

SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the South Norfolk Council of South Norfolk Council, held on Monday, 25 March 2024 at 7.30 pm.

Committee Members Present: Councillors: J Easter (Chairman), S Blundell (Vice-Chair), B Bernard, D Bills, G Blundell, C Brown, K Carsok, J Cook, K Cross, M Dewsbury, J Eddy, R Elliott, D Elmer, N Fowler, The Lord Fuller OBE, T Graham, M Hooton, C Hudson, K Hurn, K Kiddie, T Laidlaw, K Mason Billig, J McCloskey, C McConnell, G Minshull, K Murphy, S Nuri-Nixon, J Overton, L Overton-Neal, G Race, D Roberts, M Rosen, J Rowe, D Sacks, R Savage, I Spratt, D Thompson, V Thomson, J Webber and J Woolliscroft

Apologies for Absence: Councillors: J Cork, A Evans, B McClenning and J Morland

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

3796. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Cork, A Evans, B McClenning, and J Morland.

3797. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item	Councillor	Declaration
Adoption of the Greater Norwich Local Plan	Cllr C Brown	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, director of a company that was working on community engagement for a development that was to be allocated in the Local Plan.
	Cllr Overton-Neal, The Lord Fuller, Cllr J Woolliscroft	Other registerable interest, as members of the Greater Norwich Development Partnership.

3798. CLLR STEPHEN RIDLEY

The Chairman referred to the recent sad passing of Cllr Stephan Ridley, following a short illness.

Cllr Ridley was elected as the district councillor for the Bunwell ward and he served on numerous committees, and was chairman of the Finance, Regulation, Audit and Governance Committee and the CNC Board. The Chairman referred to Cllr Ridley's formidable character and wisdom, adding that he would be sorely missed by fellow councillors.

Members then stood and observed a minute's silence in memory of Cllr Ridley.

**3799. ADOPTION OF THE GREATER NORWICH LOCAL PLAN -
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET**

The Lord Fuller introduced the report which proposed that the Council adopt the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP).

Members were reminded of the huge amount of work that had been undertaken to draft the GNLP over eight years and that the Inspectors had gone through all the sites in the Plan and had concluded that it was sound and should be adopted.

Members were also asked to note that adopting the Plan would secure a five-year land supply, which would prevent speculative development proposals in unsuitable areas.

Cllr L Overton-Neal, the Portfolio Holder for Stronger, Greener Economy, noted that the Plan included employment land as well as housing and that the allocations were in sustainable areas and took account of environmental issues. She added that the way that the Greater Norwich authorities had worked together to draft the Plan was also to be commended.

Members noted that the separate South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan would be completed in due course and would also become part of the development plan for the district.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED

To

1. Note the inspectors' report (at Appendix A) and the required main modifications in appendices 1 to 5; and

Adopt the modified GNLP (documents J2.1 to J2.11 inclusive); and

2. Delegate authority to the Assistant Director for Planning to publish the Adoption Statement and accompanying documents, making the GNLP part of the Adopted Local Plan for South Norfolk.

3800. WYMONDHAM PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS

The Lord Fuller introduced the report which proposed setting aside funds towards public realm improvements in Wymondham.

He welcomed the opportunity to bring this scheme forward with the agreement of Wymondham Town Council.

He proposed Cllrs K Cross and K Hurn as the Conservative members of the Working Group which would undertake work associated with the improvement to the town centre and also noted that Cllr R Savage would sit on the Working Group as the County Councillor for Wymondham.

The Lord Fuller emphasised that the resolution made by the Town Council and received by South Norfolk Council on 6 March 2024 had been accepted in full and that there was no longer any obstacle to the scheme progressing with speed.

Cllr L Overton-Neal, the Portfolio Holder for Stronger, Greener Economy, confirmed that she would be chairing the Working Group and she looked forward to working on the scheme, which would bring nearly £1m worth of improvements to the public realm in Wymondham.

Cllr M Rosen noted that there would be a lot of work and further discussions to be had by the Working Group and that he hoped that the County Council might also contribute to the improvements to the town centre. He nominated Cllr D Sacks, as the Labour member on the Working Group.

In response to a query, it was confirmed that the Working Group was not subject to the Widdecombe rules on political balance.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED

To

1. Accept the key points from the Wymondham Town Council resolution.
2. Allocate the following sums toward public realm improvements in Wymondham.
 - The full capital receipt (less costs of sale) from the sale of Middleton Road.
 - £234,457 from the Co-Investment Fund, subject to a successful application and supportive business case.
 - £15,543 from the in-year surplus (in order to fully match the £250,000 Wymondham Town Council contribution).

And to agree to use the in-year surplus to increase the CAF, rather than using some of the proceeds from the sale of Middleton Road.

3. Agree that a formal agreement is entered into by all the parties, to govern how this project will be managed.

Agree the Terms of Reference for the Working Group as detailed in Appendix A (in line with the approach that was successfully used in Harleston).

3801. HOUSING COMPLAINTS POLICY

Cllr G Minshull, the Portfolio Holder for Supporting People, introduced the report, which proposed the adoption of a Housing Complaints Policy to ensure that the Council met its legislative duty as a Registered Housing Provider. The Policy specifically related to temporary accommodation, which was the only type of housing currently provided by the Council.

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED

1. To approve the Housing Complaints Policy attached at Appendix 1.

To require the Monitoring Officer to determine the correct committee to receive the report on the annual self-assessment and to update the relevant committee's terms of reference accordingly.

3802. ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Lord Fuller announced that this was to be his last meeting of the Council as Leader of the Council, following his elevation to the House of Lords. He was delighted to inform members that the Conservative Group had met earlier that evening and had selected Cllr D Elmer as his successor as Group Leader, and Conservative nominee for Leader of the Council at the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held on 20 May 2024.

(The meeting concluded at 8.00 pm)

Chairman