

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting of the **MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL** held at the Council Offices, Needham Market on 31 October 2016 at 5:30 pm.

PRESENT:

Councillors:	Roy Barker	John Levantis
	Gerard Brewster	Sarah Mansel
	David Burn	Wendy Marchant
	James Caston	John Matthissen
	Rachel Eburne	Lesley Mayes
	Paul Ekpenyong	Suzie Morley
	John Field	Dave Muller
	Julie Flatman	Mike Norris
	Jessica Fleming	Derek Osborne
	Elizabeth Gibson-Harries	Penny Otton
	Nick Gowrley	Jane Storey
	Kathie Guthrie	Andrew Stringer
	Derrick Haley	Keith Welham
	Glen Horn	Kevin Welsby
	Barry Humphreys MBE	John Whitehead
	Diana Kearsley	David Whybrow
	Anne Killlett	Jill Wilshaw

In attendance:

Head of Paid Service
Deputy Chief Executive
Interim Assistant Director - Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer
Interim Head of Democratic Services
Assistant Director – Corporate Resources
Governance Support Officer (VL/BN)

Note: The Chairman explained the rules and procedures for the Council, members of the public and the press to record/film/photograph or broadcast the meeting when the public and press are not lawfully excluded.

CL110 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillors Charles Flatman, Gary Green, Lavinia Hadingham, Matthew Hicks, Esther Jewson and Timothy Passmore.

CL111 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

CL112 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2016

Report C/81/16

The minutes of the meeting held 22 September 2016 were confirmed as a correct record, subject to the following amendment to:

- Minute CL109 - Page 10 – to include “The recommendations were proposed and seconded by Councillors Nick Gowrley and Glen Horn.”

By a unanimous vote

RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

CL113 CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report C/82/16

It was with sadness that Councillor Elizabeth Gibson-Harries advised Members of the death of ex-Councillor Poppy Robinson’s husband, David, on 18 September, aged 98.

The report was noted.

CL114 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No requests had been received.

CL115 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No questions had been received.

CL116 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

No questions had been received.

CL117 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL’S PETITION PROCEDURE

In accordance with Council Procedure Rules, a petition signed by 25 residents had been received in respect of Planning Application 3876/16, land south west of School Lane, Fressingfield. The petition will be reported to the relevant Development Control Committee at the time the application is considered.

CL118 APPOINTMENT OF JOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVE ROLE TO BE DESIGNATED AS THE JOINT HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

Report C/83/16

Assistant Director – Corporate Resources

Following a robust recruitment process that involved final interviews held on 17 and 18 October 2016, the report recommended the outcome of the Joint Recruitment Task and Finish Group for the appointment of the statutory Head of Paid Service for both Councils and to also appoint the same officer to be the Joint Chief Executive for both Councils.

Councillor Nick Gowrley advised Members that it was a unanimous decision by the cross party Task and Finish Group that the ideal candidate to lead both Councils through the challenging times ahead was Arthur Charvonia, and proposed the recommendations in the report. Councillor Andrew Stringer in seconding the proposal said he believed that he had all the qualities needed to progress the Councils' Strategic Priorities. Councillor Penny Otton, an opposition member on the Task and Finish Group congratulated him on the appointment and said she looked forward to working with him.

By a unanimous vote

Arthur Charvonia was in attendance at the meeting, and thanked Members for the warm endorsement.

RESOLUTION 1

That Arthur Charvonia, is designated and appointed to undertake the statutory role as the Head of Paid Service for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils and is also appointed to be the Joint Chief Executive for both Councils.

RESOLUTION 2

That the Monitoring Officer be given delegated authority to make any required changes to the Council's Constitution resulting from the resolution under Resolution 1 above

RESOLUTION 3

That the designated Head of Paid Service (Arthur Charvonia) be approved as the Proper Officer under S270(3) of the Local Government Act 1972

RESOLUTION 4

That the appointed candidate (as in Resolution 1) will also be the Officer designated as the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer

CL119 CONSTITUTIONAL UPDATE

Report C/84/16

**Interim Assistant Director - Law and Governance and
Monitoring Officer**

Council was asked to consider as part of the review of the Constitution, the revised Rules of Procedure for Council, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings and to approve the recommendations set out in the report.

Councillor Nick Gowrley informed Members that since the report had been published, the Monitoring had received and responded to further comments from Members, which would be considered and included where appropriate.

The recommendations were proposed and seconded by Councillors Nick Gowrley and Penny Otton.

During the course of the ensuing debate, the Monitoring Officer clarified points raised by Members including:

- The legal requirement to publish an agenda and the alignment and consistency of notice periods for Members and the public to ask questions;
- State of the District Debate and the benefits of the wider public involvement this would bring;
- Questions to be directed to the respective Portfolio Holder, who could ask the Member with Special Responsibility to respond if appropriate;
- The Planning Charter remained unchanged and was available on the Council's website;
- Business not dealt with at a meeting and carried forward to the next meeting;
- Bringing a debate to an early closure.

By a majority vote

RESOLUTION 1

That Council agrees to adopt Appendix A to the report as the revised Procedure Rules for Council, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings (to replace pages 77 to 101 – Part 3 of the Council's Constitution).

RESOLUTION 2

That Council agrees to delegate responsibility to the Monitoring Officer to carry out any consequential changes to the Constitution that will be necessary following approval of Resolution 1 above.

CL120 LEADER (AND ASSETS AND INVESTMENTS PORTFOLIO)

Report C/85/16

Councillor Nick Gowrley

The report was received.

Councillor Rachel Eburne referred to paragraph 3 and asked when the 'update' would be made public. Councillor Nick Gowrley responded that at this time the briefing and update had been presented to the Theme Board only but when the Strategy was discussed by the Task and finish Panel it would be made public.

CL121 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FORWARD PLAN

Report C/86/16

The report was received.

Councillor Nick Gowrley informed Members that the information under the heading 'Purpose' of the Chilton Fields item scheduled for 5 December, should read "To consider longer lease for Chilton Fields Sports Club".

Councillor Penny Otton referred to the item headed "Asylum Seekers" and asked whether this included any unaccompanied children? Councillor Nick Gowrley replied that he would look into this and provide an answer.

CL122 BUSINESS GROWTH AND INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY PORTFOLIO

Report C/87/16

Councillor Gerard Brewster

The report was received.

CL123 ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

Report C/88/16

Councillor David Burn

The report was received.

Councillor David Burn informed Members that since publication of the report, the initial meeting of the Environment Theme Board had been held and the Forward Plan was available on Connect. He apologised for an oversight in that he had only just forwarded responses via email to questions raised at the September Council meeting.

Councillor Roy Barker provided Members with an update regarding the contamination of recycling at Great Blakenham. A leaflet was being distributed trying to encourage the public to recycle better. The trial on the textile recycling had ceased, although it was noted that the textile banks and charities have seen an increase.

Councillor Kathie Guthrie queried whether doing away with the calendar of bin collection dates could have had an effect on recycling figures, and could this have been included with the leaflet. Councillor Barker advised that the leaflet was a Suffolk County Council leaflet, and that the District Council collection calendar would be going live soon.

Councillor John Matthissen questioned why the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Suffolk County Council for landscaping work had been ended and who had decided to do so? Councillor Burn replied that he would look into this and provide an answer. Councillor Whybrow informed Members that the County Council had withdrawn the service.

CL124 COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING AND ENGAGEMENT PORTFOLIO

The report was received.

Councillor Wendy Marchant enquired whether consideration could be given to a refreshment vehicle being available at Needham Lake for the Great Local Run events which were extremely well attended. She also asked about the success of the Lullaby Concerts. In response Councillor Julie Flatman said she would put forward the suggestion of a refreshment vehicle, and confirmed that the Lullaby Concerts had been very well supported.

CL125 ENABLED AND EFFICIENT ORGANISATION / FINANCE PORTFOLIO

The report was received.

Councillor Anne Killett asked for confirmation on whether the Task and Finish Groups to be set up by the Theme Boards were cross-party working groups, as information available on Connect did not show a number of them as cross-party membership. Councillor Horn advised that current Task and Finish Groups had been set up prior to the formation of the Theme Boards and it was intended that future Groups would be made up of the most appropriate Members for the subject matter.

Councillor Rachel Eburne enquired on the financial spend for Interims appointed at management level and what was the spend over and above permanent staff? Councillor John Whitehead advised he forward this request on to the S151 Officer and circulate the response.

CL126 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO

The report was received.

Councillor John Matthissen asked:

- I was dismayed to learn that MSDC could only offer bed and breakfast accommodation in Ipswich to a homeless family of four.

In the last year:

How many homeless people have been put into B & B?

How many single homeless into B & B?

How many homeless couples into B & B?

How many homeless families with children into B & B?

How many in Mid Suffolk?

How many elsewhere?

For each of these categories, what is the aggregate number of nights spent in B&B?

Why do we not rent private flats in Mid Suffolk when we have no emergency accommodation?

Councillor Levantis replied:

The number of households placed in B&B for the period between 1 November 2015 and today (28 Oct 2016) was as follows:

	Numbers placed	Number of days in B&B of those who have now left	Number who have left	Average stay
All Households	28	674	20	33 days
Single people	17	485	14	34 days
Couples (no children)	2	69	1	69 * days
People with children	9	120	5	24 days

(*The couple was deemed intentionally homeless. They appealed but the original decision was upheld)

Currently there are three single men, one couple and three families with children in B&B. Two of the families with children have gone into B&B as an emergency this week and the other is moving into the Council's temporary accommodation in Stowmarket tomorrow as a space has become available. All the Council's other temporary accommodation is currently full but people with children are moved as a priority as soon as it is possible.

If someone is considered to be intentionally homeless the Council has no duty to rehouse them and it is unlikely they would be placed in our own temporary housing.

Most of the B&B the Council uses is in Ipswich. We also use Sudbury or occasionally Lowestoft if there is a particular reason (eg fear of violence) why someone cannot be in Ipswich.

Councillor Nick Gowrley informed Members he would ask for a report to be presented to Executive Committee.

Councillor John Field queried the Disabled Facilities Grant Action Plan and asked whether there were any measures of the impact of the underspend and the impact upon people in need? Councillor Levantis replied that he would look into this and provide an answer.

CL127 JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillor Rachel Eburne, Chair of the Joint Scrutiny Committee, advised that as the Committee did not meet until the evening of the 19 October a written report would be presented to the 21 November Council meeting.

CL128 DENNIS DYBALL

Councillor Roy Barker asked for it to be minuted that it was with sadness he informed Members that Dennis Dyball, the first Chairman of Mid Suffolk District Council, had died peacefully at the age of 91.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 6.25pm.

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Chairman