

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON THURSDAY, 26 JANUARY 2012

PRESENT: Mr N A Ridley – Vice-Chairman in the Chair

Mrs J Antill	Mr R E Kemp
Mr C W Arthey	Mr F R Lawrenson
Dr M F M Bamford	Mr J A B Long
Mr S R Barrett	Mr N MacMaster
Mr A C Bavington	Mrs M O Munson
Mr P K Beer	Mr M Newman
Mr N A Bennett	Mrs A M Norman
Mr P D Burgoyne	Mr J M Nunn
Mr D M Busby	Mr A F D W Osborne
Mrs S Carpendale	Mr J M Owen
Mr J R B Cave	Mr B Riley
Mrs K S Grandon	Mr D C Rose
Mr A J Hinton	Mr J R A Sayers
Mr P J Holbrook	Mr R C Smith
Mr B D Hurren	Mr R W Thake
Ms J A Jenkins	Mr A J Ward
Mr P Jones	Mrs S M Wigglesworth
Mr D H Keane	Mr L H Young

The following Members were unable to be present: Mr M J Deacon, Mr D G Grutchfield, Ms D L Kendall, Mrs A K Pollard, Mr C A Roberts and Mr D L Wood.

The proceedings were opened with a short Prayer for those Members who had chosen to participate.

69 MINUTES

**RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the meeting held on [6 December 2011](#) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.**

70 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Mrs J Antill declared a personal interest in Minute No. 73 (Strategic and Financial Planning – Budget Options) in her capacity as a Director of the Sudbury Citizens Advice Bureau, but indicated her interest was such that she was able to speak and vote on the matter concerned.

Mr R E Kemp declared a personal interest in Minute No. 73 (Strategic and Financial Planning – Budget Options) in his capacity as a member of Long Melford Parish Council, but indicated that his interest was such that he was able to speak and vote on the matter concerned.

Mr A J Hinton declared a personal interest in Minute No. 73 (Strategic and Financial Planning – Budget Options) in his capacity as a member of East Bergholt Parish Council, but indicated that his interest was such that he was able to speak and vote on the matter concerned.

Mrs A M Norman declared a personal interest in Minute No. 73 (Strategic and Financial Planning – Budget Options) in her capacity as a member of Lavenham Parish Council, but indicated that her interest was such that she was able to speak and vote on the matter concerned.

Mr B D Hurren declared a personal interest in Minute No. 73 (Strategic and Financial Planning – Budget Options) in his capacity being the Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Quay Theatre, but indicated that his interest was such that he was able to speak and vote on the matter concerned.

Mr J D Nunn declared a personal interest in Minute No. 73 (Strategic and Financial Planning – Budget Options) in his capacity as a member of the Long Melford Parish Council, but indicated that his interest was such that he was able to speak and vote on the matter concerned.

Mr B Riley declared a personal interest in Minute No. 73 (Strategic and Financial Planning – Budget Options) in his capacity as a Trustee of South Suffolk Leisure, but indicated that his interest was such that he was able to speak and vote on the matter concerned.

Mrs M O Munson declared a personal interest in Minute No. 73 (Strategic and Financial Planning – Budget Options) in her capacity as a Trustee of South Suffolk Leisure, but indicated that her interest was such that she was able to speak and vote on the matter concerned.

71 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

72 PETITIONS

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 13 it was noted that the following petition had been received:-

Application No. B/11/01469/FUL – Change of use from shop (Class A1) to hot food take-away with seating area to enable consumption of food on the premises (Classes A3 and A5) with internal/external alterations and installation of extraction equipment, 117 Bures Road, Great Cornard

Petition signed by approximately 94 residents of Babergh opposing the planning application on grounds of the impact to the local environment, road safety, pollution and amenity.

Subsequent to the receipt of the petition, the planning application was withdrawn by the applicant.

73 RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Strategic and Financial Planning – Budget Options (Strategy Committee Minute No. 81(a))

Ms J A Jenkins, Chairman of the Strategy Committee, introduced [Paper L123](#) relating to the latest assessment of the Council's anticipated financial position for the next three years and the savings which are likely to be required, together with three budget options for 2012/13. It was noted that the Strategy Committee had also had regard to [Paper L119](#) considered by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees on 13 December 2011.

She also referred to a copy of a letter, which had been circulated to all Members, from the Sudbury Town Council in relation to proposals for car parking.

The Chief Executive referred to comments made by the Communities Secretary that those Councils who commit to a Council Tax freeze by accepting the one off grant offer may benefit from further financial assistance in the future. However no details as to what this might entail were available.

The recommendations of the Strategy Committee were proposed and seconded and a recorded vote was requested in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 22.5. The result of the recorded vote was as follows:-

For the Motion

Mrs J Antill  
Mr C W Arthey  
Dr M F M Bamford  
Mr S R Barrett  
Mr A C Bavington  
Mr N A Bennett  
Mr P D Burgoyne  
Mr D M Busby  
Mrs S Carpendale  
Mr J R B Cave  
Mrs K S Grandon  
Mr A J Hinton  
Mr P J Holbrook  
Mr B D Hurren  
Ms J A Jenkins  
Mr P Jones  
Mr D H Keane  
Mr R E Kemp  
Mr F R Lawrenson  
Mr J A B Long  
Mr N MacMaster  
Mrs M O Munson  
Mrs A M Norman  
Mr J M Nunn  
Mr A F D W Osborne  
Mr J M Owen  
Mr N A Ridley  
Mr B Riley

Against the Motion

Mr P K Beer  
Mr M Newman  
Mr J R A Sayers  
Mr R C Smith

Abstentions

For the Motion

Mr D C Rose  
Mr R W Thake  
Mr A J Ward  
Mrs S M Wigglesworth  
Mr L H Young

The proposal was declared carried by 33 votes to 4 with no abstentions.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) **That the key aspects of Budget Option 1 for the 2012/13 financial year, as set out and described in Paper L123 be endorsed to reflect:**
- **The very substantial Integration, transformation and other savings and income generation proposals of £1m summarised in Appendix B and further referred to in Paper L123, and Paper L119 which was considered by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees on 13 December 2011**
  - **A Council Tax increase of 3.5% to provide a degree of financial sustainability in future years instead of accepting the Government's one-off Council Tax Freeze grant**
  - **The retention of free parking for up to 3 hours in Sudbury and Hadleigh but there being an increase in the long-stay charge from £1.50 to £2.**
- (2) **That, in addition, further savings and income of £40k relating to public conveniences and the brown bin scheme (as reflected in Budget Option 2) be also incorporated in the 2012/13 Budget and also that:**
- **The further reduction in community grants of £30k is deleted, with a full strategic review of the community grants budget in 2012/13 by the Overview and Scrutiny (Community Services) Committee, having regard to the information attached in Appendix D to Paper L123.**
  - **The remaining Budget shortfall, estimated at £134k, is funded by the limited temporary use of the New Homes Bonus and/or the additional use of reserves**
  - **The remaining New Homes Bonus is used to support economic growth and the vitality of market towns, jobs, new homes and investing in achieving long-term savings, as set out and described in section 8.9 of Paper L123**
  - **The reserves strategy, as also outlined in Paper L119, adjusted as necessary by the above proposals is approved.**

**(3) That, in terms of the significant financial challenge facing the Council over the next 3 years, the following approaches be adopted:-**

- **Vigorously pursue the programme of service integration and transformation with Mid Suffolk District Council to achieve annual savings of at least £1m by the end of 2014/15, recognising that this involves significant staff reductions, and**
- **Continue to constructively engage with local communities, particularly Town Councils, on how they can contribute to the transformation of services in order to assist in meeting the budget shortfall of around £1.3m that still has to be found by end of 2014/15.**

74 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None received.

75 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

76 TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS TO BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The Head of Corporate Organisation reported that following the resignation of three Parish Councillors, Bentley Parish Council is inquorate and therefore unable to act. The District Council may make an Order under Section 91(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 to appoint persons to fill the vacancies temporarily.

The relevant Ward Members (Councillors Bamford and Hinton) have fulfilled this role previously and would be prepared to do so again.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Head of Corporate Organisation be authorised to make an Order appointing the relevant Ward Councillors (Dr M F M Bamford and Mr A J Hinton) temporarily to serve on Bentley Parish Council under Section 91 of the Local Government Act 1972.**

77 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC (WHICH TERM INCLUDES THE PRESS)

**RESOLVED**

**That pursuant to Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the business specified below on the grounds that if the public were present during this item, it is likely that there would be the disclosure to them of exempt information as indicated against the item.**

**The Committee was also satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.**

78 APPOINTMENT OF STRATEGIC DIRECTORS (Exempt information by virtue of Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1)

The Chief Executive introduced a report ([Paper L136](#)) regarding the recommendation of the Joint Appointments Panel following the conduct of interviews held for the Strategic Director (People) and the Strategic Director (Place) posts.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That Lindsay Barker is offered the post of Strategic Director (Place) to both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils on a starting salary within the salary grade for Strategic Director (£73,000 - £86,000 p.a.) and for the appointment to be taken up as soon as possible.**
- (2) That Michael Evans is offered the post of Strategic Director (People) to both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils on a starting salary within the salary grade for Strategic Director and for the appointment to be taken up as soon as possible.**
- (3) That the Chief Executive be delegated authority to agree the starting salary for the appointments under (1) and (2) above in consultation with members of the Joint Appointments Panel.**

Note: The business of the meeting was concluded at 10.58 a.m.

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Chairman