

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON TUESDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2012

PRESENT: Mr N A Ridley – Chairman

Mrs J Antill	Mrs M O Munson
Mr C W Arthey	Mrs A M Norman
Dr M F M Bamford	Mr J M Nunn
Mr S R Barrett	Mr A F D W Osborne
Mr A C Bavington	Mrs A K Pollard
Mr P D Burgoyne	Mr B Riley
Mr D M Busby	Mr C A Roberts
Mr J R B Cave	Mr J R A Sayers
Mr M J Deacon	Mr R C Smith
Mrs K S Grandon	Mr R W Thake
Mr P J Holbrook	Mr A J Ward
Ms J A Jenkins	Mrs S M Wigglesworth
Mr P Jones	Mr D L Wood
Mr J A B Long	Mr L H Young

The following Members were unable to be present:- Mr P K Beer, Mr N A Bennett, Mrs S Carpendale, Mr D G Grutchfield, Mr A J Hinton, Mr B D Hurren, Mr D H Keane, Mr R E Kemp, Miss D L Kendall, Mr F R Lawrenson, Mr N MacMaster, Mr M Newman, Mr J M Owen and Mr D C Rose.

53 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on [30 October 2012](#) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

54 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Mr A C Bavington and Ms J A Jenkins both declared non-pecuniary interests in respect of Minute No. 57(d) below (Papers [M117](#), [M117S](#) and [M117A](#)) through their involvement as the Council's representative (or substitute) on the Shared Revenues Partnership Joint Committee, but indicated that they were able to speak and vote on the matter.

The following Members all declared pecuniary interests in Minute No. 57(b) below (Papers M117, M117S and M117A) by virtue of their ownership of second / empty homes within the Babergh District. The Monitoring Officer, who was present at the meeting for this item, confirmed that the Members listed have been given a dispensation by, her in consultation with the Chairman of the Joint Standards Committee, to enable them to participate fully in the debate and to vote on the matter.

Mrs J Antill	Ms J A Jenkins
Mr C W Arthey	Mr J A B Long
Dr M F M Bamford	Mr J R A Sayers
Mr M J Deacon	Mr D L Wood

55 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Events Attended

The Chairman referred to Paper [M126](#) outlining recent events attended by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council.

56 PETITIONS

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 13, it was noted that the following petitions had been received.

- (a) Application No. B/12/00688 – Former Fleetwood Caravan Site, Hall Street, Long Melford

Petition signed by approximately 849 residents of Babergh District objecting to the proposed erection of 51 houses following the demolition of existing buildings.

- (b) Application Nos. B/12/00891 and 00892 – East House, George Street, Hadleigh

Petition signed by more than 20 persons either resident in the District or working/studying at Hadleigh Community Primary School objection to the potential loss of the football pitch which would result from the proposed development on the land behind East House (Cox's Park).

- (c) Application No B/12/01286 – Timperleys, Hintlesham

Petition signed by approximately 34 residents of Babergh District objecting to the proposed development of 10 affordable houses.

The petitions will be taken into account when the applications are determined by the Development Committee.

57 RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

- (a) Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Principles 3 yearly Revision (Licensing and Appeals Committee Minute No 21)

Mr P J Holbrook, Chairman of the Licensing and Appeals Committee, introduced the Committee's recommendation.

RESOLVED

That the Gambling Act 2005 'Statement of Principles' document ([Appendix A to Paper M109](#)) be adopted and published to take effect for the three year period from 31 January 2013.

- (b) Mid Year Report on Treasury Management 2012/13 (Overview and Scrutiny (Stewardship) Committee Minute No 35)

Mr D M Busby, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny (Stewardship) Committee introduced the Committee's recommendation.

RESOLVED

That the Treasury Management activity for the year 2012/13 as detailed in Paper M111 be noted. Further that it be noted that performance was in line with the Prudential Indicators.

- (c) Strategic and Financial Planning Process 2013/14 (Strategy Committee Minute No 88)

Ms J A Jenkins, Chairman of the Strategy Committee, in introducing the Committee's recommendations, made reference to the draft status of the current document, the various Member inputs via workshops and feedback received from Town and Parish Councils.

RESOLVED

(1) That the vision, strategic priorities and developing outcomes be adopted in draft form as the basis upon which a strategic plan, the budget process for 2013/14, Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Operational Delivery Teams can be developed.

(2) That the strategic and financial planning process approach outlined at paragraph 11.1-11.5 of Paper M116 be approved.

- (d) Local Council Tax and Support Scheme and Reduction to Discounts (Strategy Committee Minute No 89)

Ms J A Jenkins, Chairman of the Strategy Committee, introduced this item by giving the background to the key changes being introduced by the Government which have resulted in the recommendation for the adoption of a Local Scheme.

Members were aware that the original recommendations of the Strategy Committee had been modified to reflect additional information and requirements for formal adoption of the Local Scheme and in relation to the Full Equality Assessment Analysis. The Scheme itself now encompasses details of the reductions for working age applicants.

In response to concerns raised by Members, the Corporate Manager – Financial Services confirmed the default position in the event that no Local Scheme is adopted, which is that the existing National Scheme would continue to operate, resulting in a significant funding gap. However, the Scheme proposed for adoption was for 2013/14 only and would be carefully monitored both in relation to collection rates, and the costs of collection. A thorough review of the Scheme's operation would be undertaken in time for Members to determine any changes necessary for future years.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Local Council Tax Support (Reduction) Scheme for 2013/14 which details reductions to be given for working age applicants for the financial year 2013/14 be formally adopted under section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.**
- (2) That the Equality Analysis Assessment relating to the Council Tax Support (Reduction) Scheme attached as Paper [M117A](#) be noted.**
- (3) That it be noted that (a) these proposals are subject to the final funding announcements by the Government and (b) that the funding gap that will have to be covered could be higher than the indication given in Appendix 5 (revised) to Paper [M117S](#).**
- (4) That, in the event of the funding gap being higher when the final funding announcements are made, Members endorse reducing the empty homes discount further and/or increasing the ‘taper’ relating to Council Tax support, as indicated in notes 2 and 3 to the table in Appendix 5 (revised) to Paper M117S.**
- (5) That the authority for final decisions on any additional changes in the proposals, including exemptions / discounts, consequent on the Government funding announcements being made known be delegated to the Head of Corporate Resources in consultation with the Chairman of Strategy Committee.**
- (6) That the change to the Council’s Scheme of Delegation to reflect recommendation (1) above, as set out in section 8.9 of Paper M117, be approved.**

Mr D M Busby voted against the decision referred to above and requested that this be recorded in the Minutes.

58 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None received.

59 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

60 GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Interim Governance Executive presented a report from the Head of Corporate Organisation (Paper [M124](#))

RESOLVED

- (1) That a Joint Constitutional Review Working Group be set up with Mid Suffolk on the Terms of Reference set out in paragraph 8.5.1 of Paper M124.
- (2) That the following Members be appointed to the group on the basis set out in Paper M124:-

Mr A C Bavington
Mr J R B Cave

Mrs A K Pollard
Mr R W Thake

61 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES ETC

The Strategic Director (Corporate) reported on various proposed changes following the appointment of Simon Barrett as Conservative Deputy Group Leader.

RESOLVED

That amendments be made to the allocations to Committees, approved substitutes and appointments to other groups as set out below:-

STRATEGY COMMITTEE

S R Barrett to replace B Riley

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (STEWARDSHIP) COMMITTEE

B Riley to replace S R Barrett
P D Burgoyne to replace F R Lawrenson

F R Lawrenson to replace P D Burgoyne in pool of Conservative substitutes

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (COMMUNITY SERVICES) COMMITTEE

F R Lawrenson to replace P D Burgoyne

P D Burgoyne to replace F R Lawrenson in pool of Conservative substitutes

SHARED REVENUES PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

J A Jenkins to replace B Riley

S R Barrett to replace J A Jenkins as substitute

STRATEGIC AND FINANCIAL PLANNING TASK GROUP

S R Barrett to replace B Riley

JOINT IT PANEL

F R Lawrenson to replace B Riley

JOINT MEMBER INTEGRATION BOARD

S R Barrett to replace B Riley

JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

P D Burgoyne to replace S R Barrett

J Antill to replace P D Burgoyne as one of two Conservative substitutes.

62 **APPOINTMENT TO VACANCY ON JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED

- (1) That Miss P Cook be appointed as the Council's parish co-opted member of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Standards Committee for a term of 4 years.
- (2) That the urgent action (detailed in Paper [M125](#)) taken under the general power to act out of meeting to appoint Miss Cook pending ratification by the Full Council be noted.

63 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC (WHICH TERM INCLUDES THE PRESS)**

RESOLVED

That pursuant to Part I 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 Council was also satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

64 **RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES (Exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part I) (Strategy Committee Minute No 92)**

RESOLVED

That the information contained in Paper [M119](#) and supporting documentation detailing urgent action taken under the general power to act out of meeting in respect of Navigation House, Great Eastern Road, Sudbury be noted.

Note: The meeting adjourned between 10.50 a.m. and 11.25 a.m. for refreshments.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 12.15 p.m.

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Chairman