Pratt	Harry Richardson
	Keith Scarff	Andrew Stringer
	Wendy Turner	Rowland Warboys
	Keith Welham	John Whitehead

In attendance:

Officers: Chief Executive
Senior Governance Support Officer
Corporate Manager - Democratic Services
Assistant Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer
Corporate Manager - Democratic Services
Senior Governance Support Officer

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

- 1.1 Councillor Derrick Haley welcomed the Council and asked for nominations for Chairman of the Council for the Municipal Year 2019/20.
- 1.2 A nomination for Councillor Lavinia Hadingham was proposed by Councillor Flatman and seconded by Councillor Muller.
- 1.3 Councillor Field proposed Councillor Mike Norris as Chairman of the Council, which was duly seconded by Councillor Matthissen.
- 1.4 The vote for Councillor Hadingham was 17 For and 17 Against.
- 1.5 The vote for Councillor Norris was 17 For and 17 Against.

- 1.6 Due to a deadlock vote, the Chairman, Councillor Haley, exercised his casting vote in favour of Councillor Hadingham.

By the Chair's casting vote

It was RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Lavinia Hadingham be appointed Chairman of the Council for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

- 1.7 Councillor Hadingham passed on her thanks to Councillor Haley and thanked Members for her election as Chairman which she considered an honour. She announced her chosen charity as Mid Suffolk Home Start. She welcomed newly appointed Members to the Council.
- 1.8 Councillor Passmore, Councillor Otton, Councillor Eburne and Councillor Morley all paid tribute and thanks to Councillor Haley for all he had done for Mid Suffolk District Council over the years.
- 1.9 Note: Councillor Hadingham thereupon made her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and presided over the meeting.

2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

- 2.1 Councillor Muller proposed Councillor Barry Humphreys, which was duly seconded by Councillor Morley.
- 2.2 Councillor Stringer proposed Councillor Rowland Warboys, which was duly seconded by Councillor Scarff.
- 2.3 The vote for Councillor Humphreys was 17 For and 17 Against.
- 2.4 The vote for Councillor Warboys as 17 For and 17 Against.
- 2.5 Due to a deadlock vote, the Chairman, Councillor Hadingham, exercised her casting vote in favour of Councillor Humphreys.

By the Chair's casting vote

It was RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Barry Humphreys MBE be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

- 2.6 Note: Councillor Humphreys thereupon made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS

3.1 None received.

4 MC/19/1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 MARCH 2019

It was Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2019 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

5 MC/19/2 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

5.1 The Chairman referred to Paper MC/19/2 outlining recent events attended by the outgoing Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

6 ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

6.1 A nomination for Councillor Suzie Morley was proposed by Councillor Guthrie and seconded by Councillor Hicks.

6.2 Councillor Mansel proposed Councillor Rachel Eburne, which was duly seconded by Councillor Otton.

6.3 Councillor Eburne stated that as no one party had a majority she believed that there should be a Leader who could ensure a Cabinet where there were portfolio holders from all parties as this is what the electorate would expect. She considered that if she was elected Leader she would be able to carry that through and ensure that all was equal around the table.

6.4 Councillor Mansel commented on her disappointment that the Green Party Leader and Liberal Democrats Leader have tried to work with the Leader of the Conservative and Independent Group but that this had come to nothing. She did not consider it was the most efficient way to run a Council where parties were unable to work together collaboratively.

6.5 The vote for Councillor Morley was 17 For and 17 Against.

6.6 The vote for Councillor Eburne as 17 For and 17 Against.

By the Chair's casting vote

It was RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Suzie Morley be appointed Leader of the Council for the current Term of Office.

7 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 7.1 Councillor Morley thanked Members for electing her. She said it was a great and humbling honour to be elected Leader to Mid Suffolk District Council during a significant time of change but also following a time of great progress and achievement.
- 7.2 She went on to state that whilst the elections earlier this month were clearly very difficult, she believed their party record was strong and wished for her thanks for their achievements be put on record. Since the elections she had met with the Leaders of the other Groups and was grateful to them for entering into talks which she considered had been productive, helpful and focussed on how they might be able to work together.
- 7.3 Unfortunately discussions had focussed on areas of disagreement, in particular the future role of CIFCO and the location of the headquarters. The political asks of the opposition were not acceptable and therefore a consensus was unable to be reached.
- 7.4 She informed Members that the Conservative group had joined with Councillor Brewster to form an administration. The offer of a seat on Cabinet remained open to Councillor Eburne and Council Field should they wish to take it.
- 7.5 Councillor Morley said that in the coming months the administration would set out its priorities for the next 4 years. She went on to make two of her personal priorities, the first being the people we are here to serve. Having been a Cabinet Member for Organisational Development with responsibility for customer services she had learnt very quickly how important it was to put residents and service users at the heart of everything and wished to pay tribute to the dedicated and hard working staff. As Leader she would make this a fundamental pillar of work in Mid Suffolk, involving people in decision making, improving access to services or designing services for their needs and improving the Council's communication with the public to be far better and proactive.
- 7.6 Her second priority being a review of the Joint Local Plan stating that it is vital that we ensure that housing and building development in our district is where and how we want it to be. It is important to our residents that we get it right.
- 7.7 Councillor Morley announced Councillor Gerard Brewster as the Deputy Leader, and informed Members that she was still working on the Cabinet Member appointments.
- 7.8 Councillor Eburne welcomed Councillor Morley as Leader, and informed Members that in the run up to this meeting that she had asked for meetings in order to develop a consensus across the chamber, but this had not been taken up, stating that she would have liked a seat on Cabinet, provided it was an equal basis, with a portfolio. She went on to say that she would like to see much more investment in housing in this area, to put a hold on CIFCO, bring

money back here and invest in housing and asked if that could be one of the first priorities of this Council?

- 7.9 In response Councillor Morley informed Members that discussions around CIFCO are not up for debate.
- 7.10 Councillor Otton commented that it was disappointing that parties were unable to come to an agreement and asked whether Councillor Morley would reconsider if she felt it would be advantageous to go back and have a discussion with the group leaders from the other groups?
- 7.11 In response Councillor Morley said the door was open for discussion.
- 7.12 Councillor Field raised a question around CIFCO, asking whether they totally believed that they had fully assessed the risks at present in the commercial market in particular the retail market, as we see the continuous collapsing of retail operations?
- 7.13 In response Councillor Brewster replied that he was satisfied that the risk is properly managed. Top experts in that field are providing the advice and the risks are being managed.
- 7.14 Councillor Stringer asked whether consideration had been given to the staff, as it is the staff who do the work on these programmes?
- 7.15 Councillor Morley responded that she has given this consideration.
- 7.16 Councillor Hicks raised the question as to why Councillor Eburne and Councillor Field did not want to take up the offer to join the Cabinet, without a portfolio?
- 7.17 Councillor Morley stated that the areas where agreement couldn't be reached were around CIFCO and moving back to Needham Market. Fundamental decisions which were in the opposition's manifesto.
- 7.18 Councillor Stringer raised a point of order wanting to clarify that it was he who had written the Green Party Manifesto and that it did not state that the headquarters were going back to Needham Market, rather that the depot site would be used to build an office using some of the underspend of last year for front line staff.

8 DESIGNATION OF COMMITTEES AND JOINT COMMITTEES

It was RESOLVED:-

That the following Committees and Joint Committees be appointed:-

**Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Development Control Committee A
Development Control Committee B**

**Planning Referrals Committee
Mid Suffolk Licensing and Regulatory Committee
Joint Audit and Standards Committee
Joint Appointments Committee**

9 MC/19/3 POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES

- 9.1 Under the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, a Local Authority has a duty to review the allocation of seats to Political Groups at every annual meeting of the Council or as soon as practicable after that meeting. In addition, the composition of Committees must be approved at the Annual Council meeting.
- 9.2 The Corporate Manager – Democratic Services pointed out a change to recommendation 2.2 of the Paper MC/19/3, stating it should read “That Committee members be appointed as set out in Appendix B to this report.”
- 9.3 Councillor Mansel pointed out that Councillor Richardson and Councillor Turner, both who represent the Thurston Ward, may cause an issue as both were listed to sit on Development Control Committee A, and that should an application for Thurston go to Development Control Committee A meeting they would have to move across the floor and there would only be 6 members making that decision, so questioned whether that was the best composition for Development Control Committee A.
- 9.4 Councillor Morley informed Members she would investigate further.

The vote was carried

It was RESOLVED:-

- 1. That the Committees’ size and numerical allocation of seats be approved as detailed in Appendix A to Paper MC/19/3.**
- 2. That Committee members be appointed as set out in Appendix B to Paper MC/19/3, as follows:-**

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (6)

James Caston	Dave Muller
Lavinia Hadingham	Keith Scarff
Andy Mellen	Keith Welham

JOINT AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE (5)

Oliver Amorowson	Dave Muller
James Caston	Mike Norris
John Matthissen	

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE A (8)

Rachel Eburne	Sarah Mansel
John Field	Dave Muller
Lavinia Hadingham	Harry Richardson
Matthew Hicks	Wendy Turner

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE B (8)

Terence Carter	John Matthissen
Peter Gould	Richard Meyer
Kathie Guthrie	Mike Norris
Barry Humphreys	Rowland Warboys

LICENSING & REGULATORY COMMITTEE (10)

Gerard Brewster	Dave Muller
Paul Ekpenyong	Stephen Phillips
Julie Flatman	Penny Otton
Helen Geake	Daniel Pratt
Kathie Guthrie	Andrew Stringer

JOINT APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE (3)

Gerard Brewster	Suzie Morley
Rachel Eburne	

10 ELECTION OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES

10.1 Nominations for Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees were received as follows:-

Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Chair: Councillor Keith Welham

Vice-Chair: Councillor Keith Scarff

Vote: Carried

Development Control Committee A:

Chair: Councillor Sarah Mansel
Councillor Matthew Hicks

Vote: By the Chair's casting vote – Councillor Matthew Hicks

Vice-Chair: Councillor Lavinia Hadingham

Vote: Carried

Development Control Committee B:

Chair: Councillor Kathie Guthrie
Vice-Chair: Councillor Barry Humphreys

Vote: Carried

Licensing and Regulatory Committee:

Chair: Councillor Kathie Guthrie
Councillor Andrew Stringer

Vote: By the Chair's casting vote – Councillor Kathie Guthrie

Vice-Chair: Councillor Dave Muller
Councillor Andrew Stringer

Vote: By the Chair's casting vote – Councillor Dave Muller

Joint Audit and Standards Committee:

Chair: Councillor Dave Muller
Councillor Mike Norris

Vote: By the Chair's casting vote – Councillor Dave Muller

Joint Appointments Committee:

Chair: Councillor Suzie Morley
Vice-Chair: Councillor Gerard Brewster

Vote: Carried

It was RESOLVED:-

That the following Councillors be appointed as Chairs and Vice-Chairs to the Committees until the Annual Council Meeting 2020, as shown below:-

Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Chair:	Councillor Keith Welham
	Vice-Chair:	Councillor Keith Scarff
Joint Audit and Standards Committee	Chair:	Councillor Dave Muller
Development Control Committee A	Chair:	Councillor Matthew Hicks
	Vice-Chair:	Councillor Lavinia Hadingham
Development Control Committee B	Chair:	Councillor Kathie Guthrie
	Vice-Chair:	Councillor Barry Humphreys
Licensing and Regulatory Committee	Chair:	Councillor Kathie Guthrie
	Vice-Chair:	Councillor Dave Muller
Joint Appointments Committee	Chair:	Councillor Suzie Morley
	Vice-Chair:	Councillor Gerard Brewster

MC/19/4 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES FOR 2019/20

- 11.1 Members had before them Paper MC/19/4, circulated in the tabled papers.
- 11.2 Councillor Otton enquired whether there was an opportunity for an opposition leader to attend the East of England Local Government Association meeting, but noted that there is only one voting place.
- 11.3 The Monitoring Officer clarified that we only have one place on each of those bodies, but we will take it away and make enquiries.
- 11.4 Councillor Welham pointed out that there appeared to be “East Suffolk Drainage Board” and “East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board” listed which he believed were one in the same.
- 11.5 Councillor Eburne commented that it was disappointing that the allocations were not representative of the whole Council and it would have been good to have mixed this up. She considered it would be a good idea to put Outside Bodies to Scrutiny Committee to review as there may be other bodies/partnerships that representation should be on.
- 11.6 The Corporate Manager – Democratic Services responded that the Scrutiny Committee did have it on their Work Plan last year and some initial work had been carried out on it, and that it was going back in the future once work is being done and to also look at other organisations to see whether it is appropriate and who we should be appointing to those bodies as well.
- 11.7 Councillor Richardson proposed an amendment to Appendix A, the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board, as he was not able to sit on both the Suffolk Health Scrutiny Committee and the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board, he proposed that Councillor Flatman be appointed in his place. This amendment was duly agreed by the proposer and seconder.

It was RESOLVED:

That Councillors be appointed to Outside Bodies as detailed in Appendix A to Paper MC/19/4, and following the amendment to the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board, as follows:

NAME OF BODY OR PANEL	COUNCILLOR
ASSOCIATION FOR SUFFOLK MUSEUMS	Richard Meyer
EAST OF ENGLAND ASSEMBLY OF LEADERS	The Leader
EAST OF ENGLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION	Suzie Morley
EAST SUFFOLK DRAINAGE BOARD	James Caston Jessica Fleming Keith Welham

HAVEN GATEWAY PARTNERSHIP	Gerard Brewster
HOME-START MID SUFFOLK	Lavinia Hadingham
IPSWICH STRATEGIC PLANNING AREA BOARD	David Burn
JOINT WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD	Jessica Fleming
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION – SPARSE	Suzie Morley
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ASSEMBLY	Suzie Morley
MID SUFFOLK DOMESTIC ABUSE FORUM	Lavinia Hadingham
MUSEUM OF EAST ANGLIAN LIFE LTD	Richard Meyer
SUFFOLK VIOLENCE AND ABUSE PARTNERSHIP	Lavinia Hadingham
SUFFOLK FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE	James Caston
SUFFOLK HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD	Julie Flatman
SUFFOLK HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Harry Richardson
SUFFOLK JOINT EMERGENCY PLANNING POLICY PANEL	Gerard Brewster Barry Humphreys
SUFFOLK POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Barry Humphreys
SUFFOLK WASTE PARTNERSHIP (SWP)	Jessica Fleming
WESTERN SUFFOLK COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (WSCSP)	Julie Flatman Harry Richardson

12 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS TO THE SHARED REVENUE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

12.1 In accordance with the joint arrangements established with Babergh District Council and Ipswich Borough Council, the Council was asked to appoint two Cabinet Members and two substitutes to serve on the Committee for the current municipal year, but as the Cabinet Members were yet to be announced this item would be deferred until the next Council meeting.

13 APPOINTMENTS TO THE SUFFOLK JOINT STANDARDS BOARD

13.1 In accordance with the joint arrangements established with Babergh District Council and Suffolk County Council, Council was asked to appoint three Councillors to serve on the Board for the current municipal year.

13.2 The political balance rules did not apply to Mid Suffolk's appointments who could not be:

- The Chairman of the Council
- Members of the Cabinet

It was RESOLVED:-

That the following Councillors be appointed to serve on the Suffolk Joint Standards Board for the ensuing municipal year:-

**Councillor Paul Ekpenyong
Councillor Barry Humphreys
Councillor John Matthissen**

14 APPOINTMENTS TO THE JOINT GYPSY AND TRAVELLER STEERING GROUP

It was RESOLVED:-

That the following Councillors be appointed to serve on the Joint Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group for the ensuing municipal year:-

**Councillor John Field
Councillor Julie Flatman
Councillor Lavinia Hadingham
Councillor Andrew Stringer**

15 APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS

15.1 Following clarification from the Monitoring Officer, Councillor Eburne requested that Councillor Mansel be included to sit on the Community Governance Review Working Group.

It was RESOLVED:-

That the following Councillors be appointed to the Council Working Groups as detailed in the tabled papers Agenda Item 16 – Appointments to Council Working Groups, as follows:-

Member Learning and Development Working Group:

**Councillor Rachel Eburne
Councillor Suzie Morley
Councillor Stephen Phillips**

Joint Local Plan Working Group:

**Councillor David Burn
Councillor Kathie Guthrie
Councillor John Field
Councillor Andrew Stringer**

Constitution (Planning Charter) Working Group:

**Councillor Sarah Mansel
Councillor Suzie Morley
Councillor Keith Scarff**

Community Governance Review Working Group:

**Councillor James Caston
Councillor Julie Flatman
Councillor Penny Otton
Councillor Sarah Mansel**

The business of the meeting was concluded at 6.45 pm.

.....
Chair