

Full Council

Minutes

Tuesday, 25 November 2014 at 19:00

PRESENT:

The Mayor Councillor Fairhead (in the Chair); Councillors Andrews, Annison, Bird, Blyth, B Coleman, M Coleman, Collins, Connell, Cutting, Fox, Grey, Hacon, Jeal, Jones, Linden, Myers, Peck, Plant, Pratt, Robinson-Payne, Shrimplin, Stenhouse, Sutton, H Wainwright, T Wainwright, B Walker, Weymouth and Williamson.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cunniffe, Jermany, Reynolds and Rodwell.

In attendance were Mr G Mitchell (Chief Executive Officer), Mrs J Beck (Director of Customer Services), Mr C Skinner (Monitoring Officer) and Mr R Hodds (Cabinet Secretary).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jeal declared a personal interest in the item relating to appointments to outside bodies in his capacity as an employee of First Move Furnishaid, and left the meeting for the discussion of this item.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cunniffe, Jermany, Reynolds and Rodwell.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Council considered the following public question:-

(a) Questions from Mr R Hudson

"Does the appointment of a £200,000 a year Chief Executive to oversee cuts in Council spending, effectively mean the Leader of the Council has abdicated all responsibility to a paid mercenary and that the Public Consultation is a total sham?"

In response, the Leader responded to the above question to state no.

In accordance with the provisions of the constitution, Mr Hudson was then entitled to

ask a supplementary question as follows:-

"Given that you say that you have not abdicated responsibility to the Chief Executive, how many other mercenaries/consultants have you engaged since the appointment of the Chief Executive? What advice are these people giving on how to slash budgets and at what cost to the Tax Payer?"

In response, the Leader stated that the Chief Executive Officer had been brought in on a temporary contract to carry out a specific job on behalf of the Council together with supporting consultants and that it was considered this had been money well spent in order to secure the services of these staff.

The Leader also stated that he took exception to the abusive accusations and remarks that had been made by Mr R Hudson at the end of this item.

4. REPORTS TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION

5. Revised List of Committee Memberships for 2014-15

Following a number of recent changes to membership of political groups, Council was now asked to consider amendments to the appointments to committees for 2014/15.

In discussing the report, Councillor Fox expressed his concern with regard to his deletion from the membership of the Scrutiny Committee, and Councillor Shrimplin also commented on his removal as a member of the Development Control Committee and expressed a view that this committee should have at least one independent Member serving on that committee. Councillor Fox confirmed that he did not wish to be a member of either the Housing Appeals or Appeals Committee as allocated under that revised amendments.

The Leader advised the two independent Members that if they were willing to form a group then they would have the same rights as all the other political groups with regard to the allocation of numbers of Members to committees.

(Councillor Jeal here left the meeting)

Proposer: Councillor T Wainwright Second: Councillor Williamson

That the proposed amendments to the appointments to committees for 2014/15 as detailed in the Chief Executive Officers report be agreed.

CARRIED

6. Appointments to Outside Bodies 2014/15

Council was asked to give consideration to a number of replacements on appointments to Outside Bodies for 2014/15.

Councillor Grey expressed her concern with regard to the proposed amendments to Outside Bodies and the fact that not all of the Council's political groups had been nominated as representatives on the Outside Bodies.

Proposer: Councillor Grey Second: Councillor Jones

That the status quo should remain Councillor Hacon's nominations on the Outside Bodies for 2014/15.

LOST

Proposer: Councillor Plant Second: Councillor Williamson

That approval be given to the following replacements on Outside Bodies for 2014/15:-

- St Nicholas Church Preservation Trust - Councillor M Coleman to replace Councillor Hacon
- Active Norfolk Board - Councillor Weymouth to replace Councillor Hacon
- Norfolk Coast Partnership (Joint Advisory Panel) - Councillor Weymouth to replace Councillor Shrimplin
- Waveney, Lower Yare and Lothingland IDV - Councillor Tate to replace Councillor Hacon
- First Move Furnishaid - Councillor Walker to replace Mrs V Pettit and Councillor T Wainwright to replace Councillor Pratt
- Great Yarmouth Racecourse - Councillor Peck to replace Councillor Hacon
- High School Foundation - Councillor Williamson to replace Councillor Robinson-Payne

CARRIED

7. Council Minutes

The Mayor presented the minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 23 September 2014.

With regard to item 5, Motions on Notice, Councillor Myers stated that there had been no inclusion in the minutes of the comments expressed by the Leader of the Council to Councillor Field during the course of the debate on this item.

Proposer: Councillor Myers
Second: Councillor Grey

That the comments expressed by the Leader of the Council to Councillor Field during the course of the debate on the Motions on Notice at the Council Meeting on the 23 September 2014 should be included in the minutes of the meeting.

7a. Cabinet Minutes

The Leader presented the minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on the 8 October and 12 November 2014.

7b. Scrutiny Minutes

The Chairman presented the minutes of the meetings held on the 25 September and 23 October 2014.

8. SPECIAL COUNCIL - 11 DECEMBER 2014

Her worship the Mayor reminded Members that a special meeting of the Council to

consider budget issues would be held on Thursday 11 December 2014 at 7:00pm.

The meeting ended at: 19:28