

BROADLAND COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Broadland Council of Broadland District Council, held on Thursday, 25 May 2023 at 7.00 pm.

Committee Members Present: Councillors: P Auber, B Baby, J Bailey, S Beadle, M Booth, F Bowe, N Brennan, P Bulman, S Catchpole, S Clancy, J Copplestone, A Crotch, J Davis, L Douglass, C Eden, J Emsell, M Goodman, N Harpley, J Harvey, L Hemsall, S Holland, B Johnson, S Jones, C Karimi-Ghovanlou, K Kelly, E Laming, K Leggett, T Mancini-Boyle, A Miah, D Moore, M Murrell, P Newstead, G Nurden, R Potter, S Riley, D Roper, J Royal, L Starling, N Starling, D Thomas, A Tipple, E Tovell, K Vincent, S Ward, F Whymark and T Yousefian

Apologies for Absence: Councillors: S Gurney

Officers in Attendance: T Holden (Managing Director), D Lorimer (Director of Resources), P Courtier (Director of Place), J Sutterby (Director of People and Communities), E Hodds (Chief of Staff), R Fincham (Assistant Director of Finance), L Mockford (Governance Manager) and D Matthews (Democratic Services Officer)

Also in Attendance: Former Councillor Mr J Fisher (Chairman)

The Chairman of the Council, ex-Councillor John Fisher, welcomed everyone to the new Council and in particular those newly elected members.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr S Gurney.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

No declarations of interest were received.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Chairman drew members' attention to his civic engagements for the period 24 March – 25 May 2023.

4. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR 2023/24 AND DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE;

The Chairman invited nominations for the position of Chairman of the Council for 2022/23.

Two nominations were received: Cllrs Ken Kelly and Caroline Karimi-Ghovanlou.

Following a show of hands, it was:

RESOLVED

To appoint Cllr Caroline Karimi-Ghovanlou, as Chairman of the Council for 2023/24.

The former Chairman, Mr Fisher, advised Council that he had had a hugely enjoyable year, with some momentous events including the Platinum Jubilee, and the sad passing of the Queen and reading the proclamation of the new King. Amongst a great number of events he had attended, he highlighted the Holocaust Memorial Service which had been very moving. He expressed his appreciation of the support he had received from his Vice-Chairman, Sue Prutton, who had sadly passed away, and for Ken Kelly who had taken on the role of Vice-Chairman in the latter part of the year. He informed Council that he had presented £4,000 to his charity 'Nelson's Journey'. He also thanked the following officers for their support; Dawn Matthews, Linda Mockford, Emma Hodds and in particular Tracy Brady, who had organised his diary for the year. Some flowers would be presented to Tracy after the meeting to show his appreciation for her hard work.

Mr Fisher then presented a painting of a Broadland scene to the Managing Director.

Cllr Karimi-Ghovanlou was then invested with the Chain of Office and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. She thanked members for electing her and giving her the opportunity to represent the Council as Chairwoman for 2023/24. She noted that there were many newly elected members and she also paid tribute to those members who had served for the last four years who had not been re-elected. She asked that members of all political parties worked together for the residents of Broadland and she that hoped that there would be exciting times ahead for all.

5. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING CHAIRMAN

Council gave a vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman.

6. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN AND DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Chairwoman invited nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman of the Council for 2023/24.

Two nominations were received: Cllr Ken Kelly and Cllr Adrian Tipple.

Following a show of hands, it was:

RESOLVED

To appoint Cllr Adrian Tipple as Vice-Chairman of the Council for 2023/24.

Cllr Tipple then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked members for electing him.

7. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 23 MARCH 2023, AND CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

8. REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER ON THE ELECTIONS ON 4 MAY 2023

The Managing Director introduced the report, which set out the results of the elections held on 4 May 2023. Council was invited to receive the report.

A member advised the meeting that he had received very complementary feedback on the election's nomination process and that the Elections Team were to be commended for their hard work.

Another member wished to express his thanks to all the staff who worked on the elections and the count and especially to the Elections Team for making it all run so smoothly.

In response to a query about how the new voter ID regulations affected the elections, it was confirmed that the numbers of voters turned away had been small and that overall voter behaviour had been exemplary.

RESOLVED

To note the persons elected as District Councillors on 4 May 2023, as set out in Appendix A of the report.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairwoman advised Council that her charities for her Civic Year were the Hamlet Children's Centre and the Children's section of Vision Norfolk.

10. ELECTION OF LEADER FOR 2023/24;

The Chairwoman invited nominations for the position of Leader of the Council for 2023/24.

Two nominations were received: Cllr Fran Whymark and Cllr Sue Holland

Following a show of hands it was:

RESOLVED

To appoint Cllr S Holland as Leader of the Council for 2023/24.

The Leader thanked members for her appointment and stated it was an honour and a privilege to be elected. She noted that the recent elections had brought changes to member representations across the District and that it was a pleasure to form a new administration with the Labour and Green groups. She added that she was conscious of the need for the new administration to carry out its responsibilities with care and integrity and that they would be working together to review the Council's policies, processes, and structures in order to deliver on the commitments that had been made in their respective manifestos.

The aim of this work would be to ensure consistent improvement in the Council's service provision and would be underpinned by efficient and cost-effective ways of working. She emphasised that the administration would be an open partnership working with all councillors to achieve the best possible support for residents and communities across Broadland.

The Leader then advised the Council of her Cabinet appointments for 2023/24 as follows:

Cllr Sue Holland	Policy
Cllr Natasha Harpley	Communities and Housing and Deputy Leader
Cllr Stuart Beadle	Planning
Cllr Martin Booth	Economic Development
Cllr Jan Davis	Environmental Excellence
Cllr Steve Riley	Finance
Cllr Dan Roper	Transformation and Organisational Development

11. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

Members considered the report of the Monitoring Officer. The Leader of the Council outlined the main proposals contained in the report and invited Council to support the recommendations contained therein.

In response to a query, the Monitoring Officer confirmed that there were no intended changes to where service areas stood in relation to Portfolios, but with the increase to seven Portfolios some areas that had previously crossed Portfolios had now been assigned to one. These areas would also be subject to review in the coming months.

Cllr F Whymark proposed an amendment to appoint Cllr Bulman as Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and this proposal was seconded by Cllr M Murrell.

The Portfolio Holder for Transformation and Organisational Development reaffirmed that the structure of Cabinet and Committees would be subject to review, but that this would not undermine the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which was highly valued in its role. However, the new administration needed to undertake a good level of due diligence on the services that it had inherited as part of this review, and in order to conduct this important work it was not considered appropriate for the Chairman to be a member of the previous

administration.

Cllr Whymark responded that to reject his proposal was not in the spirit of collaboration that the Leader had earlier alluded to. Cllr L Hemsall added that it had been a long-held convention at Broadland for the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be a member of the opposition and that this had been a very constructive means of establishing a strong working relationship between political groups.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance advised the meeting that he had Chaired the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for many years, but last year the Conservative Leader had taken away his chairmanship and given it to a member of his own Group. The appointment as set out in the report, therefore, mirrored this approach.

Cllr K Vincent informed the meeting that it was good protocol to have a member of the opposition Chair the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and reminded members that last year had been an exception and that this would be an opportunity to work collaboratively from the start of the new Council.

The Leader reminded the meeting that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was intended to be apolitical and that she was confident that Cllr Nich Starling would bring due rigour to the work of the Committee. Moreover, the appointment of the Vice-Chairmanship to a member of the Conservative group was following the protocol established last year, by the previous administration.

A vote was held on the proposed amendment, and it was lost.

Following a further vote, it was:

RESOLVED

To approve:

1. The delegation of responsibilities, Cabinet portfolio and Cabinet Policy Panels as included in section 2 and Appendix 1 of the report.
2. The allocation of seats on Council committees in accordance with Appendix 2 attached to the report and to appoint to these seats, as advised by Group Leaders.
3. The appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.
4. The appointments of Directors for Broadland Growth Limited as the Leader, Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Managing Director and the Portfolio Holder for Finance as the Shareholder representative.
5. That any consequential amendments to the constitution to be delegated to the Monitoring Officer.
6. The appointment of the Independent Person, Mr Mark Hedges, to 30

May 2027.

12. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS FOR 2023/24

Council received the schedule of nominations to represent the Council on outside organisations for 2023/24.

The Leader advised Council of the following amendments/additions to the nominations on the schedule and these were seconded by Cllr Riley:

HMP Bure Liaison Committee – Shane Ward, to replace Dan Roper.

Norfolk Police and Crime Panel – Sue Catchpole to be the substitute representative.

The Leader also advised that Cllr Catchpole had offered to be the Council's representative on the Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Board.

In answer to a query about the representative on the NPLAW Board, the Leader advised the meeting that although this seat would usually be taken by the Portfolio Holder for Finance, as Cllr Riley was also a County Councillor and to avoid what might be seen as a conflict of interests it would be more appropriate to appoint Cllr Beadle to the Board.

Councillor Whymark requested the following Conservative amendments/additions to the schedule:

Broads (2006) Internal Drainage Board – Jo Copplestone and Grant Nurden to replace Ken Kelly and Bill Johnson.

Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Board – Nigel Brennan and Ken Kelly.

Norfolk Records Committee – Grant Nurden to be the representative or substitute representative.

The Leader accepted these amendments and it was

RESOLVED

To approve the appointments to outside organisations for 2023/24, as amended.

13. SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Council was invited to agree the Scheme of Delegation as set out in Part Three of the Constitution.

RESOLVED

To confirm the Scheme of Delegation, as set out in Part Three of the Constitution.

14. SCHEME OF SUBSTITUTION FOR 2023-2027 - TO CONSIDER ADOPTING THE SCHEME

Council was invited to agree the Scheme of Substitution.

There was some discussion around allowing substitutes for Time and Task Panels appointed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and it was confirmed by the Leader that this matter would be looked at as part of the review of Committees that would be undertaken over the coming months.

It was then proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED

To adopt a Scheme of Substitution, as detailed in paragraph 4 of the report, for the duration of the Council.

15. COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2023/24

Council was invited to approve the dates for Council meetings for 2023/24 in accordance with the Constitution.

RESOLVED

To approve the following dates for Council meetings: 27 July 2023, 5 October 2023, 14 December 2023, 25 January 2024, 22 February 2024, 28 March 2024 and 23 May 2024.

16. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

It was noted that there had been no questions from the public.

17. PUBLIC SPEAKING

It was noted that there had been no requests for public speaking.

18. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 11 April 2023 were received.

Minute no: 115 – Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2022/23

To recommend that the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2022/23 be presented to Council.

Members were invited to note the Annual Report.

RESOLVED

To note the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2022/23.
and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report for 2022/23.

19. CABINET

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 18 April 2023 were received.

Recommendation arising from the meeting held on 18 April 2023

Minute no: 102- To endorse the Health and Wellbeing Strategy as a partner organisation in the Broadland Health and Wellbeing Partnership.

The Director for People and Communities invited members to approve the recommendation from Cabinet. Members were advised that the Health and Wellbeing Strategy aimed to draw together a number of different agencies from both the public sector and voluntary sector to help understand some of the major issues that affected the health and well-being of Broadland's residents and set out how working together they could best address these issues.

Councillor Whymark advised Council that he endorsed the Strategy, which had been produced following a great deal of work by partner agencies including South Norfolk Council. He added that a major element of the Strategy was prevention and that it was a living document that would evolve as the Health and Wellbeing Partnership developed.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:

To endorse the Health and Wellbeing Strategy as a partner organisation in the Broadland Health and Wellbeing Partnership.

20. OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS AND MEMBER CHAMPIONS

There was no feedback from representatives on Outside Bodies or Member Champions.

21. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

No motions were received.

22. MOTIONS

No motions were received.

(The meeting concluded at 8.13 pm)

Chairwoman