

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2013

PRESENT: Mr N A Ridley – Chairman

Mrs J Antill	Mr N MacMaster
Mr S R Barrett	Mrs M O Munson
Mr A C Bavington	Mr M Newman
Mr P D Burgoyne	Mrs A M Norman
Mr D M Busby	Mr J M Nunn
Mrs S Carpendale	Mr A F D W Osborne
Mr J R Cartlidge	Mr J M Owen
Mr J R B Cave	Mrs A K Pollard
Mr M J Deacon	Mr B Riley
Mr D G Grutchfield	Mr D C Rose
Mr A J Hinton	Mr J R A Sayers
Mr B D Hurren	Mr R C Smith
Ms J A Jenkins	Mr R W Thake
Mr P Jones	Mr A J Ward
Mr D H Keane	Mrs S M Wigglesworth
Miss D L Kendall	Mr D L Wood
Mr J A B Long	Mr L H Young

The following Members were unable to be present:

Mr C W Arthey, Dr M F M Bamford, Mr P K Beer, Mr N A Bennett, Mrs K S Grandon, Mr R E Kemp, Mr F R Lawrenson and Mr C A Roberts.

31 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on [27 September 2013](#) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

32 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The following Members declared pecuniary interests in the matter referred to in Minute No. 35 (b) by virtue of their ownership of second / empty homes within the Babergh District but stated that they had been granted a dispensation by the Monitoring Officer to enable them to participate fully in the debate and to vote on the matter:-

Mrs J Antill, Mr M J Deacon, Ms J A Jenkins, Mr J A B Long, Mr M Newman and Mr J R A Sayers.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that the declarations referred to above were correct. However, the declarations made at Strategy Committee on 21 November by the relevant Members who had been granted dispensation in the same terms had been inaccurately recorded in the minutes of that meeting. Council was advised that an appropriate correction would be documented at the Strategy Committee meeting on 16 January 2014.

The following Members declared non-pecuniary interests in the matter referred to in Minute No. 35(b) by virtue of a family member's ownership of a second/empty home:-

Mr A J Hinton, Mrs A K Pollard and Mr D L Wood.

The following Members declared non-pecuniary interests in the matter referred to in Minute No 35(b) in the capacity shown below:-

Mrs A K Pollard – Member of Shared Revenues Partnership (SRP)

Mr S R Barrett – Member of SRP

Ms J A Jenkins – Member of SRP

Mr A C Bavington – Member of SRP for a relevant year

Mr A C Bavington also declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 35(a) by virtue of his membership of the Co-operative Party.

All of the Members declaring the non-pecuniary interests set out above indicated that they were able to speak and vote on the relevant item.

33 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Events Attended

The Chairman referred to [Paper N90](#) outlining recent events attended by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council and informed Members that he had attended the funeral of former Councillor, Mrs Jonquil Mieville.

Babergh Civic Service

The Chairman thanked Members for their support.

34 PETITIONS

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

Planning Application No B/13/01004/FUL – Erection of new village hall and associated parking with construction of vehicular access on land at Monks Eleigh Recreational Ground. Construction of pedestrian access via Church Walk, pathways adjacent to existing Village Hall and within the site to the new Village Hall, Playing Field, Church Hill, Monks Eleigh.

Petition signed by approximately 34 residents of Babergh in support of the proposed development. The petition was taken into account when the application was determined by the Planning Committee on 13 November 2013.

Morrisons, Hadleigh

Petition signed by 60 residents of Babergh objecting to the proposed building of a petrol station at the Morrisons' site in Hadleigh. The petition was reported to the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 16 October 2013.

The petitioners' objection to the proposal would normally be taken into account when the relevant planning application was determined. However, no application has been received to date so it is not possible to give any indication as to the future consideration of this matter. The petition organiser has indicated that a further petition might be submitted if and when there is a planning application for the proposed development.

35 RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(a) Mid Year Report on Treasury Management – 2013/14 (Joint Audit and Standards Committee – 4 November 2013)

Mr D M Busby, Chairman of the Joint Audit and Standards Committee, introduced the Committee's recommendation, following its consideration of [Paper JAC14](#).

In response to questions from Members, the Corporate Manager – Finance explained the arrangements currently in place to protect the Council's bank accounts. He outlined the recent procurement exercise to appoint new bankers, details of which would be released to Members shortly.

Mr Busby confirmed that the Joint Audit and Standards Committee takes account of the historical differences between the two Councils' investment and other financial policies.

RESOLVED

That the treasury management activity for the first six months of 2013/14 as set out in Paper JAC14 be noted.

(b) Local tax Reduction Scheme and Council Tax Technical Changes – 2014/15 (Strategy Committee Minute No 57)

Members had before them [Paper N80](#), together with the recommendations as agreed by the Committee, and shown on the agenda paper. Members were advised that, in order to be consistent with the requirements of the relevant Regulations, the wording of Recommendation (2) required amendment, as shown in italics in the revised recommendation on the agenda.

Ms J A Jenkins, Chairman of the Strategy Committee, introduced the Committee's recommendations.

RESOLVED

- (1) **That the Council's existing 2013/14 Local Council Tax Reduction (LCTR) Scheme continues to operate from 1 April 2014.**
- (2) **That the changes to certain categories of exemptions from Council Tax from 1 April 2014, as set out below, be approved, with further consideration and final confirmation in February 2014 as part of the Budget setting process:-**

- **Empty Unfurnished properties (Class C reduction)**
Currently a 100% reduction in Council Tax applies for the first 4 weeks then full Council Tax is payable. It is proposed that this is amended to a 25% reduction for the first 3 months with Council Tax then being payable in full.

In considering whether a dwelling has been in Class C for any period, any one period, not exceeding six weeks, during which it was not in this Class C shall be disregarded.

- **Uninhabitable properties (Class A reduction)**
Currently a 30% reduction in Council Tax applies for the first 12 months then full Council Tax is payable. It is proposed that this is amended slightly to a 25% reduction for the first 12 months with Council Tax then being payable in full.

36 JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT

Members received [Paper N91](#), a summary of key items considered by the Joint Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 4 December 2013. The report was presented by the Babergh Chairman of the Joint Committee, Mrs J Antill.

RESOLVED

That the content of Paper N91 be noted.

37 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None received.

38 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

39 DESIGNATION OF THE MONITORING OFFICER ROLE

The Strategic Director (Corporate) introduced [Paper N92](#) relating to the appointment and designation of a new Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED

That following an external recruitment process, Esther Thornton, the successful candidate for the role of Corporate Manager – Legal and Monitoring Officer be appointed and designated as the Babergh District Council’s Monitoring Officer with effect from 6 January 2014.

40 TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS

The Head of Corporate Organisation introduced [Paper N93](#), the draft timetable of meetings for the next municipal year, which had been prepared following consultation with relevant Members and Officers.

Members noted that the Strategy Committee meeting provisionally scheduled for 10 July 2014 would be moved to an appropriate date to avoid clashing with the LGA Conference.

RESOLVED

That the timetable of meetings outlined in Paper N93 be approved, subject to the amendment referred to above.

41 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE JOINT GYPSY AND TRAVELLER STEERING GROUP FOR BABERGH AND MID SUFFOLK

The Head of Corporate Organisation reported that, following the decision of both Councils at their October Council meetings to set up a Joint Steering Group, the Council was asked to make the Babergh appointments to the Group. The Political Group Leaders had been consulted and agreed on the following names to be put forward for approval.

Dawn Kendall
Trot Ward
Sue Wigglesworth

RESOLVED

- (1) That Miss D L Kendall, Mr A J Ward and Mrs S M Wigglesworth be appointed to serve on the Joint Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group for the remainder of the current term of office.**
- (2) That the appointment of Mr A C Bavington, Lead Member – Housing as the fourth Babergh member on the Group be confirmed.**

42 GREATER IPSWICH CITY DEAL BOARD

The Strategic Director (Place) reported that, following the successful agreement of the Greater Ipswich City Deal, Babergh and Mid Suffolk were asked to agree their joint representation on the Board, which will report directly to the New Anglia Local Enterprise Board.

Babergh's Political Group Leaders and the Mid Suffolk Portfolio Holders have been consulted and have agreed to nominate Councillor Sue Carpendale (Babergh) as the representative with Councillor Sara Michell (Mid Suffolk) as her substitute.

RESOLVED

That Mrs S Carpendale be appointed to represent Babergh and Mid Suffolk on the Greater Ipswich City Deals Board for the remainder of the current term of office, subject to the appointment being endorsed by Mid Suffolk District Council. Further, that the appointment by Mid Suffolk District Council of Mrs S Michell as the nominated substitute on the Board for the remainder of the current term of office be endorsed.

43 MEMBERSHIP OF PLANNING AND JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

The Head of Corporate Organisation reported that the Labour Group had notified its intention to make a change to its members on the Planning and Joint Scrutiny Committees.

RESOLVED

That Mr J M Owen be appointed to replace Mr N MacMaster on the Planning Committee and that Mr N MacMaster be appointed to replace Mr J M Owen on the Joint Scrutiny Committee, both appointments to be made with immediate effect and for the remainder of the current municipal year.

44 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 these items it is likely that there would be the disclosure to them of exempt information as indicated against each item.

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

45 RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Disposal of Freehold – Strategy Committee Minute No 59 (Exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1)

Members were aware that the Strategy Committee at its meeting on 21 November 2013, agreed to dispose of a site in the Council's ownership. The Council was asked to restrict the use of any capital receipt obtained from the disposal, as recommended by the Committee ([Paper N94](#) refers).

RESOLVED

That the recommendation of the Strategy Committee as set out in Paper N94 be approved.

46 MEMBER'S ABSENCE FROM MEETINGS (Exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 1 of Part 1)

Members were aware that the recommendation contained in [Paper N95](#) was not needed as the Member referred to was present at the meeting. He was welcomed back after his absence and thanked Members for their support.

Paper N95 was therefore not considered by the Council.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 10.30 a.m.

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Chairman