

# Council

## Minutes

Thursday, 11 July 2019 at 19:00

The Mayor Councillor Jeal (in the Chair); Councillors Annison, Bensly, Bird, Borg, Cameron, Candon, G Carpenter, P Carpenter, Cordiner- Achenbach, Fairhead, Flaxman-Taylor, Freeman, Galer, Grant, Hacon, D Hammond, P Hammond, Lawn, Martin, Mogford, Myers, Plant, Robinson-Payne, Scott-Greenard, Smith, Smith-Clare, Stenhouse, Talbot, Thompson, Wainwright, B Walker, C Walker, C M Walker, Waters-Bunn, Wells, Williamson, B Wright, T Wright.

Also in attendance at the above meeting were: Mrs S Oxtoby (Chief Executive), Ms C Whatling (Monitoring Officer), Ms K Watts (Strategic Director) Ms K Sly (Finance Director), Mr D Glason (Development Director) and Mr S Ellwood (Interim Democratic Services Manager)

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Wells declared an interest in the item relating to the Notice of Motion (d) by virtue of him being employed as the Parliamentary Assistant to the MP but indicated that his interest was such that he could speak and vote on the matter.

Councillor Mogford declared an interest in the item relating to the Notice of Motion (a) by virtue of him being over 75 years of age but indicated that his interest was such that he could speak and vote on the matter.

### **3 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

His Worship the Mayor advised that he had attended the Wheels Festival on Sunday 7 July which had been a fantastic event and thanked everyone who participated in or been involved in the organisation of it.

#### **4 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business.

#### **5 MINUTES**

Council considered the minutes of the meetings held on 15 and 16 May 2019.

Proposer : Councillor Smith

Seconder : Councillor Plant

That the minutes of the meetings held on the 15 and 16 May 2019 be approved.

CARRIED

#### **6 NOTICE OF MOTION**

Council considered the following motion:

(a) Motion submitted by Councillors Wainwright, C Walker, C M Walker, Waters-Bunn, B Walker, Borg and Smith-Clare

Councillor Wainwright referred to the notice of motion calling upon the Council to make representations to re-instate and provide funding for free TV Licenses for all the over 75's. This was seconded by Councillor C M Walker.

Councillor Smith then proposed the following amendment (seconded by Councillor P Carpenter)

That the Leader of the Council make representations to the Director General of the BBC, and urge him to re-instate and provide funding for free TV Licenses for all the over 75's, including the 7850 households in the Borough of Great Yarmouth who are currently in receipt of a free TV Licence, and to contact the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to ask him to make similar representations on this issue.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was carried. The substantive motion was subsequently

CARRIED

(B) Motion submitted by Councillors Smith-Clare, Wainwright, Borg, C M Walker, T Wright, B Williamson, C Walker and Waters-Bunn

Councillor Smith-Clare referred to the notice of motion calling upon the Council to make representations to the Minister for Work and Pensions to urgently review the 20 metre rule for Personal Independent Payments (PIP). This was seconded by Councillor Waters - Bunn.

That a recorded vote be taken on this issue as follows :

For the motion : Councillors , Bensly, , Borg, G Carpenter, P Carpenter, Cordiner- Achenbach, Fairhead, Flaxman-Taylor, , D Hammond, P Hammond, Jeal , Lawn, Martin, Mogford, Myers, Plant, Robinson-Payne, Scott-Greenard, Smith, Smith-Clare, Stenhouse, Talbot, Thompson, Wainwright, B Walker, C Walker, C M Walker, Waters-Bunn, Williamson, B Wright, T Wright.

Against the motion : Councillors Annison, Bird, Cameron, Candon, Freeman, Galer, Grant and Wells

Abstentions : Councillor P Carpenter

CARRIED

(c) Motion submitted by Councillors Flaxman-Taylor, Bensly, Wells, P Carpenter, Smith and Grant

Councillor P Carpenter referred to the notice of motion to make representations on climate change and supporting the renewable energy industry. This was seconded by Councillor Flaxman - Taylor.

Councillor Williamson then proposed the following amendment to number 3 (seconded by Councillor Wainwright)

Number 3 to have two parts (a) and (b), Part (a) as on the agenda and Part (b) to read :

In order for part (a) of this resolution to be effective and put into Government policy this Council asks that the Government adopts the following policy actions to fulfill their target and boost employment and innovation in the green energy sector :

1. Reverse the VAT increase from 5% to 20% on solar panels and to reinstate the 5% VAT rate
- 2.The Government reinstates the subsidy for electric cars to its original level
- 3.The Government introduces a viable Feed-in tariff rate to encourage home and business generation of electricity
- 4.Promotes the development of onshore wind power

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was lost.

The Council resolves:-

1. To instruct the Chief Executive to explore measures aimed to prevent the unnecessary and wasteful use of single use plastics within GYBC owned buildings, and to encourage GYBC contractors to take similar steps.
2. That the Policy and Resources Committee will establish a Working Group to explore ways of lowering the Council's carbon footprint. This Working Group should report to the Policy and Resources Committee, with a final report being presented to Full Council.
3. To instruct the Leader to write to The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, to reiterate our support for the renewable energy industry, and to encourage them to continue the Government's positive work supporting this important growth industry for Great Yarmouth.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
7. CARRIED
- 8.
- 9.

(D) Motion submitted by Councillors T Wright, B Wright, Wainwright, Robinson-Payne and Borg.

Councillor A Wright referred to the notice of motion calling upon the Council to offer support to the East Coast College and write to our MP asking him to support, influence and secure immediate funding. This was seconded by Councillor Robinson- Payne.

Councillor Smith then proposed the following amendment (seconded by Councillor Plant)

Considering the recent decision by East Coast College to re-locate some skills courses from Gt Yarmouth to Lowestoft. Gt Yarmouth Borough Council resolves to urgently write to request that the Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills, reviews the situation to help ensure that the necessary courses at the Gt Yarmouth campus are provided. Thus, ensuring that our residents have access to develop skills commensurate with the needs of all our industries.

The Council also resolves to express its disappointment that East Coast College continues to fail to properly prioritise Great Yarmouth, instead preferring to invest in Lowestoft.

We are disappointed that the College has decided to close the Ambitions

Restaurant, whilst retaining the provision in Lowestoft, which is home to a significantly smaller hospitality industry. This restaurant was a place for residents to experience first-hand, the skills of students, but also played a significant part in providing our tourism service industry with staff that have attained the necessary skills required to maintain a high-quality offering to tourists and residents.

We recognise that students will still have catering and hospitality courses on the Gt Yarmouth campus, however the fact remains that the ability to have practical experience in a restaurant environment is vital to the student's development and the requirement for them now to travel to Lowestoft will undoubtedly create difficulties, especially for students from our northern villages and North Norfolk.

This Council also resolves to offer our full support to East Coast College and write to our MP supporting his efforts to support the College.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was carried. The substantive motion was subsequently

CARRIED

## **7 2018-19 TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT**

On reference from the Policy and Resources Committee of 11 June 2019 Council considered the report which presented the treasury management activity for the 2018/19 financial year.

Proposer : Councillor Smith

Seconder : Councillor Wainwright

That the Treasury Management outturn report and indicators for 2018/19 be approved.

CARRIED

## **8 FINANCIAL OUTTURN REPORT 2018-19**

On reference from the Policy and Resources Committee of 11 June 2019 Council considered the draft outturn position for the General fund, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Programme for the 2018/19 financial year.

Proposer :Councillor Smith

Seconder : Councillor Plant

- 1) That the outturn position for the general fund revenue account for 2018/19 as included in the report and appendices be noted.
- 2) That the transfers to and from reserves (general and earmarked) as detailed within the report and Appendix along with an updated reserves statement (Appendix C) be approved.
- 3) That the surplus of £307,262 be transferred to the general reserve.
- 4) That the financing of the 2018/19 capital programme as detailed within the report and at Appendix D be approved.
- 5) That the updated capital programme 2019/20 to 2021/22 and the associated financing of the schemes as outlined within the report and detailed at Appendix E be approved.
- 6) That the allocation of £30,000 from year end surplus to underwrite the commitments for the 2019-20 events, pending the outcome of the BID ballot be approved.

CARRIED

## **9 FEES AND CHARGES BEACH HUTS**

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

## **10 FEES AND CHARGES - MEMORIALS AND TOWN HALL**

Council considered the report on the fees and charges for the Town Hall and the Waterways Memorials for 2019/20.

Proposer :Councillor Smith

Seconder : Councillor Wainwright

That the fees and charges for the Town Hall and the Waterways Memorials for 2019/20 as contained in the report be approved.

CARRIED

## **11 PROPERTY RENTAL COMPANY**

Council considered the report on the proposal to establish a Property Rental company to enable the Council to hold rental properties draft outturn position for the General fund, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Programme for the 2018/19 financial year.

Proposer : Councillor Smith

Seconder : Councillor Grant

1) That the scope and strategic objectives of the Property Rental company as contained in this report be approved and that these be incorporated within the Equinox Enterprises business plan.

2) That a 'sister' company to Equinox Enterprises be established to hold rental properties and that the appointment of the existing Directors of Equinox Enterprises as the Directors of the new Property Rental Company be approved.

3) That authority be delegated to the Council's Strategic Director who, in conjunction with the Monitoring Officer, will establish the new company and engage a letting partner to undertake tenancy management for the rental properties.

CARRIED

## **12 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

RESOLVED

(a) that consideration to the appointment of a Member to serve on the Community Economic Development Panel be deferred

(b) The names of Councillors D Hammond and C M Walker were submitted to serve as the substitute Member to on the Norfolk Health and Wellbeing Board.

Voting was by show of hands and Councillor D Hammond was appointed to serve as the substitute Member on the Norfolk Health and Wellbeing Board.

## **13 SERVICE COMMITTEE DECISION LIST FOR THE PERIOD 3 TO 11 JUNE 2019**

Council considered the service committee decision list for the period 3 to 11 June 2019.

Proposer : Councillor Smith

Seconder : Councillor Plant

That the service committee decision list for the period 3 to 11 June 2019 be

received.

CARRIED

#### **14 STRATEGIC SITE ALLOCATION, NORTH QUAY, GREAT YARMOUTH**

Council considered the report of the Director of Development of a strategy to deliver the land assembly and redevelopment of North Quay in Great Yarmouth, a strategic allocation in the adopted Great Yarmouth Local Plan Core Strategy.

Confidential appendices to the report were contained in Agenda Item 17 but Members did not have any questions on these.

Proposer : Councillor Smith

Seconder : Councillor Wainwright

- 1) That the ongoing engagement with North Quay property owners to facilitate redevelopment, as set out in the North Quay property acquisition strategy be endorsed.
- 2) That a capital budget of £2.5 million to be financed by borrowing for the acquisition of the properties identified in this report be committed.
- 3) That the commissioning of technical studies in relation to: ground conditions and land quality; archaeology; utilities; flood risk and drainage; transport; topographical; air quality; ecology; and noise assessments be noted.
- 4) That the the development of a Supplementary Planning Document/Planning Brief to further guide the redevelopment of the North Quay area be noted.

CARRIED

#### **15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items of any other business.

The meeting ended at: 21:40