

## Norfolk County Council

### Minutes of the Meeting Held on 15 May 2017

<b>Present:</b>		
	Mr Tim <b>Adams</b>	Miss A <b>Kemp</b>
	Mr Tony <b>Adams</b>	Mr K <b>Kiddie</b>
	Mr S <b>Aquarone</b>	Mr M <b>Kiddle-Morris</b>
	Mr S <b>Askew</b>	Mr B <b>Long</b>
	Ms J <b>Barnard</b>	Mr I <b>Mackie</b>
	Mr D <b>Bills</b>	Mr E <b>Maxfield</b>
	Mr B <b>Borrett</b>	Mr G <b>Middleton</b>
	Ms C <b>Bowes</b>	Mr J <b>Mooney</b>
	Mr R <b>Brame</b>	Mr S <b>Morphew</b>
	Mrs J <b>Brociek-Coulton</b>	Mr G <b>Nobbs</b>
	Mrs S <b>Butikofer</b>	Ms J <b>Oliver</b>
	Mrs P <b>Carpenter</b>	Mr G <b>Peck</b>
	Mr M <b>Castle</b>	Mr G <b>Plant</b>
	Mr S <b>Clancy</b>	Mr R <b>Price</b>
	Miss K <b>Clipsham</b>	Mr A <b>Proctor</b>
	Mr D <b>Collis</b>	Mr W <b>Richmond</b>
	Mr E <b>Colman</b>	Mr D <b>Roper</b>
	Ms E <b>Corlett</b>	Mr D <b>Rowntree</b>
	Mr S <b>Dark</b>	Ms C <b>Rumsby</b>
	Mrs M <b>Dewsbury</b>	Mr M <b>Sands</b>
	Mr D <b>Douglas</b>	Mr E <b>Seward</b>
	Mr P <b>Duigan</b>	Mr C <b>Smith</b>
	Mr F <b>Eagle</b>	Mr T <b>Smith</b>
	Mr T <b>East</b>	Mr M <b>Smith-Clare</b>
	Mr S <b>Eyre</b>	Mr B <b>Spratt</b>
	Mr T <b>FitzPatrick</b>	Mr B <b>Stone</b>
	Mr C <b>Foulger</b>	Mrs M <b>Stone</b>
	Mr T <b>Garrod</b>	Mr M <b>Storey</b>
	Mr A <b>Grant</b>	Dr M <b>Strong</b>
	Mrs S <b>Gurney</b>	Mr H <b>Thirtle</b>
	Mr R <b>Hanton</b>	Mrs A <b>Thomas</b>
	Mr D <b>Harrison</b>	Mr V <b>Thomson</b>
	M Chenery of <b>Horsbrugh</b>	Mr J <b>Timewell</b>
	Mr H <b>Humphrey</b>	Ms K <b>Vincent</b>
	Mr B <b>Iles</b>	Mrs C <b>Walker</b>
	Mr A <b>Jamieson</b>	Mr J <b>Ward</b>
	Mr T <b>Jermy</b>	Mr B <b>Watkins</b>
	Mrs B <b>Jones</b>	Mr A <b>White</b>
	Dr C <b>Jones</b>	Mr M <b>Wilby</b>
	Mr C <b>Jordan</b>	Ms S <b>Young</b>

Apologies for absence were received from Mr N Dixon, Mr J Fisher, Mr R Oliver and Ms S Squire.

## **1 Election of Chairman**

1.1 Mr I Mackie moved, seconded by Mr T Garrod, that Mr J Ward be elected Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year.

1.2 There being no other nominations, it was **RESOLVED**

That Mr J Ward be elected Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year.

1.3 (Mr J Ward, Chairman, in the Chair)

1.4 Mr Ward, having made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office, thanked the Council for the honour and privilege conferred upon him and formally took the Chair.

## **2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

2.1 The minutes of the County Council meeting held on 10 April 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **3 Election of Vice-Chairman**

3.1 Mr B Iles moved, seconded by Mr H Humphrey, that Mrs M Stone be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

3.4 There being no other nominations, it was **RESOLVED**

That Mrs M Stone be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

## **4 Vote of Thanks to the Outgoing Chairman**

4.1 Mr C Jordan, as Leader of the Council, proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Chairman thanking him for his hard work and dedication and for all that he had done for Norfolk during his term of office, especially as he had suffered a period of serious illness during the year.

4.2 Mr S Morphew seconded the motion, thanking him for his hard work and dedication whilst he was Chairman. Mr D Roper also paid tribute to the hard work of Mr Collis.

4.3 Following the motion being carried, it was

### **RESOLVED**

That the Council place on record its grateful thanks to Mr D Collis, stating that he had performed his duties admirably and had been a good ambassador for the County.

4.4 Mr Collis addressed the Council saying that it had been an honour and a privilege to serve as Chairman of Norfolk County Council, in particular having an opportunity to work with all the Councillors. He thanked all the Councillors and staff for their support during his year of office and in particular thanked the Chairman's PA, Mrs Trish

Rodgers-Daymond and the Managing Director for the support they had given. He added that he had had an enjoyable year, promoting Norfolk and had met many interesting people. He also thanked his Partner, Margaret, for her unfailing support, particularly during his period of illness.

## **5 Chairman's Announcements**

- 5.1 The Chairman drew Council's attention to the additional item at 8a on the supplementary agenda and the tabling of item 9 on the supplementary agenda.

## **6 Declarations of Interest**

- 6.1 There were no declarations of interest.

## **7 Election of Leader of the Council**

- 7.1 Mr B Spratt moved, seconded by Mrs S Gurney, that Mr C Jordan be elected Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

- 7.2 There being no other nominations, it was **RESOLVED** that  
Mr C Jordan be elected Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

## **8 Election of Deputy Leader of the Council**

- 8.1 Mr C Jordan moved, seconded by Mr B Iles, that Mrs A Thomas be elected Deputy Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

- 8.2 There being no other nominations it was **RESOLVED** that:

- 8.3 Mrs A Thomas be elected Deputy Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

## **9 Recommendations of the Policy & Resources Committee arising from the Constitution Advisory Group of 1 March 2017 - Creation of Business and Property Committee**

- 9.1 Council received the recommendations report setting out proposals for the creation of a Business and Property Committee. The recommendation in the report was duly moved by the Leader and seconded by the Deputy Leader.

- 9.2 Upon the recommendation in the report being put to a vote, Council **RESOLVED** to:  
Consider the recommendations set out in the report, with the size of the Business and Property Committee to be determined at agenda item 9 (Size and Proportional Allocation of Seats on Committees).

## **10 Size and Proportional Allocation of Seats on Committees.**

- 10.1 The report by the Head of Democratic Services was received, setting out the proposed allocations for the new Committee system, taking into account the proposal to establish a Business and Property Committee and to delete the Economic Development Sub-Committee. The Recommendations in the report were moved by the Leader and seconded by the Deputy Leader.

- 10.2 Mr D Roper, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, moved an amendment to the report (attached at Appendix A), which was duly seconded by Mr B Watkins.
- 10.3 Upon being put to a vote, on a show of hands, with 28 votes in favour, the amendment was **LOST**.
- 10.4 Mr C Jordan then duly moved an amendment to paragraph 2.4 of the report, as follows:

<b>Committee and number of places</b>	<b>Cons</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>
Policy & Resources (13)	9	2	2
Adult Social Care (13)	8	3	2
Business and Property (13)	8	3	2
Children's Services (13)	9	3	1
Communities (13)	9	3	1
Environment, Devt & Transport (13)	8-9	3	2 1
Planning Regulatory (13)	9 8	3	4 2
Health Overview & Scrutiny (8)	5	2	1
Audit (7)	5	1	1
Standards (7)	5	1	1
General Purposes (5)	3	1	1
Pensions (5)	3	1	1
Personnel (5)	3	1	1
<b>TOTAL ALLOCATED (128)</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Overall number of places that each group should have</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>17</b>

- 10.5 Upon being put to a vote, on a show of hands, Council **RESOLVED** to:
- 10.5.1 **Agree** the political composition of the Committees as set out in paragraph 10.4 above.
- 10.5.2 **Note** the allocation of places to political groups for the other Committees, etc. as set out in Appendix B of the report.
- 10.5.3 **Agree** that the group Leaders notify the Head of Democratic Services by Friday 19 May 2017 of their proposed appointments to all the Committees, etc. as set out in Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Appendix 1 of the report and the appointments then formally be made by the Head of Democratic Services under the delegated powers set out in the Constitution.
- 10.5.4 **Agree** the following appointments:
- 10.5.4.a The third Member to sit on the Health and Wellbeing Board – Mr D Bills.
- 10.5.4.b Upon being put to a ballot, the 2 Members to serve on the Norwich Highways Agency Joint Committee –  
Mr J Fisher - Chairman  
Mrs K Vincent
- 10.5.4.c The member and named substitute to serve on the Norfolk Parking Partnership Joint Committee –

Mr A White  
Substitute Member – Mr M Castle

10.5.4.d The member and named substitute to serve on the Planning and Traffic Regulation Outside London Joint Committee:  
Mr A White  
Substitute member – Mr M Castle

10.5.4.e The Member and named substitute to serve on the National Bus Lane Adjudication Committee:  
Mr A White  
Substitute Member – Mr D Douglas

## **12 Appointment of the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Service Committees**

12.1 The Leader, Mr C Jordan, seconded by Mrs A Thomas, put forward the following names for Chairs/Vice Chairs of Committees

### **Adult Social Care**

Chair: Mr B Borrett  
Vice-Chair: Mrs S Gurney

### **Children's Services**

Chair: Mrs P Carpenter  
Vice-Chair: Mr S Dark

### **Communities**

Chair: Mrs M Dewsbury  
Vice-Chair: Mr M Kiddle-Morris

### **Environment, Development and Transport**

Chair: Mr M Wilby  
Vice-Chair: Mr S Clancy

### **Business and Property Committee**

Chair: Mr K Kiddie  
Vice-Chair: Mr B Iles

12.3 There being no other nominations Council **RESOLVED** accordingly.

## **13 Questions to Leader of the Council**

### **13.1 Question from Mr S Morphew**

Mr Morphew asked the Leader what his top priority was for this coming year and how Norfolk would be able to judge his success or failure.

The Leader responded that all of the programme which had been set out was important, with one of the most important things being business, particularly economic development, which, coupled with broadband and mobile phone signal improvements would generate increased business. The Leader added that, as Norfolk did not have motorways, technological motorways were needed to allow worldwide trade, which was a real priority.

**13.2 Question from Mr D Roper**

Mr Roper said that many people would have received a blue leaflet through their doors prior to the local election, claiming, amongst many things, that the Conservative group had prevented cuts to the fire service. He added that those Members who were in the Council at the time knew that this was nonsense and at the budget debate in February, a proposal to withdraw cuts to the fire service was voted against by the Conservative group. He asked the Leader if he agreed that it was now time for a ring-fence at the very least to be put around fire service funding.

The Leader replied that the fire service would be protected, as would other services.

**13.3 Question from Mr T FitzPatrick**

Mr FitzPatrick asked if the Leader shared his view that the Committee system has had its day and that a move back to a Cabinet system was needed as soon as possible to allow the Council to run effectively and with clear lines of responsibility. Mr FitzPatrick said if that was the case, would the Leader agree to write to the Secretary of State, after the general election, to request that the law be changed so that we did not have to wait another two years before a change could be made should this Council decide to change its system of governance, following a full debate in this Chamber.

The Leader replied that he shared Mr FitzPatrick's view and that he had never been happy with the Committee system as it did not work and did not create accountability. The Leader added that he would be delighted to write to the Secretary of State after the election, to request an immediate return to the Cabinet system.

**13.4 Question from Ms E Corlett**

Ms Corlett said she was surprised and concerned to hear in the Leader's reference to his list of priorities that he had put technological motorways ahead of protection of vulnerable children in Norfolk. Ms Corlett asked the Leader how far down his list of priorities was children's services and the protection of vulnerable children and young people, as well as the improvement plan that needed to be kept up to date at pace.

The Leader replied that Children's Services was a priority, along with economic development and vulnerable people and mental health.

**13.5 Question from Dr M Strong**

Dr Strong referred to the debate and exchange of opinion on a vote taken at the Adult Social Care Committee at a previous Council meeting. Dr Strong asked the Leader if the decision taken to cut £60m from Adult Social Care could be reconsidered.

The Leader replied that Adult Social Care Committee would have an opportunity to reconsider the cut.

**13.6 Question from Ms A Kemp.**

Ms Kemp referred to the Willows site and asked the Leader if the first test of the new Business and Property Committee should be to take the Willows site out of the waste plan and put it into the employment plan, possibly by putting some industrial units there to support business and job creation and possibly raise the level of wages which was low in King's Lynn. She asked if the Leader would guarantee to do that and, if so, how soon.

The Leader replied that the Council had moved on from incineration and that he personally did not think the Willows site was suitable for waste and that it should be

used for the benefit of King's Lynn, possibly for industrial use. The Leader said he had asked the Environment, Development and Transport Committee to consider using the site for employment land use as opposed to waste use.

**13.7 Question from Mr T Jermy**

Mr Jermy said that during April he had visited the Princes Trust Team in Thetford which was the third visit he had undertaken in the last year and that to see the transformation that the young people went through from the start of the 12 week programme to the end was quite something. Mr Jermy added that he had been disappointed to learn that session was the last one in Thetford, because, linking to Cllr Roper's question about budget cuts to the fire service, they were no longer running the scheme from Thetford which was a shame. Mr Jermy added that he was shocked when he had asked and been informed that no arrangements had been put in place to monitor where those young people who could have gone to the Princes Trust programme would end up and what was going to happen to them. Mr Jermy asked the Leader to give some reassurance that, as a Council, we thoroughly review the effects of decisions we make as a Council in advance and also put measures in place to monitor the impact of those decisions.

The Leader gave an assurance that everything under his administration would be for the benefit of Norfolk overall, as well as the youngsters.

**13.8 Question from Mr H Humphrey**

Mr Humphrey said a number of comments had been made by Labour during the election campaign about Children's Services performance starting to worsen since the Conservatives took back control of the Council. He asked if the Leader could confirm whether this was true.

The Leader said that it was certainly not true and in fact the reverse was true. The Leader read out an extract from the latest Ofsted Monitoring Visit on 1 and 2 March 2017 which said "Since the last monitoring visit the Local Authority had taken decisive action to speed up the pace of improvement. A new, more confident, visible senior management team was providing a clear sense of purpose and direction".

**13.9 Question from Mr E Seward**

Mr Seward referred to the fact that the Head of a Primary School in his Division, following an 8% budget cut in the new school funding formula, wrote to parents in March saying "Decisions on our school funding will no longer be driven by what is best for our children ... but rather what we can afford and are legally required to provide as a minimum".

Mr Seward continued that this was unlikely to be an isolated case and therefore, had any appraisal been done by the Council on the impact on our schools for the new school funding formula with a view to making representations to Government on changing the formula to make it fair for all our schools.

The Leader replied that this topic would be discussed at the next County Council Network meeting and that the Chairman of the Network, Paul Carter, was in discussion with the Government in an attempt to improve the school funding formula.

**13.10 Question from Mr B Watkins**

Mr Watkins asked the Leader, whilst recognising Council had recently been in discussion with the NHS about how the additional £35m of social care would be spent in the next three years, what hope he could offer to older, frail and vulnerable

people of the county that the cuts to the building resilience programme, supported by the Conservative Group at the budget meeting would either wholly or partially be restored. He asked the Leader where that was on his list of priorities.

The Leader replied that we were required to work with the NHS and that Members were aware that the NHS owed Norfolk County Council a considerable amount of money that they hadn't yet transferred. The Leader reassured Council that everything possible would be done for the vulnerable people in Norfolk.

**13.11 Question from Mr D Harrison**

Mr Harrison referred to the Benjamin Foundation being under-funded. He added that the Foundation provided funding for a care home for vulnerable children in Aylsham which was likely to be deleted. He asked the Leader what that said for vulnerable people, particularly the most vulnerable people that had been taken from their parents and put into contained accommodation, with a warden, in Aylsham.

The Leader replied that he was not aware of the circumstances of that particular case in Aylsham, but reiterated that overall the Administration was doing what it could.

**14 Reports from Committees**

**14.1 Report of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 6 April 2017.**

M Chenery of Horsburgh moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

**14.2 Report of the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting held on 26 April 2017.**

Mr B Watkins moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report

**15 To answer questions under Rule 8.3 of the Council Procedure Rules**

**15.1** There were none.

The meeting concluded at 11.20am.

**Chairman**



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## Size and Proportional Allocation of Seats on Committees.

### Proposed Amendment from Liberal Democrat Group.

2.0 **Based upon existing committees of 17 being changed to 15 and the Economic Development Sub-Committee deleted and replaced by a new Business and Property Committee of 15**

2.1 There would be 142 main committee places. The overall allocation of the 156 places to political groups is as follows:-

Conservative - 94

Labour - 29

Liberal Democrats - 19

**TOTAL - 142**

2.2 The table below sets out the allocation of places to each committee when the proportionality formula is applied to each committee individually.

<b>Committee and number of places</b>	<b>Cons</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>
Policy & Resources (15)	10	3	2
Adult Social Care (15)	10	3	2
Children's Services (15)	10	3	2
Communities (15)	10	3	2
Environment, Devt & Transport (15)	10	3	2
Business & Property (15)	10	3	2
Planning Regulatory (17)	10	3	2
Health Overview & Scrutiny (8)	5	2	1
Audit (7)	5	1	1
Standards (7)	5	1	1
General Purposes (5)	3	1	1
Pensions (5)	3	1	1
Personnel (5)	3	1	1
<b>TOTAL ALLOCATED (142)</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Overall number of places that each group should have</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>19</b>

2.3 The table shows that there is a need to address the following discrepancies between the overall number of places to which each group is entitled and the number of places they have when the proportionality is applied individually to each committee:-

Labour – Should have 29 but are allocated 28 and therefore need to have 1 more place

Lib Dem – Should have 19 but are allocated 20 and therefore need to have 1 fewer place

2.4 Consequently, 1 Lib Dem place needs to go to Labour on a committee of 7.

**Upon being put to a vote, on a show of hands, with 28 votes in favour, the amendment was LOST.**