

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, 23 May 2023

PRESENT:

Councillors:	Peter Beer	David Busby
	Jane Carruthers	Jessie Carter
	Paul Clover	Helen Davies
	Sallie Davies	Simon Dowling
	Ruth Hendry	Michael Holt
	Bryn Hurren	Leigh Jamieson
	Elisabeth Malvisi	Margaret Maybury
	Alastair McCraw	Mary McLaren
	Mark Newman	John Nunn
	Adrian Osborne	Alison Owen
	Lee Parker	Stephen Plumb
	Daniel Potter	Isabelle Reece
	Tim Regester	Brian Riley
	Deborah Saw	Laura Smith
	John Ward	John Whyman

In attendance:

Officers:	Chief Executive (AC)
	Monitoring Officer (IA)
	Deputy Chief Executive (KN)
	Corporate Manager – Governance & Civic Office (JR)
	Director – Customers, Digital Transformation, and Improvement (SW)
	Director – Assets and Investments (EA)
	Director – Operations (ME)
	Director – Economic Growth and Climate Change (FD)
	Director – Corporate Resources and Section 151 Officer (ME)

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

- 1.1 On the proposal of Councillor Plumb and seconded by Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Elisabeth Malvisi was nominated for the position of Chair of the Council.
- 1.2 On the proposal of Councillor Beer and seconded by Councillor Reece, Councillor Margaret Maybury was nominated for the position of Chair of the Council.
- 1.3 The nominations were **PUT** to the Council for voting.

It was RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Elisabeth Malvisi be elected as Chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2023/24.

1.4 Councillor Malvisi thereupon made her Declaration of Office.

1.5 Councillor Malvisi thanked everyone that had voted for her, paid tribute to the outgoing Chairman, Councillor Grandon, for her hard work during a “demanding” year and expressed her well wishes to the Councillors who were not returned at the election.

1.6 The Chairman announced that her chosen charity would be decided at a later date but would be connected to male mental health, male suicide, and child sexual abuse.

2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

2.1 On the proposal of Councillor Jamieson and seconded by Councillor Plumb, Councillor Simon Dowling was nominated for the position of Vice Chair of the Council.

2.2 On the proposal of Councillor Maybury and seconded by Councillor Clover, Councillor Brian Riley was nominated for the position of Vice Chair of the Council.

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

It was RESOLVED:

That Councillor Simon Dowling be elected as Vice Chairman of Babergh District Council for the municipal Year 2023/24.

2.4 Councillor Dowling thereupon made his Declaration of Office.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3.1 None received.

4 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS

4.1 None declared.

5 BC/23/1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 MARCH 2023

It was RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March 2023 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

6 ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

6.1 On the proposal of Councillor Jamieson and seconded by Councillor Plumb, Councillor Dave Busby was nominated for the position of Leader of the Council.

6.2 This nomination was **PUT** to the Council for voting.

It was RESOLVED:

That Councillor Dave Busby be elected as Leader of Babergh District Council for the municipal year 2023/24.

7 BC/23/2 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND LEADER

7.1 The report from the Chairman was noted.

7.2 The Chairman invited Councillor Busby to present his report as Leader of the Council.

7.3 Councillor Busby made the following announcements:

“I had no ambition to become leader but am honoured to represent you all and I promise to do my very best. However, this isn’t about me, it is about you. 25,613 residents voted for you to work on their behalf to ensure that we deliver the best for Babergh that we can.

Well done Councillor Nunn on getting the most votes of any of us – 1069. 14 of you are new to the process and the challenges that lie ahead. For us to succeed in our endeavours (note the name of the building) we will need to work diligently and together. We have many challenges – climate change and housing energy inefficiencies; numerous ugly infrastructure projects; changes to waste collection; the Joint Local Plan; inappropriate housing developments – volume, size, and location; struggling high streets; the high cost of living and inflationary pressures on our services.

Unlike Mid Suffolk we don’t have huge reserves to call upon to help us to deliver solutions and in fact you will be frequently reminded of the financial challenges that we face. Fortunately, we have a great team of officers to assist us and I recommend that you lean on them – certainly not on me.

With no party getting anywhere near a majority – congratulations to the Greens for polling 31% of the votes – we will have to continue to work as a coalition – it is the Babergh way after all. Group leaders have devised a unique plan for the 4 years. The leadership will rotate on an annual basis – me for the first year, Councillor Deborah Saw for the second and fourth and Councillor John Ward for the third.

As my first action I would like to appoint Councillor Deborah Saw and

Councillor John Ward as deputy political leaders. Together we will lead the cabinet of 8 – 4 Greens, 3 Independents and 1 Lib Dem. We will be announcing the other Cabinet members and their portfolios shortly.”

7.4 Councillor Busby invited Councillor Ward and Councillor Saw to make announcements as Deputy Political Leaders.

7.5 Councillor Saw made the following announcements:

“I think we are all ambitious for our District and we all want to do the best for our residents and our communities. I think this is a very exciting and innovative approach – one that I am sure will get a lot of attention from other Councils around the country.

We start off looking at our joint priorities together, but I know we are all united with one purpose which is the prosperity, success, and wellbeing of our residents and their communities.”

7.6 Councillor Ward made the following announcements:

“I wish to congratulate Cllr Busby on his election as Leader of the Council. It is a great responsibility and privilege to hold that office and I am sure he will be a great ambassador for Babergh. I am particularly pleased that we have agreed an innovative coalition arrangement for the council. The consensus that will be needed to make that coalition work will be necessary as we face our biggest challenges. Cllr Busby has provided his view of these.

For me, the immediate ones are:

- Improving and retrofitting our housing stock to meet our energy saving commitments
- Resources And Waste Strategy, particularly The Recycling Consistency component and its impact on our waste collection operations
- Planning policy and the Joint Local Plan
- And, of course, the ever-present pressures on our budgets

I look forward to working with Councillors Busby and Saw to make the coalition a strong one that delivers excellent services for our residents and businesses.”

8 DESIGNATION OF COMMITTEES AND JOINT COMMITTEES

8.1 On the proposal of Councillor Plumb and seconded by Councillor Parker,

It was RESOLVED:

That the following Committees and Joint Committees be appointed:

- **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
- **Planning Committee**
- **Licensing and Regulatory Committee**

- **Joint Audit and Standards Committee**
- **Joint Appointments Committee**

9 BC/23/3 POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES

9.1 The Monitoring Officer introduced the report to Full Council.

9.2 On the proposal of Councillor Holt and seconded by Councillor Maybury,

It was RESOLVED:

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

10 ELECTION OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES

10.1 On the proposal of Councillor Maybury and seconded by Councillor Beer, Councillor Brian Riley was nominated for the position of Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

10.2 On the proposal of Councillor Plumb and seconded by Councillor Parker, Councillor Mary McLaren was nominated for the position of Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

10.3 The nominations were **PUT** to the Council for voting,

It was RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mary McLaren be elected as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2023/24.

10.4 On the proposal of Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Jamieson, Councillor John Whyman was nominated for the position of Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

10.5 The nomination was **PUT** to the Council for voting,

It was RESOLVED:

That Councillor John Whyman be elected as Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2023/24.

10.6 On the proposal of Councillor Ward and seconded by Councillor Parker, Councillor Stephen Plumb was nominated for the position of Chair of the Planning Committee.

10.7 On the proposal of Councillor Clover and seconded by Councillor Newman,

Councillor Peter Beer was nominated for the position of Chair of the Planning Committee.

10.8 The nominations were **PUT** to the Council for voting,

It was RESOLVED:

That Councillor Stephen Plumb be elected as Chair of the Planning Committee for the municipal year 2023/24.

10.9 On the proposal of Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Plumb, Councillor Helen Davies was nominated for the position of Vice Chair of the Planning Committee.

10.10 The nomination was **PUT** to the Council for voting,

It was RESOLVED:

That Councillor Helen Davies be elected as Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee for the municipal year 2023/24.

10.11 On the proposal of Councillor Jamieson and seconded by Councillor Plumb, Councillor Lee Parker was nominated for the position of Chair of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee.

10.12 On the proposal of Councillor Newman and seconded by Councillor Beer, Councillor Paul Clover was nominated for the position of Chair of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee.

10.13 The nominations were **PUT** to the Council for voting,

It was RESOLVED:

That Councillor Lee Parker be elected as Chair of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee for the municipal year 2023/24.

10.14 On the proposal of Councillor Plumb and seconded by Councillor Parker, Councillor Leigh Jamieson was nominated for the position of Vice Chair of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee.

10.15 The nomination was **PUT** to the Council for voting,

It was RESOLVED:

That Councillor Leigh Jamieson be elected as Vice-Chair of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee for the municipal year 2023/24.

10.16 On the proposal of Councillor Jamieson and seconded by Councillor Plumb,

Councillor Bryn Hurren was nominated for the position of Co-Chair of the Joint Audit and Standards Committee.

10.17 On the proposal of Councillor Maybury and seconded by Councillor Riley, Councillor Isabelle Reece was nominated for the position of Co-Chair of the Joint Audit and Standards Committee.

10.18 The nominations were **PUT** to the Council for voting,

It was RESOLVED:

That Councillor Bryn Hurren be elected as Co-Chair of the Joint Audit and Standards Committee for the municipal year 2023/24.

10.19 On the proposal of Councillor Beer and seconded by Councillor Clover, Councillor Margaret Maybury was nominated for the position of Co-Chair of the Joint Appointments Committee.

10.20 On the proposal of Councillor Ward and seconded by Councillor Plumb, Councillor Leigh Jamieson was nominated for the position of Co-Chair of the Joint Appointments Committee.

10.21 The nomination was **PUT** to the Council for voting,

It was RESOLVED:

That Councillor Leigh Jamieson be elected as Co-Chair of the Joint Appointments Committee for the municipal year 2023/24.

11 BC/23/4 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES FOR 2023/24

11.1 The Chair referred to Paper BC/23/4 and Appendix A in the Tabled Papers and declared that votes would need to be taken for over-nominated bodies.

11.2 Councillor Nunn and Councillor Reece were nominated as the representative for the Association for Suffolk Museums.

11.3 The nominations were **PUT** to the Council for voting,

It was RESOLVED:

That Councillor John Nunn be appointed as the representative for the Association of Suffolk Museums for the municipal year 2023/24.

11.4 Councillor Smith, Councillor Osborne, and Councillor Maybury were nominated as the representative for the Gainsborough's House Society.

11.5 The nominations were **PUT** to the Council for voting,

It was RESOLVED:

That Councillor Adrian Osborne be appointed as the representative for the Gainsborough's House Society for the municipal year 2023/24.

11.6 Councillor Maybury and Councillor McLaren were nominated as the representative for the Suffolk Health Scrutiny Committee.

11.7 The nominations were **PUT** to the Council for voting,

It was RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mary McLaren be appointed as the representative for the Suffolk Health Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2023/24.

11.8 Councillor Maybury nominated herself as the substitute representative for the Suffolk Health Scrutiny Committee.

11.9 The nomination was **PUT** to the Council for voting,

It was RESOLVED:

That Councillor Margaret Maybury be appointed as the substitute representative for the Suffolk Health Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2023/24.

11.10 Councillor Potter and Councillor Maybury were nominated as the representative for the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership.

11.11 The nominations were **PUT** to the Council for voting,

It was RESOLVED:

That Councillor Daniel Potter be appointed as the representative for the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership for the municipal year 2023/24.

11.12 The Chair nominated Councillor Maybury as the substitute representative for the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership.

11.13 The nomination was **PUT** to the Council for voting,

It was RESOLVED:

That Councillor Margaret Maybury be appointed as the substitute representative for the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership for the municipal year 2023/24.

11.14 Councillor Busby **MOVED** recommendation 2.1 in the report as amended, which was **SECONDED** by Councillor Ward.

It was RESOLVED:

That Councillors be appointed to the Outside Bodies detailed below:

NAME OF BODY / PANEL	NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVE TO BE APPOINTED	NAME OF MEMBER(S) NOMINATED
Association for Suffolk Museums	1	John Nunn
East of England Assembly of Leaders	1 (Leader)	Dave Busby
Gainsborough's House Society	1	Adrian Osborne
Greenways Countryside Project JAC	2	Jane Carruthers Helen Davies
Ipswich and District Citizens Advice Bureau	1 (Observer)	Mary McLaren
Ipswich Strategic Planning Area Board	1 (+1 substitute)	(Sub: Leigh Jamieson)
Joint Advisory Committee and Partnership to Dedham Vale (AONB)	2	Jane Carruthers Isabelle Reece
Joint Advisory Committee and Partnership to Suffolk Coast and Heath	2	Derek Davis
Local Government Association - SPARSE	1	Deborah Saw
Local Government Association Assembly	1 (Leader)	Dave Busby
Sudbury and District Citizens Advice Bureau	1 (Observer)	Adrian Osborne
Suffolk Coastal Forum	1	-
Suffolk Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Sub-Committee	1 (+1 substitute)	Alastair McCraw
Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board	1 (+1 substitute)	Cabinet Member for Communities
Suffolk Health Scrutiny Committee	1 (+1 substitute)	Mary McLaren (Sub: Margaret

		Maybury)
Suffolk Police and Crime Panel	1	John Ward
Suffolk Violence and Abuse Partnership	1	Elisabeth Malvisi
Suffolk Waste Partnership	1	Cabinet Member for Environment
The Quay Theatre Sudbury Board of Trustees	1	Laura Smith
Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership	1 (+1 substitute)	Daniel Potter (Sub: Margaret Maybury)

12 BC/23/5 APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS TO THE BOARD OF BDC (SUFFOLK HOLDINGS) LTD

12.1 On the proposal of Councillor Busby and seconded by Councillor Maybury

It was RESOLVED:

That Council approve the appointment of Councillors Dave Busby, Deborah Saw, Brian Riley, and John Ward as Directors to BDC (Suffolk Holdings) Ltd.

13 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS TO THE SHARED REVENUES PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

13.1 Councillor Maybury raised that Councillors appointed to the Shared Revenues Partnership Joint Committee must be on the Cabinet and that the item should not be voted on due to the Cabinet Members not yet being announced.

13.2 Councillor Busby requested that the item be deferred to a later date following the announcement of the composition of the Cabinet.

14 APPOINTMENTS TO THE SUFFOLK JOINT STANDARDS BOARD

14.1 On the proposal of Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Plumb,

It was RESOLVED:

That Councillors Simon Dowling, Stephen Plumb, Bryn Hurren, and Brian Riley be appointed as members of the Suffolk Joint Standards Board for the municipal year 2023/24.

15 APPOINTMENTS TO THE JOINT GYPSY AND TRAVELLER STEERING GROUP

15.1 On the proposal of Councillor Jamieson and seconded by Councillor Regester,

It was RESOLVED:

That Councillors Ruth Hendry, Lee Parker, and Alison Owen be appointed to the Joint Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group for the municipal year 2023/24.

16 APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS

16.1 Councillor Maybury put herself forward as a nomination for the Constitution Working Group.

16.2 Councillor Jamieson put forward Councillor Carruthers as a nomination for the Community Governance Review Working Group.

16.3 Councillor Maybury put herself forward as a nomination for the Member Learning and Development Working Group.

It was RESOLVED:

1.1 That Councillors Elisabeth Malvisi, Lee Parker, and Jane Carruthers be appointed to the Community Governance Review Working Group.

1.2 That Councillors Leigh Jamieson, Dave Busby, John Ward, and Margaret Maybury be appointed to the Constitution Working Group.

1.3 That Councillors Simon Dowling, Alastair McCraw, Bryn Hurren, and Margaret Maybury be appointed to the Member Learning and Development Working Group.

1.4 That Councillors Sallie Davies, John Ward, Helen Davies, and Michael Holt be appointed to the Local Plan Working Group.

17 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

17.1 None received.

18 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 13

18.1 None received.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 6:48pm.

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Chair