

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the **MID SUFFOLK COUNCIL** held at the Council Chamber, Mid Suffolk District Council Offices, High Street, Needham Market on Monday, 22 May 2017

PRESENT:

Councillors:	Roy Barker	Gerard Brewster
	Michael Burke	David Burn
	James Caston	Rachel Eburne
	Paul Ekpenyong	John Field
	Julie Flatman	Jessica Fleming
	Elizabeth Gibson-Harries	Nick Gowrley
	Kathie Guthrie	Lavinia Hadingham
	Derrick Haley	Matthew Hicks
	Glen Horn	Diana Kearsley
	Anne Killett	John Levantis
	Sarah Mansel	Wendy Marchant
	John Matthissen	Suzie Morley
	Dave Muller	Mike Norris
	Derek Osborne	Penny Otton
	Timothy Passmore	Jane Storey
	Andrew Stringer	Keith Welham
	Kevin Welsby	John Whitehead
	David Whybrow	Jill Wilshaw

In attendance: Chief Executive
Deputy Chief Executive
Strategic Director
Temporary Assistant Director of Law and Governance
Governance Support Officers (LS/HH)

1 **MINUTE SILENCE**

Councillor Gibson-Harries said it was with great sadness she advised that the Leader of Waveney District Council, Colin Law had died on Saturday 13 May. Thoughts were with his family and friends at this difficult time and a minute silence was held in his memory.

2 **ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN**

By a unanimous vote

RESOLUTION

That Councillor Derrick Haley be appointed Chairman of the Council for 2017/18.

Note: Councillor Haley duly signed the declaration of acceptance of office of Chairman and took the chair.

Councillor Haley thanked Councillor Elizabeth Gibson-Harries for her work during her time as Chairman, and said he looked forward to continuing the work of integrity and transparency and hoped to make those before him proud. He thanked Members and said he considered it an honour to be elected Chairman and looked forward to representing the Council at civic functions during the coming year. His chosen charities were Suffolk Family Carers and the Museum of East Anglian Life.

Councillor Haley welcomed Councillor Michael Burke, the newly elected Ward Member for Eye, to the Council.

Councillor Elizabeth Gibson-Harries said it had been a privilege to attend the many wonderful events throughout the year and that it had been an honour to represent the Council. She thanked Members for their support not just in the Council Chamber but also on the trips and events she had attended with them both in Members' wards and in the District.

Councillor Nick Gowrley thanked Councillor Gibson-Harries for the magnificent way she had been Chairman this year and that he was eternally grateful to her for her work.

3 **ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN**

By a majority vote

RESOLUTION

That Councillor John Levantis be appointed Vice Chairman of the Council for 2017/18.

Note: Councillor Levantis duly signed the declaration of acceptance of office of Vice Chairman.

Councillor John Levantis thanked Members and said that he would do his best to support Councillor Haley and the Council.

4 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillors Gary Green, Barry Humphreys MBE, Esther Jewson and Lesley Mayes.

5 **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS**

There were no declarations of interest.

6 **MC/17/1 - TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 APRIL 2017**

RESOLUTION

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2017 be agreed.

7 **RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**

The resolution to exclude the public was proposed and seconded but no Members voted and the Resolution fell.

RESOLUTION

That the public not be excluded from the meeting for the following item.

8 **MC/17/8 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 APRIL 2017 (EXEMPT INFORMATION BY VIRTUE OF PARAGRAPH 3 OF PART 1)**

It was noted that the minute to be signed had been amended as follows:

- Additional bullet point – Clarity was given about where financial responsibility would lie in the event of business failure this would be with the Councils.
- Final sentence to read ‘It was also felt by some that the majority of investment should be within the Mid Suffolk District as this could deliver on more of the Strategic Priorities’

It was further noted that the minute would now be in the public domain.

RESOLUTION

That the minute of the meeting held on 27 April 2017 be agreed and be open to the public.

9 **MC/17/2 - CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The report was received.

Councillor Elizabeth Gibson-Harries said a donation had been made to Home-Start Family Support Charity in Stowmarket and that she had attended a coffee morning at the charity. She had received a ‘Thank You’ card made by the children. Donations were also made to East Anglian Air Ambulance. Councillor Gibson-Harries said she had had a wonderful year as Chairman and thanked Members for their support.

10 **MC/17/3 - LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The report was received.

11 ELECTION OF THE LEADER OF COUNCIL

By a unanimous vote

RESOLUTION

That Councillor Nick Gowrley be elected Leader of the Council.

Councillor Gowrley thanked Members for electing him as Leader for the coming year and said it was an honour to be appointed and that he wanted to recommit the administration to continue to work with transparency and openness. He said a lot had happened the past year; the Council had moved on to the Cabinet-Leader Governance, the new Constitution, the move to Endeavour House and the set-up of an Investment Company. For the coming year he wanted to continue progressing the housing development and develop further some of the strategic projects.

Councillor Gowrley thanked Councillor Glen Horn for his work and support during the past year.

He announced the following appointments:

Deputy Leader – John Whitehead

Cabinet Member for Housing – Jill Wilshaw

Cabinet Member for Planning – David Whybrow

Cabinet Member for Economy – Gerard Brewster

Cabinet Member for Environment – David Burn

Cabinet Member for Communities – Julie Flatman

Cabinet Member for Customers – Glen Horn

Cabinet Member for Assets and Investments – Nick Gowrley

Cabinet Member for Finance – John Whitehead

Cabinet Member without Portfolio – Andrew Stringer

Cabinet Member without Portfolio – Penny Otton

Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing – Diana Kearsley

Lead Member for Waste – Roy Barker

Lead Member for Customer Service – Suzie Morley

12 APPOINTMENTS

a Designation of Committees and Joint Committees

By a majority vote

RESOLUTION

That the Committees and Joint Committees as detailed below be agreed:

- 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

b MC/17/4 - Political Balance and Composition of Committees and Joint Committees (and Appointment of Councillors to Committees and Joint Committees)

Under the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, a Local Authority is under a duty to review the allocation of seats to Political Groups at every Annual Meeting or as soon as practicable after that meeting. In addition, the composition of Committees must be approved at Annual Council each year.

Appendix 2 detailing the allocation of seats to Committees was tabled for Members' consideration.

The following correction was made:

Page 12, paragraph 10.3: The Current Committee structure has 49 available seat which go to political groups.

By a unanimous vote

RESOLUTION

That the Committees' size and numerical allocation of seats be approved as detailed in Appendix 1 to Paper MC/17/4.

By a unanimous vote

RESOLUTION

That Committee seats be allocated as set out in Appendix 2 to Paper MC/17/4

c Election of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees

By a unanimous vote

RESOLUTION

That the following Councillors be appointed as Chairmen and Vice Chairmen to the Committees as shown below:

Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Chairman:	Rachel Eburne
	Vice Chairman:	Derek Osborne

Development Control Committee A	Chairman: Vice Chairman:	Matthew Hicks Lesley Mayes
Development Control Committee B	Chairman: Vice Chairman:	Kathie Guthrie Roy Barker
Mid Suffolk Licensing and Regulatory Committee	Chairman: Vice Chairman:	Kathie Guthrie Kevin Welsby
Joint Audit and Standards Committee	Chairman: Vice Chairman:	Suzie Morley Dave Muller
Joint Appointments Committee	Chairman: Vice Chairman:	Nick Gowrley John Whitehead

Note: The following convention was adopted:

- (i) That the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Planning Referrals Committee be the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Development Control Committees A and B.

d Appointment of Councillors to the Shared Revenues Partnership Committee

The Temporary Assistant Director – Law and Governance reported that, in accordance with the joint arrangements established with Babergh District Council and Ipswich Borough Council, Council was asked to appoint two Councillors and two substitutes to serve on the Committee for the current municipal year.

The political balance rules do not apply to Mid Suffolk’s appointees. The Group Leaders had been asked to put forward names to be considered for these positions.

By a unanimous vote

RESOLUTION

That Derrick Haley and John Whitehead be appointed as Members of the Shared Revenues Partnership and Diana Kearsley and Kathie Guthrie be appointed as Substitute Members

e MC/17/5 - Appointment of Councillors to Outside Bodies

The Temporary Assistant Director – Law and Governance presented report MC/17/5.

It was noted that the Council was entitled to additional representation on the East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board. Councillor Keith Welham was to be appointed as a representative on the Board.

Councillor John Whitehead was appointed as substitute for Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Policy Panel.

By a unanimous vote

RESOLUTION

That Councillors be appointed to Outside Bodies as detailed in Appendix A to paper MC/17/5 with the addition of Councillor Keith Welham to the East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board and Councillor John Whitehead as substitute to Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Policy Panel.

f Appointments to the Suffolk Joint Standards Board

The Temporary Assistant Director – Law and Governance reported that, in accordance with the joint arrangements established with Babergh District Council and Suffolk County Council, Council was asked to appoint three Councillors to serve on the Board for the current municipal year.

The political balance rules do not apply to Mid Suffolk's appointees who cannot be:

- The Chairman of the Council
- Members of the Cabinet

The Group Leaders had been asked to put forward names to be considered for these positions. Appointments will be made for the ensuing year, unless one of the circumstances in Section 5 of the Board's Terms of Reference relating to resignations, removal/replacement of members, changes to the constitutional arrangements took effect.

By a unanimous vote

RESOLUTION

That Barry Humphreys, Suzie Morley and John Matthissen be appointed as Members of the Suffolk Joint Standards Board for the ensuing year.

g Appointments to the Joint Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group

It was noted that although previously only three Members had been appointed to the Joint Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group, Council was entitled to appoint four Members. The fourth member to be appointed at the next Council Meeting.

By unanimous vote

RESOLUTION

That Jill Wilshaw, Kevin Welsby and Andrew Stringer be appointed to the Joint Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group.

13 **MC/17/6 - TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2017/18**

Councillor Rachel Eburne requested that future Committees were not arranged for the dates of the Suffolk Show. She also enquired whom of the Councillors would be attending the Suffolk Show.

Emily Yule – Temporary Assistant Director of Law and Governance, said that none of the Councils had stands at the Suffolk Show but that both Leaders of the Councils had been invited to attend.

Councillor Eburne also asked for clarification of the possibility of Joint Scrutiny Committee meetings and if Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for Babergh and Mid Suffolk should keep all Overview and Scrutiny Committee dates free for both Councils in case a Joint Scrutiny Committee Meeting would take place.

Emily Yule – Temporary Assistant Director of Law and Governance responded that if a matter arose then the current dates for Scrutiny for Babergh and Mid Suffolk would be use if possible, however alternative dates would be booked if necessary.

Councillor John Matthissen asked for clarification of why some of the Committee meetings had been moved to afternoons rather than evenings.

Councillor Nick Gowrley responded he would take advice from the Chairmen of the Committees and report back to Members.

The Timetable of meetings 2017/18 was noted.

14 **MC/17/7 - ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2016/17**

Councillor Rachel Eburne, Joint Chair of the Joint Scrutiny Committee presented the Annual Report of the Joint Scrutiny Committee 2016/17. She thanked the Committee and the two task groups set up to during the year for their work.

Councillor Eburne responded to Members' questions and said that the response from the Tenant Forum and local business regarding their experiences of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' engagements with them had been informative. Local business felt that the response was good from the Councils and preferred communication by telephone rather than e-mails. However, the Tenant Forum representatives felt that the Councils could generally improve on their engagement with the Tenants despite Officers having tried different initiatives to improve communications with tenants.

RESOLUTION

That the Joint Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report 2016/7 be noted.

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Chairman