

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **BABERGH COUNCIL** held in the King Edmund Chamber - Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich on Tuesday, 21 January 2020

PRESENT:

Councillor: Kathryn Grandon (Chair)
Adrian Osborne (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: Clive Arthey
Melanie Barrett
David Busby
Derek Davis
Jane Gould
John Hinton
Bryn Hurren
Robert Lindsay
Alastair McCraw
Zachary Norman
Jan Osborne
Lee Parker
John Ward

Sue Ayres
Peter Beer
Sue Carpendale
Mick Fraser
Richard Hardacre
Michael Holt
Leigh Jamieson
Elisabeth Malvisi
Mark Newman
John Nunn
Alison Owen
Stephen Plumb

In attendance:

Officers: Chief Executive (AC)
Strategic Director (KN)
Assistant Director - Assets and Investments (EA)
Assistant Director – Planning and Communities (TB)
Assistant Director - Environment and Commercial (CC)
Assistant Director - Economic Development & Regeneration (FD)
Assistant Director - Housing (GF)
Assistant Director - Customer Services (SW)
Assistant Director - Customer Services
Neighbourhood Planning Officer (PB)
Corporate Manager - Democratic Services (JR)
Senior Governance Officer (HH)

Apologies:

Trevor Cresswell
Siân Dawson
Honor Grainger-Howard
Margaret Maybury
Mary McLaren

192 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS

192.1 There were no declarations of interests.

193 BC/19/26 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 OCTOBER 2019

It was Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2019 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

194 BC/19/27 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 22 OCTOBER 2019

It was Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 22 October 2019 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

195 BC/19/28 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND LEADER

195.1 Councillor Grandon, Chair of Babergh Council, referred to Paper BC/19/28, which was for noting.

195.2 The Chair informed the Council that Len Young, who was a member for Glemsford and Stansted Ward for twelve years had passed away and that she and Members of the Council passed their condolences to his family and friends at this difficult time.

195.3 The Chair announced that the Chairman's Charity Ball would be supporting the Hadleigh Dementia Action Alliance and would take place on the 16th of May 2020. Tickets could be purchased from Mandy Smith, Member Support Officer.

195.4 She then invited Councillor Ward to make his announcement, who announced following.

Public Realm

Just before Christmas Peter Garrett sent out a very informative update on what had been done by the Public Realm team, and the extensive range of day-to-day activities that the team undertook. Peter also said that the team would be offering Ward Tours to enable Members to see the team's work at first hand in their wards. The things that the team do have a direct and highly visible effect on the quality of residents' lives and there was a growing interest in the management of the Council's open spaces for well-being and the environment. The Council's proposals for tree planting and biodiversity corridors would also mean working directly with our communities. Peter also mentioned a new 5-year programme of play site improvements. So please contact Peter to arrange a tour and discuss improvements Members would like to see in their wards.

Thomas Gainsborough School

The Leader took the opportunity to congratulate TGS on behalf of the Council for becoming the first school in Suffolk to be accredited as a Heritage School. This was in recognition of the work that students and also teachers put into the Sudbury Silk Stories Project. It was something that the whole school and community can be proud of.

Food Bank Visit

Last Friday Councillor Jan Osborne and the Leader visited the Sudbury Food Bank run by the Vineyard Church. They were told how the food bank operated and discussed the increasing demand that it was experiencing. It was a very productive meeting, which identified some good ideas about how Babergh could work with the voluntary sector to help reduce the need for food banks, and how the Council could also provide some practical help for rough sleepers. This would be discussed with officers to see what the Council could do.

Sudbury Consultation

Next week there would be two days of consultation at St. Peters' Church in Sudbury on several key aspects of the Council's vision for the town. The results of a survey into the relocation of bus stops and public realm improvements to the Market Hill would be presented, to be conducted by WSP on behalf of SCC and Babergh District Council. There would also be a presentation of the four proposals received for the reuse of Belle Vue House, ideas for further improvements to the park and an update on the plans for a hotel and restaurant. All Members were invited to attend a preview for District and Sudbury Town Councillors on Wednesday morning.

Equality & Diversity Training

A reminder that Kate Parnum had sent out an email about the mandatory Equality & Diversity training. There were still some Members who had yet to attend and further dates would be announced soon. This was actually a very good and enlightening session and the Leader did recommend it.

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

196.1 The Corporate Manager – Democratic Services advised that the following validated petitions had been received:

1. 111 valid signatures regarding planning application DC/19/04923 in Monks Eleigh.
2. 22 valid signatures in Hadleigh supporting the following statement:

We request that the bungalows numbered 1-12 Toppesfield Close, IP7 5AJ be restricted to people aged 60 and above, returning them to their original restriction of residency to those of retirement age.

197 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

197.1 There were no questions received from the public.

198 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

198.1 There were no questions received from Councillors.

199 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM CABINET MEMBERS

199.1 The Chair advised Members that it was her intention to limit the discussion of this item to thirty minutes. She would therefore draw the questioning to a close after 30 minutes had elapsed, if the item had not already been concluded.

199.2 Councillor Ward advised that the Cabinet Members were present to respond to questions for the Cabinet Members' reports. He notified the Council that this was the last time that Cabinet Members' reports would be presented to Council. In the future the quarterly reporting would be enhanced to include Portfolio Members' updates and be brought to Cabinet, as part of the Cabinet agenda. This would also include aspects of finance and risk assessments.

199.3 CMU10 – Cabinet Member for Assets and Investments

Councillor Lindsay outlined his vision for the Borehamgate Shopping Centre in Sudbury and asked what the Council could do to create town centres with attractive focal points to increase footfall and support the local economy.

Councillor Busby, the Cabinet Member for Assets and Investments responded that he agreed that towns needed an attractive centre and that developments were underway for the direction that Sudbury needed to take for the future.

It was Resolved: -

That Report CMU10 be noted.

199.4 CMU11 – Cabinet Member for Communities

Councillor Hinton asked in relation to paragraph 3.1 when decisions relating to the visits and applications for grants referred to in the report were likely to be made.

Councillor Davis responded he would provide an answer outside the meeting.

Councillor Busby referred to paragraph 3.4 in relation to the Strategic Leisure Advisor. He understood that this appointment was coming to an end and asked if there was a contingency plan in place to continue the work.

Councillor Davis responded that the work would continue and that individual applications would be in February.

Councillor Davis welcomed the Community Team's new Corporate Manager Vicky Moseley.

Councillor Barrett congratulated on the opening of the Kingfisher Leisure Centre and asked if there was any scope for running more classes and Councillor Davis responded he would pass this request on to Abbeycroft Leisure.

It was Resolved: -

That Report CMU11 be noted.

199.5 CMU12 – Cabinet Member for Customers, Digital Transformation & Improvement

Councillor Hinton referred to paragraph 3.2 and asked if there was any information regarding the increase in the number of calls to the Call Centre from Quarter 2 to Quarter 3.

Councillor Parker responded that he would provide a response outside the meeting.

The Chief Executive added that it was likely that the increase between the two quarters was caused by the General Election as members of the public contacted the call-centre with queries in relation to registration and voting arrangements.

It was Resolved: -

That Report CMU12 be noted.

199.6 CMU13 – Cabinet Member for Economic Growth

Councillor Owen referred to paragraph 3.6 and asked for more information regarding the Delphi Site and Councillor Holt responded that updates would be forwarded to Members in due course.

Councillor Hinton referred to paragraph 3.6 in relation to the sites being brought forward for development in Hadleigh and asked if the sites at the top of town, bought from Persimmons, would be developed, or if any information could be provided for sites, which were not included in the report.

Councillor Holt responded that plans for the development of sites in Hadleigh would be presented to Members when they became available. Until then he would not be able to provide any further information.

Councillor Norman asked if the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth could provide an update on the empty units in Copdock (paragraph 8) and the Cabinet Member responded that work was being undertaken with agents to attract new business to occupy the units.

It was Resolved: -

That Report CMU13 be noted.

199.7 CMU14 – Cabinet Member for Environment

Councillor Hinton questioned the arrangements for the Civil Parking Enforcement (CP), which would come into force later in the year, specifically, who would be responsible for the changes for the marking of parking arrangements during the transitional period.

Councillor Malvisi clarified that Suffolk County Council was still responsible for the painting of white lines, which Councillor Hinton was referring to, and that the work was ongoing.

It was Resolved: -

That Report CMU14 be noted.

199.8 CMU15 – Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

There were no questions for the Cabinet Member for Finance.

It was Resolved: -

That Report CMU15 be noted.

199.9 CMU16 – Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance (Law and Governance)

There were no questions for the Cabinet Member for Finance (Law and Governance).

It was Resolved: -

That Report CMU16 be noted.

199.10 **CMU17 – Cabinet Member for Housing**

The Cabinet Member provided a summary of the main points in the report and added that it was important that Members were kept up to date with developments in Housing and she was working with Officers to ensure that this happened.

Councillor Beer enquired how complaints were dealt with on Council Housing estates in relation to enforcement. He referred to a specific case in which the enforcement officer had been present and asked if the Enforcement team would receive any additional support.

Councillor Jan Osborne explained that currently recruitment for the neighbourhood team was taking place, and once feedback became available, she would update Members. She continued that she was working with the police to ensure that not just housing developments, but all areas of communities were safe communities for residents to live in. She was working on organising briefings and workshops for all Members to bring together ideas for how to work with the Police and other organisations involved. She hoped to bring something forward in February.

Councillor Hinton asked that the repair work undertaken by the Council on tenant properties was quality assured and that the repairs were of high standard, so that they could last.

Councillor Jan Osborne assured him that all the maintenance work was up to standard and quality assured. However, consideration for a joint venture to work alongside the maintenance Team was being investigated to continue to provide high standard of repairs.

It was Resolved: -

That Report CMU17 be noted.

199.11 **CMU18 – Cabinet Member for Planning**

Councillor Beer asked if it was possible for all Members of the Planning Committee to receive paper copies of the latest neighbourhood plans, which the Cabinet Member confirmed would be actioned.

Councillor Hinton referred to paragraph 3.5 and asked for further information regarding the review of the Planning Enforcement. He hoped that Members would be involved in this review.

Councillor Arthey responded that both Heritage and Planning Enforcement were undergoing reviews. He thanked Philip Isbell, the Chief Planning Officer, for the work undertaken so far.

Councillor McCraw informed Members that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was scrutinising Planning Enforcement at the upcoming meeting in February as Planning Enforcement was a concern of many of the Members.

It was Resolved: -

That Report CMU18 be noted.

199.12 Councillor Busby referred to Report CMU14 and asked if the Cabinet Member for the Environment could provide an update on the Tree For Life Scheme. She informed Members that the first event to plant trees would take place on the 1st of February 2020. There had been a 23% uptake of all births in Babergh for the scheme.

200 BC/19/29 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT

200.1 Councillor McCraw, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, provided a brief summary of the report, which had been produced by the Cross-Authority Task and Finish Group for Citizens Advice. The recommendations agreed by the Task and Finish Group had been distributed widely to all authorities concerned, including Suffolk County Council. However, for Babergh Council many of the recommendations were already underway, when the recommendations were presented to Cabinet. At Cabinet it was agreed that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should review Citizens Advice annually.

200.2 In response to Councillor Arthey's question, Councillor McCraw clarified that Cabinet had agreed to a three-year rolling funding for Citizens Advice in Babergh.

200.3 Councillor Ward thought it would have been useful if Suffolk County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been involved in the process of the Task and Finish Group. He asked how the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would encourage future participation by Suffolk County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

200.4 Councillor McCraw responded that all Council Authorities had been approached to participate in the Cross-Authority Task and Finish Group by either the Chair of Babergh or Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committees. However, East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council had for various reasons chosen not to take part.

200.5 Councillor Ward made an observation on recommendations A and B in the report and wondered why a precise figure for Suffolk County Council's contribution to Citizens Advice had been included. He thought that this made it difficult to make adjustments for funding options, should Suffolk County Council in the future wish to review funding for Citizens Advice.

200.6 Councillor McCraw explained that the recommendations were to be used by respective Councils, who were participating in the Task and Finish Group. He reminded Members that there was no formal way of making recommendations to Suffolk County Council, as they had not been a constituent part of the review. However, the report and the recommendations had been forwarded to the Chair of Suffolk County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Recommendations A and B had used the previous funding figures from Suffolk County Council, as a baseline for future funding, but that this would be a matter for Suffolk County Council to determine.

201 BC/19/30 ALDHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

200.1 Councillor Arthey, Cabinet Member for Planning, introduced Paper BC/19/30 and detailed the results for the Aldham Neighbourhood Development plan as set out in paragraph 4.3, which would be posted on the website. He **MOVED** recommendation 3.1 and 3.2, which was **SECONDED** by Councillor Beer.

200.2 Councillor Fraser thanked Aldham Parish Council for their commitment to the Neighbourhood plan.

200.3 The **PROPOSAL** was put to Members for voting and the vote was **UNANIMOUS**.

It was RESOLVED: -

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

That the Decision Statement (Appendix 1) be published with immediate effect.

202 BC/19/31 DECISION TAKEN BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE DURING THE PRE-ELECTION PERIOD UNDER DELEGATED POWERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 2 OF THE CONSTITUTION

202.1 Councillor Arthey, Cabinet Member for Planning, introduced Paper BC/19/31 and thanked Paul Bryant, the Neighbourhood Planning Officer, for his contribution to the creation of the Elmsett Neighbourhood Plan. He detailed the results of the referendum for the Elmsett Neighbourhood Development plan as set out in Appendix A.

202.2 Councillor Arthey informed Members that there were now five completed Neighbourhood plans and a further 24 in the process of being completed for BDC Council.

202.3 Councillor Lindsay congratulated Elmsett on the completion of the Neighbourhood plan. He thought that the village had felt besieged by developers and hoped that the completion of the neighbourhood plan would allow the village to have some say in future development in their community.

202.4 Councillor Parker agreed with Councillor Lindsay and encouraged other villages who felt they were being besieged by developers to complete neighbourhood plans. He also wanted to thank all the volunteers, who spent many hours on these projects.

202.5 In response to Councillor Barrett's question regarding support for villages who were embarking on the neighbourhood planning process, Paul Bryant, the Neighbourhood Planning Officer, responded that lessons were learnt all the time. Neighbourhood plan groups had access to consultants, who provide guidance and support. The Council also encouraged Parish Councils to share information with each other.

It was Resolved:-

That the Council noted the decision taken under delegated powers by the Chief Executive to make 'adopt' the Elmsett Neighbourhood Plan during the pre-election period.

203 COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENTS

203.1 The Chair of the Council was in the process of closing the meeting when she was made aware that Item 13, Councillor Appointments, was outstanding on the Agenda. She referred to the appointments, as set out in Agenda Item 13, and put the appointments to Members for voting which was **CARRIED**.

It was Resolved:-

- 1.1 That Councillor Mary McLaren be appointed to the Babergh Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum.**
- 1.2 That Councillor Mary McLaren be appointed to the Suffolk Violence and Abuse Partnership.**
- 1.3 That Councillor Derek Davis be appointed to the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board.**

The business of the meeting was concluded at 6.37 pm.

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Chair