

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON TUESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2016

PRESENT: Peter Burgoyne – Chairman

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Clive Arthey | Richard Kemp |
| Sue Ayres | Frank Lawrenson |
| Melanie Barrett | James Long |
| Simon Barrett | Margaret Maybury |
| Tony Bavington | Alastair McCraw |
| Peter Beer | Mark Newman |
| Tom Burrows | John Nunn |
| Dave Busby | Adrian Osborne |
| Michael Creffield | Jan Osborne |
| Derek Davis | Lee Parker |
| Siân Dawson | Peter Patrick |
| Alan Ferguson | Stephen Plumb |
| Barry Gasper | Nick Ridley |
| Kathryn Grandon | David Rose |
| John Hinton | William Shropshire |
| David Holland | Harriet Steer |
| Michael Holt | Fenella Swan |
| Bryn Hurren | John Ward |
| Jennie Jenkins | Stephen Williams |

The following Members were unable to be present:

Sue Burgoyne, Tina Campbell, Sue Carpendale and Ray Smith.

42 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

43 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on [26 July 2016](#) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

44 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman referred to [Paper S58](#) outlining recent events attended by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

45 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

There were no questions or statements from the public.

46 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None received.

47 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

48 PETITIONS

In accordance with Council Procedure Rules, the Deputy Chief Executive reported the receipt of a petition as detailed below:-

Application No. B/16/00903 - erection of 6 no. terraced two-storey dwellings; 4 no. detached two-storey dwellings; 2 no. semi-detached two-storey dwellings; and 2 no. detached three-storey dwellings with associated garages (14 no. dwellings proposed in total) (4 no. dwellings proposed as affordable housing). Construction of new estate road, footpaths, and access to Gallows Hill, land North of Castle Road, Hadleigh

Petition signed by approximately 131 residents of Babergh asking the Council to refuse the above application on the grounds of the objections made by local residents. The petition will be taken into account when the application is considered at a future meeting of the Planning Committee.

Members noted the position.

49 RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM JOINT AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Changes to arrangements for appointment of External Auditors (Joint Audit and Standards Committee – 12 September 2016)

William Shropshire, Chairman of the Audit and Standards Committee, introduced the Committee's recommendation that the Council opts-in to the Local Government Association Sector Led Body as set out in [Paper JAC85](#) under Option 3.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the arrangements for appointing External Auditors at the end of the 2017/18 audit, as set out in paragraphs 10.1 and 10.2 of Paper JAC85 be noted.
- (2) That the Council opts-in to the Local Government Association Sector Led Body (Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd) for the independent appointment of the Council's External Auditor, beginning with responsibilities for the financial year 2018/19.

50 RECRUITMENT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – LAW AND GOVERNANCE (MONITORING OFFICER)

Jennie Jenkins, Leader, introduced [Paper S59](#), seeking Member approval for the Task and Finish Group that is overseeing the recruitment of the Joint Chief Executive post, to also undertake this function for the recruitment of the permanent Assistant Director – Law and Governance.

RESOLVED

That the Joint Task and Finish Group, which was formed to oversee and make recommendation to Council on the new Joint Chief Executive, also undertakes the same role for the Assistant Director – Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer).

51 EXTENSION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS

Jennie Jenkins, Leader, introduced [Paper S60](#), seeking Member approval to an extension for a further two years of the current arrangement.

Suki Binjal, Monitoring Officer, also clarified the process is a statutory process under the Localism Act, and in response to a question, it was agreed that figures would be supplied outside of the meeting regarding how many times the Independent Persons have been called upon.

RESOLVED

That the appointment of the individuals listed in Appendix A to Paper S60, as Independent Persons for the Council, be extended for a further period of two years.

52 EAST BERGHOLT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Simon Barrett, Business Growth and Increased Productivity Portfolio Holder, introduced [Paper S61](#) advising Members of the outcome of the local referendum on the East Bergholt Neighbourhood Plan.

Members were asked to note a typographical error contained within the first paragraph of the Appendix to Paper S61, the reference to 'Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan' should read 'East Bergholt Neighbourhood Plan'.

Bill Newman, Corporate Manager – Strategic Planning, responded to Members' questions on the Neighbourhood Plan.

In response to a question regarding the turnout figures for the electorate, it was agreed that figures would be supplied outside of the meeting.

RESOLVED

That the East Bergholt Neighbourhood Plan be formally made (adopted) as part of Babergh District Council's Development Plan and used to help determine planning applications where relevant.

53 LAVENHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Simon Barrett, Business Growth and Increased Productivity Portfolio Holder, introduced [Paper S62](#) advising Members of the outcome of the local referendum on the Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan.

RESOLVED

That the Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan be formally made (adopted) as part of Babergh District Council's Development Plan and used to help determine planning applications where relevant.

54 FUTURE MODEL FOR PUBLIC ACCESS INCLUDING ACCOMMODATION

Prior to the Council's consideration of [Paper S63](#), the Chairman introduced the Strategic Director, Mike Evans and his Team who gave a short presentation on the Future Model for Public Access including Accommodation. Members then had the opportunity to ask questions and the following were among the matters raised:-

- Broadband in remote areas – can we deliver?
- Operation of the hub and spokes model
- Letter sent direct to all Councillors by Unison expressing its view that there had not been any meaningful staff consultation through Unison.

The Chairman thanked the officers and prior to asking Councillor Jennie Jenkins to present Paper S63, he indicated how he intended to take Members through their consideration of the report and its four recommendations, which would be the subject of separate votes. Members were aware that if they wished to discuss matters relating to the Confidential information under Item 17 of the agenda, it would be necessary to pass the standard resolution to exclude the public, as set out in Item 16. However, in the event, this was not considered to be necessary, and Paper S63 was considered in open session.

Members were asked to note a typographical error in Paragraph 4, page 3, where the paragraphs numbered as 7.6 – 7.8 should have been 4.6 – 4.8.

Jennie Jenkins, Leader, presented Paper S63 setting out the options and strategy to deliver a future Public Access operating model for the Councils, encompassing options for future accommodation and outlining options for the existing Headquarters sites in Hadleigh and Needham Market, should either or both be vacated. She referred to the current context which included the loss of the Government's Revenue Support Grant from 2020. Work had been ongoing for three years and had now come together in the proposals before Members. She referred to the need to be more responsive to the requirements of those who need us most by better targeting our limited resources, and commented that the status quo was not an option as pressure on budgets remains unrelenting.

As well as considering adoption of the Public Access Strategy, Members would be asked to choose one of the four options outlined in the report, all of which had been researched and costed, for locations from which to deliver our services. Members were advised that other options were not able to be considered at this meeting as any alternative proposals would not have had the benefit of a thorough assessment process.

Councillor Jenkins then moved recommendations 2.1 to 2.4 en bloc, which were duly seconded.

During the course of the ensuing debate, Officers responded to Members' questions on various matters including:-

- Digital technology and varying levels of public competence in its use;
- Ageing demographic;
- Public Consultation
- Broadband coverage
- Completion of benefit claims – percentages for online or other methods
- Single phone number;
- Access to officers and public

RESOLVED

- (1) That the principles of the emerging Public Access Strategy as set out in Section One, page 8 to 18 of Paper S63, be approved.**

The Chairman then moved on to consideration of the Options in Recommendation 2.2 of the report and at this point Councillor Tony Bavington put forward a motion to defer consideration of Recommendations 2.2 to 2.4. The wording of the motion was read out by the Chairman and formally proposed and seconded as follows:-

“That recommendations 2.2 to 2.4 be deferred until such time as:

- The staff through Unison and the Joint Staff Consultation Committee; and
- The public, who in Babergh voted in a 2011 Local Referendum by 61% - 39% on a relatively high turnout not to merge with Mid Suffolk

have been fully consulted, in order that the results of the consultation can be reported to the Council before a decision is taken.”

The Chairman then asked the Officers to respond with regard to the issue of staff consultation. Lindsay Barker referred to the significant staff engagement and consultation which had taken place, and Mike Evans outlined the work that had been done through employee forums, leadership teams and his meetings with Unison representatives. He also referred to the Joint Staff Consultative Committee meeting held in September where the opportunity for staff to raise related issues had not been taken. Councillor Jenkins added that she and Councillor Nick Gowrley had held two very well attended sessions with staff, with ‘no holds barred’ in relation to the questions which were put to the two Leaders.

During the course of the debate on the motion to defer, a demand for a recorded vote was received, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 23.6.

Note: William Shropshire and Harriet Steer left the meeting before the vote was taken.

The result of the recorded vote was as follows:-

For the Motion to defer

Clive Arthey
Tony Bavington
Dave Busby
Derek Davis
John Hinton
Bryn Hurren
Richard Kemp
James Long
Alastair McCraw
John Nunn
Stephen Plumb
David Rose
Stephen Williams

Against the Motion to defer

Sue Ayres
Melanie Barrett
Simon Barrett
Peter Beer
Peter Burgoyne
Tom Burrows
Michael Creffield
Siân Dawson
Alan Ferguson
Barry Gasper
Kathryn Grandon
David Holland
Michael Holt
Jennie Jenkins
Frank Lawrenson
Margaret Maybury
Mark Newman
Adrian Osborne
Jan Osborne
Lee Parker
Peter Patrick
Nick Ridley
Fenella Swan
John Ward

The result of the recorded vote was 13 Members in favour of the motion to defer consideration of the report recommendations 2.2 to 2.4 with 24 Members against. The motion to defer was therefore declared lost.

It was then proposed and seconded that Option 3 (Recommendation 2.2(c) of Paper S63) be agreed.

However, after consulting with the Monitoring Officer, the Chairman asked Members to vote for whichever one of the four options they wished to support.

During the course of the subsequent debate, a demand for a recorded vote was received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 23.6.

The result of the recorded vote was as follows:-

| <u>Option 1</u> | <u>Option 2</u> | <u>Option 3</u> | <u>Option 4</u> | <u>Abstentions</u> |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Clive Arthey | | Sue Ayres | | Kathryn Grandon |
| Tony Bavington | | Melanie Barrett | | |
| Dave Busby | | Simon Barrett | | |
| Derek Davis | | Peter Beer | | |
| Siân Dawson | | Peter Burgoyne | | |
| John Hinton | | Tom Burrows | | |
| Bryn Hurren | | Michael Creffield | | |
| Richard Kemp | | Alan Ferguson | | |
| James Long | | Barry Gasper | | |
| Alastair McCraw | | David Holland | | |
| John Nunn | | Michael Holt | | |
| Stephen Plumb | | Jennie Jenkins | | |
| David Rose | | Frank Lawrenson | | |
| Stephen Williams | | Margaret Maybury | | |
| | | Mark Newman | | |
| | | Adrian Osborne | | |
| | | Jan Osborne | | |
| | | Lee Parker | | |
| | | Peter Patrick | | |
| | | Nick Ridley | | |
| | | Fenella Swan | | |
| | | John Ward | | |

The result of the recorded vote was 14 Members in favour of Option 1 – Locate to Hadleigh Offices and 22 Members in favour of Option 3 – Share accommodation in Endeavour House. There was one abstention.

RESOLVED

- (2) That Option 3 as set out in Recommendation 2.2 (c) in Paper S63, to share accommodation in Endeavour House with Suffolk County Council and other public sector partners, be approved.**

Recommendations 2.3 and 2.4 were then voted upon.

RESOLVED

- (3) That the key information available including the indicative timetable relating to the development of the Hadleigh site, as contained in Paper S63, Agenda Item 17, be noted.**
- (4) That the Strategic Director, in conjunction with the Leaders of the Councils, be authorised to make any minor changes to the recommendations as set out in Paper S63 as may be necessary.**

Note: The meeting adjourned for a short comfort break between 7.10 p.m. and 7.20 p.m. to enable the proposer of the Motion to defer the opportunity to provide its content to the Chairman in writing.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 8.35 p.m.

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Chairman