

## MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual meeting of **MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL** held in Wherstead Park, The Street, Wherstead on Monday, 24 May 2021 at 5.30pm

### PRESENT:

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
	Sarah Mansel	John Matthissen
	Andrew Mellen	Richard Meyer
	Suzie Morley	David Muller
	Mike Norris	Penny Otton
	Timothy Passmore	Stephen Phillips
	Dr Daniel Pratt	Harry Richardson
	Keith Scarff	Andrew Stringer
	Wendy Turner	Rowland Warboys
	Keith Welham	John Whitehead

### In attendance:

Officers:	Chief Executive (AC)
	Monitoring Officer (EY)
	Corporate Manager – Governance and Civic Office (JR)

## 1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

1.1 On the proposal of Councillor Muller and seconded by Councillor Fleming, Councillor Paul Ekpenyong was nominated for the position of Chairman of the Council.

1.2 On the proposal of Councillor Eburne and seconded by Councillor Field, Councillor Rowland Warboys was nominated for the position of Chairman of the Council.

1.3 The nominations were **PUT** to the Council.

1.4 By the casting vote of the Chair,

**It was RESOLVED:-**

**That Councillor Paul Ekpenyong be elected as Chair of the Council for the Municipal year 2021/22.**

1.5 Councillor Ekpenyong thereupon made his Declaration of Office.

1.6 Councillor Ekpenyong thanked everyone who had voted for him and paid tribute to the outgoing Chairman, Councillor Humphreys MBE for chairing the Council through the most challenging and unprecedented times, demonstrating real professionalism and commitment throughout his term of office.

1.7 Councillor Ekpenyong also announced that his chosen charity for his term of office was the East Anglian Children's Hospice.

## **2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL**

2.1 On the proposal of Councillor Flatman and seconded by Councillor Meyer, Councillor Barry Humphreys MBE was nominated for the position of Vice-Chairman of the Council.

2.2 On the proposal of Councillor Eburne and seconded by Councillor Field, Councillor Mike Norris was nominated for the position of Vice-Chairman of the Council.

2.3 The nominations were **PUT** to the Council.

2.4 By the casting vote of the Chair,

**It was RESOLVED:-**

**That Councillor Barry Humphreys be elected as Vice-Chair of the Council for the Municipal year 2021/22.**

## **3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS**

3.1 There were no declarations of interests by Councillors.

## **4 MC/21/1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 MARCH 2021**

**It was RESOLVED: -**

**That subject to the typographical errors being corrected and the name of the Portfolio Holder being corrected on pages 14, 15 and 16, the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2021 be confirmed and signed as a true record.**

## **5 MC/21/2 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

5.1 The report was noted.

## **6 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

6.1 Councillor Morley introduced her report and said it was lovely to see everyone in person, safe and well after the past 14 traumatic months.

6.2 Councillor Morley congratulated Councillor Ekpenyong and Councillor Humphreys on their recent appointments and thanked Councillor Humphreys for his sterling service as Chair in a most unusual year.

6.3 Councillor Morley then went on to congratulate Councillors who were recently elected to Suffolk County Council, Councillor Hicks who had been reconfirmed as the Leader of Suffolk County Council and Councillor Passmore who had been elected as the Police and Crime Commissioner for the third consecutive term.

6.4 Councillor Morley thanked staff and Wherstead Park for enabling the Annual Council to go ahead and for ensuring that it was webcast. However, she expressed her dismay that the meeting was being held in person and felt that it was a waste of public funding and inappropriate in the circumstances.

6.5 Councillor Morley was really pleased to see the District gradually unlocking from the Covid restrictions which were so far proceeding in line with the government's road map. But for those who had been carefully shielding or who were caring for somebody vulnerable she apologised to them for having to attend the meeting in person when a simple extension to the legislation would have allowed virtual meetings to continue. Councillor Morley felt that virtual meetings had strengthened and broadened access to democracy and that the Council should be given the powers to hold meetings where it wanted. The government had called for evidence on the success of holding virtual meetings and the Council would be providing a response.

6.6 Councillor Morley updated Council on the latest Covid outbreak in Needham Market and announced that surge testing was being undertaken to identify anybody with Covid. She thanked local Councillors and residents for supporting the initiative.

6.7 Finally, she thanked all Councillors who had taken part in the recent workshops and informed Councillors that there was still an opportunity for them to submit their ideas by the deadline.

6.8 Councillor Eburne added her congratulations to the recently elected Suffolk County Councillors and thanked the Election Team for running the elections in extremely testing circumstances. Councillor Eburne also asked if there were any further plans to run campaigns to encourage postal voting.

6.9 In response Councillor Morley informed Council that this was not something that she was able to comment on however she would direct the questions to the Elections Team for response.

6.10 The Chairman thanked Councillor Morley for her update.

## **7 DESIGNATION OF COMMITTEES AND JOINT COMMITTEES**

7.1 On the proposal of Councillor Caston and seconded by Councillor Morley,

**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**

## **8 MC/21/3 POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES**

8.1 On the proposal of Councillor Morley and seconded by Councillor Brewster,

**It was RESOLVED: -**

- 1.1 That the Committees' size and numerical allocation of seats be approved as detailed in Appendix A of the report.**
- 1.2 That Committee Members and named substitutes be appointed as set out in Appendix B to the report.**

## **9 ELECTION OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES**

9.1 On the proposal of Councillor Eburne and seconded by Councillor Flatman,

**It was RESOLVED:-**

**That Councillor Keith Welham be elected as Chair of the Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal year 2021/22.**

9.2 On the proposal of Councillor Hadingham and seconded by Councillor Flatman, a nomination for Councillor Caston to be Vice-Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee was tabled.

9.3 On the proposal of Councillor Eburne and seconded by Councillor Field, a nomination for Councillor Scarff to be Vice-Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee was tabled.

9.4 The nominations were **PUT** to the Council.

**It was RESOLVED:-**

**That Councillor James Caston be elected as Vice-Chair of the Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal year 2021/22.**

9.5 On the proposal of Councillor Guthrie and seconded by Councillor Hadingham, a nomination for Councillor Hicks to be Chair of Development Control Committee A was tabled.

9.6 On the proposal of Councillor Eburne and seconded by Councillor Field, a nomination for Councillor Mansel to be Chair of Development Control Committee A was tabled.

9.7 The nominations were **PUT** to the Council.

9.8 On the casting vote of the Chair,

**It was RESOLVED:-**

**That Councillor Matthew Hicks be elected as Chair of the Development Control Committee A for the Municipal year 2021/22.**

9.9 On the proposal of Councillor Hadingham and seconded by Councillor Caston, a nomination for Councillor Muller to be Vice-Chair of Development Control Committee A was tabled.

9.10 On the proposal of Councillor Eburne and seconded by Councillor Field, a nomination for Councillor Warboys to be Vice-Chair of Development Control Committee A was tabled.

9.11 The nominations were **PUT** to the Council.

**It was RESOLVED:-**

**That Councillor Dave Muller be elected as Vice-Chair of the Development Control Committee A for the Municipal year 2021/22.**

9.12 On the proposal of Councillor Burn and seconded by Councillor Flatman, a nomination for Councillor Guthrie to be Chair of Development Control Committee B was tabled.

9.13 On the proposal of Councillor Eburne and seconded by Councillor Field, a nomination for Councillor Warboys to be Chair of Development Control Committee B was tabled.

9.14 The nominations were **PUT** to the Council.

9.15 On the casting vote of the Chair,

**It was RESOLVED:-**

**That Councillor Kathie Guthrie be elected as Chair of the Development Control Committee B for the Municipal year 2021/22.**

9.16 On the proposal of Councillor Muller and seconded by Councillor Hadingham, a nomination for Councillor Humphreys to be Vice-Chair of Development Control Committee B was tabled.

9.17 On the proposal of Councillor Eburne and seconded by Councillor Field, a nomination for Councillor Warboys to be Vice-Chair of Development Control Committee B was tabled.

9.18 The nominations were **PUT** to the Council.

9.19 On the casting vote of the Chair,

**It was RESOLVED:-**

**That Councillor Barry Humphreys be elected as Vice-Chair of the Development Control Committee B for the Municipal year 2021/22.**

9.20 On the proposal of Councillor Fleming and seconded by Councillor Hadingham, a nomination for Councillor Guthrie to be Chair of Licensing and Regulatory Committee was tabled.

9.21 On the proposal of Councillor Eburne and seconded by Councillor Field, a nomination for Councillor Otton to be Chair of Licensing and Regulatory Committee was tabled.

9.22 The nominations were **PUT** to the Council.

9.23 On the casting vote of the Chair,

**It was RESOLVED:-**

**That Councillor Kathie Guthrie be elected as Chair of Mid Suffolk Licensing and Regulatory Committee for the Municipal year 2021/22.**

9.24 On the proposal of Councillor Burn and seconded by Councillor Brewster, a nomination for Councillor Muller to be Vice-Chair of Licensing and Regulatory Committee was tabled.

9.25 On the proposal of Councillor Eburne and seconded by Councillor Field, a nomination for Councillor Otton to be Vice-Chair of Licensing and Regulatory Committee was tabled.

9.26 The nominations were **PUT** to the Council.

9.27 On the casting vote of the Chair,

**It was RESOLVED:-**

**That Councillor Dave Muller be elected as Vice-Chair of Mid Suffolk Licensing and Regulatory Committee for the Municipal year 2021/22.**

9.28 On the proposal of Councillor Hadingham and seconded by Councillor Fleming, a nomination for Councillor Muller to be Co-Chair of Joint Audit and Standards Committee was tabled.

9.29 On the proposal of Councillor Eburne and seconded by Councillor Field, a nomination for Councillor Warboys to be Co-Chair of Joint Audit and Standards Committee was tabled.

9.30 The nominations were **PUT** to the Council.

9.31 On the casting vote of the Chair,

**That Councillor Dave Muller be elected as Co-Chair of Joint Audit and Standards Committee for the Municipal year 2021/22.**

9.32 On the proposal of Councillor Brewster and seconded by Councillor Caston, a nomination for Councillor Morley to be Co-Chair of the Joint Appointments Committee was tabled.

**It was RESOLVED:-**

**That Councillor Suzie Morley be elected as Co-Chair of the Joint Appointments Committee for the Municipal year 2021/22.**

## **10 MC/21/4 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES FOR 2021/22**

10.1 Councillor Morley introduced the report and **MOVED** the recommendations in the report. Councillor Morley informed Council that there were two Outside Bodies where two nominations had been received, the East West Rail Consortium and substitute for the Haven Gateway Partnership.

10.2 Councillor Morley said she was surprised that the Green and Liberal Democrat Group had put forward a nomination to the Bodies having voted against appointing to them previously.

10.3 In her point of explanation, Councillor Eburne stated that there had originally been a lack of information about these Outside Bodies and uncertainty from the Portfolio Holder about the value of having a representative on them. Since then more information had become available about the importance of them.

10.4 Councillor Welham **MOVED** an amendment to add a representative as an Observer to the Board of Trustees to the Stowmarket Citizens Advice to the list of appointments

10.5 This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Scarff.

10.6 The Chair asked Councillor Morley if she accepted the amendment.

10.7 In response Councillor Morley stated that she did not accept the amendment.

10.8 The Chair then opened the debate on the amendment.

10.9 Councillor Otton stated that she supported the amendment and that the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny review had received cross party support. She also felt that with the amount of additional work the Citizens Advice were facing due to the pandemic, it was extremely important that there was a representative that would report directly back to Council on the challenges that they were facing.

10.10 Councillor Morley informed Council that she did place a high importance on the work that the Citizens Advice did, however officers were already meeting with the Citizens Advice on a regular basis and meetings had also taken place with Councillors Morley, Flatman and Hadingham. This was not about not supporting the Citizens Advice but about finding the right way to hold discussion and engagement with them. Councillor Morley felt that an Observer would have no status, she was confident that by officers working closely with them, this would provide the right support to the Citizens Advice.

10.11 Councillor Welham said that he couldn't believe that his amendment was not supported and felt that there was no remit to report back to Council.

10.12 The amendment was **PUT** to Council and was **LOST**.

10.13 The nomination for Councillor Brewster to be the representative on the East West Rail Consortium was tabled.

10.14 The nomination for Councillor Mansel to be the representative on the East West Rail Consortium was tabled.

10.15 The nominations were **PUT** to the Council.

10.16 On the casting vote of the Chair,

**It was RESOLVED:-**

**That Councillor Brewster be appointed to the East West Rail Consortium.**

10.17 The nomination for Councillor Morley to be the substitute on the Haven Gateway Partnership was tabled.

10.18 The nomination for Councillor Scarff to be the substitute on the Haven Gateway Partnership was tabled.

10.19 The nominations were **PUT** to the Council.

10.20 On the casting vote of the Chair,

**It was RESOLVED:-**

**That Councillor Morley be appointed to be the substitute on the Haven Gateway Partnership.**



It was RESOLVED:-

That Councillors be appointed to the Outside Bodies detailed below:

NAME OF BODY OR PANEL	NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES TO BE APPOINTED	NAME OF MEMBER NOMINATED
Armed Forces Covenant	1	Barry Humphreys
Association for Suffolk Museums	1	Richard Meyer
East of England Assembly of Leaders	1	The Leader
East of England Local Government Association	1	Suzie Morley
East Suffolk Drainage Board	3	James Caston John Field Keith Welham
East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board	3	James Caston John Field Keith Welham
East West Rail Consortium	1	Gerard Brewster
Haven Gateway Partnership	1 (+1 substitute)	Gerard Brewster (Sub: Suzie Morley)
Home-Start Mid Suffolk	1	Lavinia Hadingham
Ipswich Strategic Planning Area Board	1 (+1 substitute)	David Burn (Sub: John Field)
Local Government Association – Sparse	1	Suzie Morley
Local Government Association Assembly	1	Suzie Morley <b>Observer: Rachel Eburne</b>
Mid Suffolk Domestic Abuse Forum	1	Stephen Phillips
Museum of East Anglian Life Ltd	1 Trustee	Richard Meyer
Suffolk Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Sub Committee	1 (+1 substitute)	James Caston (Sub: Keith Welham)
Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board	1 (+1 substitute)	Harry Richardson (Sub: Keith Welham)
Suffolk Health Scrutiny Committee	1 (+1 substitute)	Julie Flatman (Sub: Sarah Mansel)
Suffolk Police and Crime Panel	1 (+1 substitute)	Keith Welham (June 2019) (Sub: Sarah Mansel)
Suffolk Violence and Abuse Partnership	1 Trustee	Stephen Phillips
Suffolk Waste Partnership (SWP)	1	Jessica Fleming
Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP)	1 (+1 substitute)	Sarah Mansel (Sub: Harry Richardson)

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## APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS TO THE SHARED REVENUES PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

11.1 On the proposal of Councillor Morley and seconded by Councillor Brewster,

It was RESOLVED:-

**That Councillors Suzie Morley and John Whitehead be appointed as Members of the Shared Revenues Partnership Joint Committee and that Councillors Gerard Brewster and Jessica Fleming be appointed as substitute Members for the Municipal year 2021/22.**

**12 APPOINTMENTS TO THE SUFFOLK JOINT STANDARDS BOARD**

12.1 On the proposal of Councillor Morley and seconded by Councillor Brewster,

**It was RESOLVED:-**

**That Councillors Paul Ekpenyong, John Matthissen and Mike Norris be appointed as Members of the Suffolk Joint Standards Board for the Municipal year 2021/22.**

**13 APPOINTMENTS TO THE JOINT GYPSY AND TRAVELLER STEERING GROUP**

13.1 On the proposal of Councillor Morley and seconded by Councillor Brewster,

**It was RESOLVED:-**

**That Councillors Julie Flatman, John Field, Lavinia Hadingham and Andrew Stringer be appointed to the Joint Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group for the Municipal year 2021/22.**

**14 APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS**

14.1 On the proposal of Councillor Morley and seconded by Councillor Brewster,

**It was RESOLVED:-**

**1.1 That Councillors Suzie Morley, Sarah Mansel, John Whitehead and Penny Otton be appointed to the Community Governance Review Working Group.**

**1.2 That Councillors Matthew Hicks, Sarah Mansel, Suzie Morley and Keith Scarff be appointed to the Constitution Working Group.**

**1.3 That Councillors Suzie Morley, Rachel Eburne, Julie Flatman and Stephen Phillips be appointed to the Member Learning and Development Working Group.**

**That Councillors David Burn, John Field, Kathie Guthrie and Andrew Stringer be appointed to the Local Plan Working Group.**

**15 MC/21/5 MID SUFFOLK OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21**

15.1 Councillor Welham introduced the report and thanked the Committee and Councillors and officers who had taken part in the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in what had been a very strange year.

15.2 Councillor Mansel asked Councillor Welham if he thought that the recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee during the last year to Council, had been followed through in a timely and appropriate manner.

15.3 In response, Councillor Welham stated that the same question had cropped up in Committee recently and it was felt that there was very little feedback given and he was hoping to investigate ways to improve this.

15.4 The Chairman thanked Councillor Welham for his report which was for noting.

**16 MC/21/6 MID SUFFOLK OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2021/22**

16.1 Councillor Welham introduced the workplan for Council to note.

16.2 Councillor Eburne asked if it would be possible that Overview and Scrutiny Committee would consider adding a review of rural transport onto the work plan to assess the issues that local residents face.

16.3 In response, Councillor Welham informed Council that the topic had been discussed at the Committee meeting and it was planned to add this as well as how the Council delivers services to its rural communities to the work plan.

16.4 The Chairman thanked Councillor Welham for his report which was for noting.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 7.35pm

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Chair