

Cabinet

Minutes

Wednesday, 10 December 2014 at 18:30

Present: Councillor T Wainwright (in the chair), Councillors Linden, Pratt, Walker and Williamson.

Councillors Plant, Connell, Grey and Weymouth attended as observers.

Mrs J Beck (Director of Customer Services), Mr R Read (Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods), Mr R Hodds (Cabinet Secretary) and Mr A Radford (Consultant)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jeal and the Chief Executive Officer.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 12th November 2014 were confirmed.

4. ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, ADVISORY GROUPS, REGULATORY COMMITTEES AND AREA COMMITTEES

Cabinet was advised that there were no issues to consider.

5. OCTOBER 2014 FINANCE REPORT

Cabinet considered the Group Manager (Finance) report on the October 2014 Finance Monitoring Report.

The Cabinet Secretary reminded Cabinet that this matter was subject to call in.

RESOLVED:

That the October 2014 Finance Monitoring Report be noted.

6. COUNCIL TAX AND BUSINESS RATES COURT COSTS

Cabinet considered the Group Manager (Transformation) report which sought approval to the proposed increase in the court costs for council tax and business rates in accordance with the regulations.

RESOLVED:

That Council be requested to approve the court summons costs to £75 with effect from the 1st April 2015.

7. COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2015

Cabinet considered the Director of Customer Services report which sought approval of the 2015 Local Council Tax Support/ Reduction Scheme.

The Director of Customer Services reported that each year it is a legal requirement for Council to decide what the following years Local Council Tax Support/ Reduction Scheme will be, even if there are no changes to it from the existing previous year. Members were advised that consultation in relation to the consideration for a new scheme closed on the 23rd November 2014, and that consultation was based on the original government reduction of 10% across all authorities with pensioners protected.

RESOLVED:

That Council be recommended to approve option 1 - current scheme, as detailed in the Director of Customers Services report.

8. GREAT YARMOUTH SIGNAGE STRATEGY

Cabinet considered the Director of Customer Services report which, as part of the work undertaken by the Great Yarmouth Signage Working Group, detailed progress to date on developing a new policy to promote high quality signage in the Great Yarmouth town centre.

Members were reminded that at its meeting on the 10th June 2014 the Great Yarmouth Area Committee endorsed the proposal that the Council should seek the repair of existing signage, consolidate the positioning of existing finger posts and help to de-clutter the urban environment.

RESOLVED:

1. That approval be given to repair existing signage, consolidate/rebalance positioning and de-clutter existing signage, to be met from within existing budget.
2. That further consideration be given to an overall signage strategy, hierarchy for the Borough together with investigation of funding opportunities.
3. That the Great Yarmouth Area Committee be advised of 1 and 2 above.

9. COMMITTEE FORM OF GOVERNANCE

Cabinet considered the Chief Executive Officer's report on the proposal to change to a committee form of governance for Great Yarmouth Borough Council.

The Cabinet Secretary reminded Cabinet that this matter had been discussed at full

Council on the 23rd September 2014 when a motion had been agreed to consider a change to the Councils form of governance but that the implications of the costs and requirements of introducing a committee form of governance, which is already included in the Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2014/15 be fully considered by the Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet and full Council before a final decision is made.

The Cabinet Secretary also reported that this matter had been considered by the Scrutiny Committee and at its meeting on the 4th December when it had been agreed to recommend to Cabinet that the current status quo should remain for the Councils form of governance.

In accordance with the agreed motion at Council, the Chairman reminded Cabinet that this matter would be discussed by Council at its meeting on the 13th January 2015.

RESOLVED:

That Council be recommended to agree that the status quo should remain for the Councils form of governance.

10. MAYORALTY

Cabinet considered the Chief Executive Officers report on the process for the appointment of the Mayor.

Cabinet was also advised that it was proposed that Councillor Shirley Weymouth be appointed as Mayor of the Borough of Great Yarmouth for the Municipal Year 2015/16.

RESOLVED:

1. That in view of the current political make up of the Council, the Council be asked to consider that the appointment of the Mayor should continue to alternate between the political groups but that this should now be based on the three party system rather than the previous two party system, and that the appointment of the Mayor for 2015/16 be nominated from the Conservative Group, for 2016/17 from the UKIP Group and for the 2017/18 from the Labour Group and then to alternate for future years.

2. That Council be recommended to approve the appointment of Councillor Shirley Weymouth as Mayor of the Borough of Great Yarmouth for 2015/16.

11. DETERMINATION OF FUTURE SPECIFICATION, LEASE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MARINA CENTRE AND PHOENIX POOL

Cabinet considered the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods report which set out the current position in relation to the Marina Centre and Phoenix Pool, the lease and management agreement, current work in progress and a position statement for the future of the Marina Centre.

The Cabinet Secretary reminded Members that this matter was subject to call in.

RESOLVED:

That approval be given to the forward plan and draft position statement as set out in the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods report.

The meeting ended at: 20:30