

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN  
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON  
TUESDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2015

PRESENT:

Nick Ridley – Chairman

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

Ray Smith was unable to be present.

37 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

There were no questions or statements from the public.

38 MINUTES

**RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the meeting held on [28 July 2015](#) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.**

39 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

40 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND/OR LEADER

The Chairman referred to [Paper R47](#) outlining recent events attended by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman also read out statements regarding the Syrian Refugee Crisis and the recent Sudbury Fire and informed Members that further details would be circulated to them after the meeting.

41 PETITIONS

None received.

42 RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Joint Annual Treasury Management Report (Joint Audit and Standards Committee – 17 August 2015)

William Shropshire, Chairman of the Joint Audit and Standards Committee, introduced the Committee's recommendation to note the Treasury Management activity for the year 2014/15, as set out in [Paper JAC58](#).

**RESOLVED**

**That the Joint Annual Treasury Management Report and activity for the year 2014/15, as set out in Paper JAC58 and its appendices be noted. Further that it be noted that performance was in line with the Prudential Indicators set for 2014/15.**

Note:

It is a requirement of the legislation that the Annual Treasury Management Report is submitted to the Full Council for noting.

43 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None received.

44 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

45 DEVELOPING SUFFOLK'S DEVOLUTION PROPOSAL

Charlie Adan, Chief Executive, introduced [Paper R48](#) setting out the Suffolk ambition for, and approach, to devolution. Members were aware that the shared ambition was built on Suffolk's strong record of collaboration and innovation. Jennie Jenkins, Leader of the Council, and as Babergh's representative on the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders Group, proposed the recommendations and together with the Chief Executive answered a number of questions from Members on various related matters including

- Discussions with other Councils such as Norfolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire County Councils will take place and regard had to cross-border working, but the first priority had been to agree and submit the Suffolk bid.
- New Anglia LEP – this is likely to be stronger under the proposals for devolution. We have a seat on the Board.

- The Localism agenda and its continuing relevance regardless of the outcome of the devolution negotiations.
- Suffolk position regarding an elected Mayor – the Suffolk Leaders are not proposing this at the present time, but were looking at the need for a single spokesperson.
- Concerns were expressed about the accountability of non-elected members in the process – the Chief Executive explained the current involvement and support of public partners such as health and police, but that this was not seen as a blueprint for a new body.
- What changes are likely for Districts? – this is not a re-structure of local government but should lead to more community-based working and a re-ordering of local delivery.
- Is Government expecting a Suffolk model to be a one-off, or a possible blueprint for others? Jennie Jenkins replied that it could be looked at for rolling out, with appropriate adjustments, for other areas, but that Suffolk had been specifically asked to bid.

## **RESOLVED**

- (1) That Suffolk’s ambition and approach to devolution be agreed.**
- (2) That the Expression of Interest submitted to Central Government on 4 September 2015 ([Appendix A of Paper R48](#)) be noted and endorsed, and agreed as providing a strong democratic mandate for future negotiation with Government.**
- (3) That the Expression of Interest (Appendix A of Paper R48) be adopted as the basis for future detailed negotiation with the Government throughout the autumn.**
- (4) That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council(s), be authorised to agree any future changes to the Devolution Proposal.**

## 46 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER

The Chairman of the Council introduced this item by informing Members that they would be asked to consider (a) whether they wished to have a Deputy Leader of the Council and, if this was agreed, (b) to make an appointment.

Peter Beer in his capacity as Chairman of the Conservative Group then proposed that (a) such an appointment be made, and (b) that Simon Barrett be appointed to that position. The proposal was duly seconded.

During the course of the discussion on whether to have a Deputy Leader, an amendment was moved to defer consideration of any appointment until a constitutional report could be submitted on the responsibilities of such a role but the amendment was lost on being put to the vote. The original proposal (a) was voted upon and was carried.

Members were then asked to make an appointment to the Deputy Leader role and Sue Carpendale’s name was put forward in addition to that of Simon Barrett. A ballot was requested in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 23.5. At this point Sue Carpendale declined her nomination, and Tony Bavington’s name was put forward.

The result of the subsequent ballot was announced by the Chairman and Simon Barrett was declared to have been elected.

Simon Barrett thanked Members and confirmed his intention to support the Leader in whatever capacity.

**RESOLVED**

**That (a) the appointment be made of a Deputy Leader of the Council and (b) Simon Barrett be appointed to the post for the remainder of the current municipal year.**

47 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2015/2016

Members had before them [Paper R49](#) together with a list of names (circulated prior to the commencement of the meeting) which had been put forward by Jennie Jenkins, Leader of the Council. She requested Members to formally approve the appointment of representatives and substitutes as listed.

Members were aware that all appointments remain subject to review prior to the 2016 Annual meeting, as agreed by Council on 28 July.

**RESOLVED**

**That Councillors be appointed to outside bodies for the current municipal year as detailed in Appendix 1 attached to these minutes.**

48 ANDREW HUNKIN

Andrew Hunkin was present at the meeting, which was his last before he leaves the Councils’ employment. Jennie Jenkins, Leader of the Council, thanked Andrew and Members showed their appreciation of his 25 years’ service with a round of applause. Andrew responded with his thanks, especially for the way in which Members had engaged with him and for the opportunity of listening to each other.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 6.55 p.m.

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Chairman