

**Norfolk County Council**
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held at 10am on Tuesday 9 May 2023**

<b>Present:</b>		
	<b>ADAMS</b> Tony	<b>KIRK</b> Julian
	<b>ANNISON</b> Carl	<b>LONG</b> Brian
	<b>AQUARONE</b> Steffan	<b>MACKIE</b> Ian
	<b>ASKEW</b> Stephen	<b>MASON BILLIG</b> Kay
	<b>BAMBRIDGE</b> Lesley	<b>MAXFIELD</b> Ed
	<b>BENSLY</b> James	<b>MORIARTY</b> Jim
	<b>BILLS</b> David	<b>MORPHEW</b> Steve
	<b>BLUNDELL</b> Sharon	<b>NEALE</b> Paul
	<b>BORRETT</b> Bill	<b>NUNN</b> William
	<b>BOWES</b> Claire	<b>OLIVER</b> Rhodri
	<b>BROCIEK-COULTON</b> Julie	<b>OSBORN</b> Jamie
	<b>CARPENTER</b> Graham	<b>PECK</b> Greg
	<b>CARPENTER</b> Penny	<b>PENFOLD</b> Saul
	<b>CLANCY</b> Stuart	<b>PLANT</b> Graham
	<b>COLWELL</b> Robert	<b>PRICE</b> Ben
	<b>CONNOLLY</b> Ed	<b>PRICE</b> Richard
	<b>CORLETT</b> Emma	<b>REILLY</b> Matthew
	<b>DALBY</b> Michael	<b>RICHMOND</b> Will
	<b>DARK</b> Stuart	<b>RUMSBY</b> Chrissie
	<b>DEWSBURY</b> Margaret	<b>SANDS</b> Mike
	<b>DIXON</b> Nigel	<b>SAVAGE</b> Robert
	<b>DUIGAN</b> Phillip	<b>SAYERS</b> David
	<b>EAGLE</b> Fabian	<b>SHIRES</b> Lucy
	<b>ELMER</b> Daniel	<b>SMITH</b> Carl
	<b>FISHER</b> John	<b>SMITH-CLARE</b> Mike
	<b>FITZPATRICK</b> Tom	<b>STONE</b> Barry
	<b>GURNEY</b> Shelagh	<b>STOREY</b> Martin
	<b>HEMPSALL</b> Lana	<b>THOMAS</b> Alison
	<b>HORSBRUGH</b> Michael Chenery of	<b>VARDY</b> Eric
	<b>JAMES</b> Jane	<b>VINCENT</b> Karen
	<b>JAMIESON</b> Andrew	<b>WALKER</b> Colleen
	<b>JERMY</b> Terry	<b>WARD</b> John
	<b>JONES</b> Brenda	<b>WATKINS</b> Brian
	<b>KEMP</b> Alexandra	<b>WEBB</b> Maxine
	<b>KIDDIE</b> Keith	<b>WHITE</b> Tony
	<b>KIDDLE-MORRIS</b> Mark	<b>WHYMARK</b> Fran

**Present: 72**

(Cllr Karen Vincent in the Chair)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Tim Adams, Cllr Alison Birmingham, Cllr Nick Daubney, Cllr Chris Dawson, Cllr Andy Grant, Cllr Judy Oliver, Cllr Andrew Proctor, Cllr Steve Riley, Cllr Dan Roper, Cllr Vic Thomson and Cllr Martin Wilby.

## 1B Chair's Remarks

The Chair took this opportunity to mark the sad passing of County Councillor Barry Duffin who was a serving Conservative County Councillor for West Depwade who died on Easter Sunday following an accident. Barry was an active member of the Scrutiny Committee. He also served on the Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, on the Joint Museums Committee, on Norse and other Committees, and had recently been appointed Vice-Chair of Corporate Select Committee. Known for his hard work and commitment Barry was respected and liked by colleagues across the wide political spectrum; he would be missed.

The Chair also asked Council to remember as part of a minute of silence Maran McKay who was a former County Councillor for Mancroft Division between 2001 and 2009 who passed away recently and would also be sadly missed.

Members of the Council then held a minute's silence in their memory.

The Chair reminded Councillors that meetings of the Council would not normally extend beyond 3 hours unless this was extended in accordance with rule 11. 1 (n) of the Council Procedure Rules, however it was the intention of the new Chair to enact rule 4 (v) and rule 4 (vi) of the constitution once the meeting period has elapsed if any business remains. The practical application of this was that the meeting would continue on a vote only basis.

## 2. Election of Chair

2.1. Cllr Kay Mason Billig moved, seconded by Cllr Andrew Jamieson, that Cllr Barry Stone be elected Chair of the County Council for the ensuing year.

2.2 There being no other nominations, it was **RESOLVED** on a show of hands that

2.3 Cllr Barry Stone be elected Chair of the County Council for the ensuing year.

2.4 Cllr Barry Stone, having made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office, thanked the Council for the honour and privilege conferred upon him and then formally took the Chair.

(Cllr Barry Stone in the Chair)

## 3. Minutes

3.1 The minutes of the Council meeting held on 28 March 2023 were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

In confirming the minutes, the following points were noted and amended in the minutes:

1. **Page 9, para 7.6:** Cllr Alexandra Kemp awaited a response from the Deputy Leader.
2. **Page 17, para 18.2:** Cllr Colwell moved the motion on Rights of Rivers seconded by Cllr Jamie Osborn.

## 4 Election of Vice-Chair

- 4.1 Cllr Kay Mason Billig moved, seconded by Cllr Andrew Jamieson, that Cllr Stuart Dark be elected Vice-Chair of the Council for the ensuing year.
- 4.2 There being no other nominations, it was **RESOLVED** on a show of hands that
- 4.3 Cllr Stuart Dark be elected Vice-Chair of the Council for the ensuing year.
- 4.4 Cllr Stuart Dark, having made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office, thanked the Council for the honour and privilege conferred upon him.

## 5 **Vote of Thanks to the Outgoing Chair**

- 5.1 The Chair said that he wished to thank Cllr Karen Vincent for undertaking the role of Chair for the last year, she had been a true ambassador for Norfolk.
- 5.2 Cllr Penny Carpenter (a previous Chair of the Council) speaking for the Conservative Group, Cllr Steve Morphew, Leader of the Labour Group, Cllr Brian Watkins, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Cllr Ben Price, Leader of the Green Group, and Cllr Ed Maxfield Leader of the Independent Group each proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Chair, Cllr Karen Vincent, for her representation of Norfolk County Council, dedication to her duties and integrity throughout her term of office.
- 5.3 Following the motion being carried, it was

### **RESOLVED**

That the Council place on record its grateful thanks to Cllr Karen Vincent and that she had been an excellent ambassador for the County.

- 5.4 In reply to the vote of thanks, Cllr Karen Vincent addressed the Council saying that it had been an honour and a privilege to serve as Chair of Norfolk County Council and that she wished to give special thanks to Cllr Andrew Proctor, who gave her such strong support during her time as Chair, and to wish Cllr Barry Stone every success in his new role.
- 5.5 Cllr Vincent said that she had chosen supporting and enabling children and young people to flourish as her theme for the year. Throughout the year, Cllr Vincent had aimed to shine a spotlight on helping young people to reach their potential and had championed the flourish strategy at every opportunity. Since the launch of the strategy in May 2022, 160 organisations had committed to the shared ambition of flourish and more than 120 pledges to support children and young people in Norfolk were received, and this number continued to rise.
- 5.6 Cllr Vincent said that it was an honour to represent the Council at the many extraordinary events that had taken place during the year and a privilege to present awards to young people in recognition of their achievements, including at the Apprentice Norfolk Awards and the St Edmunds Annual Awards, also it was an honour to see talented musicians perform at the Royal Albert Hall supported by the Norfolk Music Hub and to attend events associated with The Princes Trust Team Programme.
- 5.7 Cllr Vincent sent her best wishes to those Councillors who were unable to attend today's meeting because they were unwell.
- 5.8 Cllr Vincent thanked Revd Albert Cadmore for his assistance and the experts in the IT department for their help throughout the year. Cllr Vincent also paid especial thanks to officers from Democratic and Regulatory Services who had helped steer her through

Chairman's events and with the running of Council meetings, and paid tribute to her husband Shaun, her consort for the year.

6 **Any Items of Business the Chair decides should be considered as a matter of urgency.**

6.1 There were no such items.

7 **Declarations of Interest**

7.1 Cllr Emma Corlett declared an other interest related to motion 7 as she was employed by the NEU.

7.2 Cllr Mike Sands declared an other interest related to motion 7 as he was a member of NEU.

8 **Election of Leader of the Council**

8.1 Cllr Andrew Jamieson proposed, seconded by Cllr Ian Mackie, that Cllr Kay Mason Billig be elected Leader of the Council.

8.2 There being no other nominations and upon being put to a vote it was **RESOLVED** on a show of hands that

Cllr Kay Mason Billig be elected Leader of the Council.

9 **To receive any announcements from the Chair, Leader or Head of Paid Service**

9.1 The Chair said that his theme for the year ahead would be based on the concept and principles of technology with a particular emphasis on promoting an awareness of degree level apprenticeships in technology based subjects amongst 14–19-year-old students.

9.2 The Leader welcomed Cllr William Nunn to his first meeting of the Council following his recent election as the County Councillor for the Swaffham Division.

9.3 The Leader paid tribute to the work of Cllr Andrew Proctor, the previous Leader of the Council, for placing the Council in such a strong position and she wished him well on a speedy recovery and looked forward to seeing him in the Council Chamber again as soon as possible. The Leader said that under the leadership of Cllr Andrew Proctor the Council had agreed an "in principle" devolution deal, a County Deal for Norfolk. The Council had also been recognised by Ofsted as good for our services for children, young people and families and had continued to make itself more efficient and focus on funding for all key services. The new Administration was about evolution and not revolution, continuing the good work that the Council had been doing in listening to residents to champion Norfolk causes. The Leader said that Norfolk was in the front line of climate change and she wanted to pay tribute to the work of coastal district colleagues in all that they were doing to protect residents in areas vulnerable to erosion and obtain more funds to protect Norfolk's coastline. While the Administration would continue to press Government for its fair share of funding for this and for other important areas of its work, it would also strive to make the Council as efficient as possible and wanted to work collaboratively with everyone to achieve its aims.

10 **To be notified by the Leader of the number of members to be appointed to the Cabinet, those Members' names and their intended portfolio of responsibilities.**

10.1 The Leader formally announced the following appointments and portfolios:

Strategy and Governance	Cllr Kay Mason Billig
Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Finance	Cllr Andrew Jamieson (Deputy Cllr Greg Peck)
Adult Social Care	Cllr Alison Thomas (Deputy Cllr Shelagh Gurney)
Children's Services	Cllr Penny Carpenter (Deputy Cllr Karen Vincent)
Communities and Fire	Cllr Margaret Dewsbury
Corporate Services and Innovation	Cllr Jane James
Economic Growth	Cllr Fabian Eagle
Environment and Waste	Cllr Eric Vardy
Highways, Infrastructure and Transport	Cllr Graham Plant (Deputy Cllr Lana Hemsall)
Public Health and Wellbeing	Cllr Bill Borrett

11. **Appointment of Committees for the Municipal Year**

11.1 Cllr Kay Mason Billig, seconded by Cllr Andrew Jamieson, moved the recommendations contained in the report at item 11 of the supplementary agenda.

11.2 Upon being put to a vote it was **RESOLVED** on a show of hands that Council:

1. Approve the appointment of the Council's committees for the Municipal year as listed in the report.
2. Approve the political allocation of the Committee places shown in Table 1 of the report.
3. Approve the membership of Council Committees and Joint Committees for the Municipal year as shown in Appendix A of the report.

12 **To appoint the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees and appoint to outside bodies for the Municipal year 2023/24**

12.1 Cllr Kay Mason Billig, seconded by Cllr Andrew Jamieson, moved the recommendations contained in the report at item 12 of the supplementary agenda together with a list of Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs for 2023/24 which was laid on the table (and can be found published on the Committee pages website).

12.2 Upon being put to a vote it was **RESOLVED** on a show of hands that Council:

1. Approve the appointment of the Council's Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs for the Municipal year as set out in the note laid on the table.
2. Approve the appointments to outside bodies as listed in the Appendix to the report.

13 **Request for Dispensation under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972**

13.1 Cllr Kay Mason Billig, seconded by Cllr Andrew Jamieson, moved the recommendation contained in the report.

13.2 Upon being put to a vote it was **RESOLVED** on a show of hands that the reason provided for non-attendance at Council meetings by Cllr Martin Wilby is approved pursuant to Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, on the basis that the resolution is applied to take effect on 12th June 2023 and Council approves an extension of the time limit until 12th December 2023.

14 **To consider any business specified in the summons for the meeting: recommendations from Cabinet meeting held on 3 April 2023**

14.1 The recommendation from the Cabinet meeting held on 3 April 2023 about the Finance Monitoring Report 2022-23 P11: February 2023 was moved by Cllr Andrew Jamieson, seconded by Cllr Ian Mackie.

14.2 Council **RESOLVED** on a show of hands

That County Council approve the addition of **£17.491m** to the capital programme to address capital funding requirements funded mostly from various external sources as set out in detail in capital Appendix 3 of the Cabinet report, paragraph 4.1 as follows:

- £5m flexible use of Capital Receipts to fund the Adult Social Care Transformation Programme costs as previously earmarked in Appendix 3 of the report, paragraph 3.3.
- £1.011m uplift to the Better Broadband Next Generation project funded from BT rebates received.
- £11.480m Department of Transport funding received to expand the Zero Emissions Bus Regional Area (ZEBRA) scheme for 55 additional electric buses.

15 **Notice of Motions**

15.1 **Motion 1 – King Charles Coronation**

15.1.1 The following motion was proposed by Cllr Kay Mason Billig and seconded by Cllr Andrew Jamieson

This year marks the Coronation of King Charles III following the death of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Norfolk is proud of our long association with the Royal Family, with Sandringham being home to the Monarch for several generations, spanning well over a century.

We have just seen the Coronation of King Charles III and this Council stands ready to welcome in the new Carolean era. Communities across our County hosted events, bringing every part of their community together celebrating this monumental occasion as His Majesty acceded to the throne.

Last year this County willingly supported Her Majesty's Green Canopy initiative and Platinum Jubilee trails, aiding accessibility to our wonderful natural assets across this County and encouraging exercise and enjoyment of the wider outdoor experience.

Now this new era has begun this Council resolves to continue our loyal support to the Monarch, supporting His Majesty to deliver His new progressive policy agenda, helping support disadvantaged communities across our County, in line with our ambitious

programmes to provide better outcomes for families, support for regenerative agriculture and deliver His inspirational green initiatives.

15.1.2 Following debate, the motion was put to a recorded vote (Appendix A) and with 47 votes in favour, 13 votes against and 9 abstentions the motion was **AGREED**.

## 15.2 **Motion 2 – Sewage Discharges**

15.2.1 The following changes to the motion published with the agenda were moved by Cllr Mike Smith-Claire and seconded by Cllr Terry Jermy and, on a show of hands, were **CARRIED** and became the substantive motion.

Council believes sewage discharges in rivers and coastal waters is unacceptable. There is a direct and indirect adverse impact on water quality, the environment, human health, amenity and businesses. It also damages the reputation of our beautiful county.

Council regrets the lack of urgency and meaningful sanctions for sewage discharges and recognises increased development in Norfolk will add to the problem in future unless action is taken at source.

Council welcomes the government's intention to consult on the introduction of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water management Act 2010 and urges government to expedite the process.

Council believes Water companies should be held automatically liable for any sewage discharge. ~~In addition to fines levied upon them, water companies should automatically be liable for compensation for direct and indirect impacts on those, particularly businesses, near to or affected by the discharge assessed by an independent body funded by water companies but not appointed by or accountable to them.~~

Council requests the Infrastructure and Development Select Committee to explore existing powers and opportunities available to Norfolk County Council in order to –

1. enforce fines on water companies
2. ensure compensation is paid by water companies for direct and indirect financial losses of those, particularly businesses, near to or affected by discharges

and to report back findings and recommendations to Council by no later than December 2023.

15.2.2 Following debate, the motion was put to a recorded vote (Appendix B) and with 69 votes in favour, 0 votes against and 0 abstentions the motion was **AGREED**.

***(At this point in the proceedings Council took a short break.***

***When Council reconvened it was agreed on a show of hands to amend a typographical error in the note of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees appointed at item 12 to reflect the fact that Cllr William Nunn would be the new Vice Chair of Corporate Select Committee)***

## 15.3 **Motion 3 – Potholes and Highways Maintenance Budgets**

15.3.1 The following motion was proposed by Cllr Steffan Acqarone and seconded by Cllr Robert Colwell:

This council acknowledges the shortfall in local authority's highways maintenance budgets which were reduced by £500 million or 28% in 2020/21. Although the Spring Budget announced a top up of £200m to the 'Potholes Fund', local authorities are still £300m out of

pocket.

This council recognises the commendable work carried out by the County's highways maintenance teams working tirelessly on a limited budget across the county to ensure that highways are roadworthy and suitable for all road users.

This council recognises that the time it takes to repair potholes across the county is increasing. The average amount of time it took to repair a pothole in Norfolk in 2021/22 was approximately 40 days, double that of the time it took in 2020/21. On one occasion it took 482 days to carry out repairs on a single pothole.

This council recognises that there are vital repairs required to Norfolk's highways and roads to ensure they're safe and roadworthy to all users including cyclists, cars, motorbikes, lorries, pedestrians and mobility scooters.

This council acknowledges the importance of prevention rather than cure when it comes to Norfolk's roads. Allowing potholes to fester results in higher repair costs and can be hazardous to road users and pedestrians, indeed, in the last two years there have been 80 compensation claims relating to potholes and poor road conditions upheld against the council resulting in £100,000 in pay outs.

This council commits to lobby the Government to fully restore local authority highways maintenance budgets to ensure that councils can clear their backlog of road repairs. This council resolves to review, and if necessary, amend its TAMP plan (2021 – 2026) to ensure that the utmost is being done to clear the backlog of repairs and to identify vital repair works before further degradation occurs.

15.3.2 During debate, Cllr Graham Plant moved an amendment seconded by Cllr Lana Hemsall (which was accepted by the mover of the motion and became the substantive motion) that read as follows:

This Council acknowledges the shortfall in Local Authority's Highways maintenance budgets ~~which were reduced by £500 million or 28% in 2020/21. Although~~ The Spring Budget announced a top up of £200m to the 'Potholes Fund' **and we welcome Norfolk's £6.4m allocation, which is one of the highest in the Country, to be focussed on both preventative and restorative works to begin to address this.** ~~Local authorities are still £300m out of pocket.~~

This Council recognises the commendable work carried out by the County's Highways maintenance teams ~~working tirelessly on a limited budget~~ across the county to ensure that highways are roadworthy and suitable for all road users. **Last year, Norse Highways attended to over 1,200 high priority emergency defects, 99.8% of which were repaired or made safe within the 2 hours performance target.**

This Council recognises that there are vital repairs required to Norfolk's Highways and roads to ensure they're safe and roadworthy to all users including cyclists, cars, motorbikes, lorries, pedestrians and mobility scooters.

This Council recognises that **whilst** the time it takes to repair potholes across the county is **increasing varies depending on the priority of each pothole, we welcome more proactive maintenance works being adopted, based upon the ideology of prevention being better than cure.**

~~The average amount of time it took to repair a pothole in Norfolk in 2021/22 was approximately 40 days, double that of the time it took in 2020/21. On one occasion it took 482 days to carry out repairs on a single pothole.~~

~~This council acknowledges the importance of prevention rather than cure when it comes to Norfolk's roads. Allowing potholes to fester results in higher repair costs and can be hazardous to road users and pedestrians, indeed, in the last two years there have been 80 compensation claims relating to potholes and poor road conditions upheld against the council resulting in £100,000 in pay-outs.~~

This Council commits to lobby the Government to ~~fully restore~~ **ensure** local authority Highways maintenance budgets ~~to ensure that councils~~ can clear their backlog of road repairs. **Furthermore, we will write to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Roads and Local Transport) highlighting the need for more funding in this vital area for all residents, businesses and visitors to Norfolk.**

~~This council resolves to review, and if necessary, amend its TAMP plan (2021—2026) to ensure that the utmost is being done to clear the backlog of repairs and to identify vital repair works before further degradation occurs.~~

15.3.3 Following further debate, the substantive motion was put to the vote (Appendix C) and with 62 votes in favour, 0 abstentions and 0 against, the motion was **AGREED**.

## **15.4 Motion 4 – Norwich Western Link**

15.4.1 The following motion was proposed by Cllr Jamie Osborn seconded by Cllr Ben Price:

The Norwich Western Link is opposed by over a dozen organisations as they say it would cause an increase in carbon emissions, damage irreplaceable natural habitats, and would be a reckless expenditure at a time of budgetary strain for the county council.

The project costs have soared by nearly £100m already, and recent questions to Cabinet Members have revealed that cost could continue to rise, with no guarantee of an upper ceiling on costs.

As costs continue to rise due to inflation, project delays, and the infrastructural challenges of the proposed route, the value for money of the project will need to be reassessed. The Cabinet Member for Finance has publicly stated that the project would need to be reconsidered if the DfT does not provide the funding that the county council has applied for.

The risk to the council is heightened by the fact that any capital funds committed to the project will revert to revenue if the project is cancelled. This could entirely wipe out the council's revenue reserves.

In December 2022, Norfolk County Council unanimously voted to support a motion on 20 minute neighbourhoods. This motion recognises that in order to provide sustainable travel, total car journeys need to be reduced and driving needs to be less of a direct option than walking, cycling, wheeling or public transport. The motion states that "Reduced traffic levels will create safer environments for all users of the transport network" and "highlights how a 20 minute neighbourhood approach can also support sustainable tourism and help to boost the visitor economy." The Norwich Western Link, if built, would violate the proposals of this motion as it would result in increased traffic levels and would facilitate car-dependent development instead of sustainable, healthy and economically thriving 20-minute neighbourhoods.

Council resolves to:

1. Halt all work on the Norwich Western Link as soon as possible and rededicate officer time to developing 20-minute neighbourhood proposals and improving sustainable transport.

2. Issue a public apology on behalf of councillors for wasting taxpayers' money on the Norwich Western Link when resources could have been focused on dealing with the climate emergency.
3. Ask the leaders of all political groups to write to the Secretary of State for Transport and to the Climate Change Minister to call for the Government's £25bn funding for new roads to be reallocated to sustainable transport.
4. Establish a Citizens Assembly as a form of participatory democracy to decide on the future of transport policy for Norfolk.

15.4.2 During debate, Cllr Emma Corlett moved an amendment seconded by Cllr Terry Jermy (which was not accepted by the mover of the motion) which read as follows:

The Norwich Western Link is opposed by over a dozen organisations as they say it would cause an increase in carbon emissions, damage irreplaceable natural habitats, and would be a reckless expenditure at a time of budgetary strain for the county council.

The project costs have soared by nearly £100m already, and recent questions to Cabinet Members have revealed that cost could continue to rise, with no guarantee of an upper ceiling on costs.

As costs continue to rise due to inflation, project delays, and the infrastructural challenges of the proposed route, the value for money of the project will need to be reassessed. The Cabinet Member for Finance has publicly stated that the project would need to be reconsidered if the DfT does not provide the funding that the county council has applied for. The risk to the council is heightened by the fact that any capital funds committed to the project will revert to revenue if the project is cancelled. This could entirely wipe out the council's revenue reserves.

In December 2022, Norfolk County Council unanimously voted to support a motion on 20 minute neighbourhoods. This motion recognises that in order to provide sustainable travel, total car journeys need to be reduced and driving needs to be less of a direct option than walking, cycling, wheeling or public transport. The motion states that "Reduced traffic levels will create safer environments for all users of the transport network" and "highlights how a 20 minute neighbourhood approach can also support sustainable tourism and help to boost the visitor economy." The Norwich Western Link, if built, would violate the proposals of this motion as it would result in increased traffic levels and would facilitate car-dependent development instead of sustainable, healthy and economically thriving 20-minute neighbourhoods.

Council resolves to:

1. Halt all work on the Norwich Western Link. ~~as soon as possible and rededicate officer time to developing 20-minute neighbourhood proposals and improving sustainable transport.~~

~~2. Issue a public apology on behalf of councillors for wasting taxpayers' money on the Norwich Western Link when resources could have been focused on dealing with the climate emergency.~~

~~3. Ask the leaders of all political groups to write to the Secretary of State for Transport and to the Climate Change Minister to call for the Government's £25bn funding for new roads to be reallocated to sustainable transport.~~

~~4. Establish a Citizens Assembly as a form of participatory democracy to decide on the future of transport policy for Norfolk.~~

### 15.4.3 **Three Hour Meeting Time Elapses**

During debate of the amendment, the Chair pointed out that the 3 hours for the meeting had elapsed and Council had not agreed to extend the meeting.

15.4.4 As a result, Council moved to the part of the meeting where all remaining business be they motions or amendments to motions would be considered moved and seconded in line with procedure rule 4 (iv).

15.4.5 The Chair said that he would deal with each motion in turn. Initially he would ask the proposer of the motion if they wanted the motion to go ahead or be withdrawn. If the motion was withdrawn Council would continue through the motions in the order they appeared on the agenda, which was by reference to the size of the group. If the motion was not withdrawn, the Chair would consider if there were amendments. If there were, then Council would vote on those first and then, when those were completed, Council would vote on the substantive motion.

15.4.6 The amendment which was on the table was put to a recorded vote (Appendix D) and with 13 votes in favour 48 votes against and 3 abstentions this was **LOST**.

15.4.7 The substantive motion was then put to a recorded vote (Appendix E) and with 5 votes in favour, 45 against and 14 abstentions, the motion was **LOST**.

### 15.5 **Norwich NHS Walk-In Centre**

15.5.1 The motion was **WITHDRAWN**.

### 15.6 **Motion 6 – End Fuel Poverty**

15.6.1 The motion was **WITHDRAWN**.

### 15.7 **Motion 7- Support for Children in Early Years**

15.7.1 The following motion proposed by Cllr Paul Neale was deemed moved and seconded.

Council notes:

1. Physical children's centres in Norfolk have been cut drastically over recent years, with no clear analysis of the impact that this has had on health, educational and social attainment outcomes for children, especially those from low-income families. In 2019, 38 children's centres were closed across the county, and many residents have said that these closures have reduced their access to services and impacted on their lives. When asked how the impact of these closures had been evaluated, the Cabinet Member in March 2023 was unable to answer.

2. Many children in Norfolk are living in poverty, yet do not qualify for means-tested Free School Meals. If a family earns more than £7,400 a year, they do not qualify, leaving 1.7 million children in poverty unable to receive them nationwide, and this threshold has not been updated since 2018 despite huge rises in the cost of living. The National Education Union and others are calling for the Government to implement Free School Meals for all primary school children; in the immediate term, some councils have introduced FSM for all primary-age children in order to help improve educational attainment and ensure no child is left hungry. Funding for this has been supplied across London boroughs by the Mayor of

London's office.

Council resolves to:

1. Commission an evaluation of the impact of closure of children's centres, including Sure Start centres, on children's health, education and social attainment outcomes, particularly those in deprived communities, young parents, and with diagnosed or suspected special educational needs, and explore options for reopening of children's centres where there is demonstrated need.
2. Formally support the NEU's No Child Left Behind Campaign to provide Free School Meals to all primary-age children.
3. Call on the government to raise the income threshold for Free School Meals so that all families receiving Universal Credit are eligible, ensuring that primary age children are therefore eligible for the attached pupil premium and secondary-age pupils can access means tested Free School Meals, reducing the impact of poverty on children and teenagers in Norfolk.

15.7.2 After being put to the recorded vote (Appendix F), with 20 votes in favour, 0 abstentions and 44 votes against, the motion was **LOST**.

## 15.8 **Motion 8 – Devolution**

15.8.1 The following motion proposed by Cllr Steve Morpew was deemed moved and seconded.

15.8.2 Council recognises the decision of Cornwall council to seek to renegotiate their devolution deal from level 3 to become a level 2 deal is an important precedent that Norfolk should follow. Council reiterates its commitment to a meaningful devolution of powers and resources from central government to local councils and believes a level 2 deal for Norfolk would form a strong basis to develop a positive relationship with government for the benefit of all of Norfolk.

Council therefore requests the Leader and cabinet to withdraw from the current devolution deal and return to government to seek a strengthened level 2 deal.

15.8.3 After being put to the recorded vote (Appendix G), with 15 votes in favour, 44 votes against and 5 abstentions, the motion was **LOST**.

## 16. **Questions on notice under rule 9.3**

16.1 There were no questions.

Meeting ended at 1.35pm

**Chair**



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<b>For</b>
<b>Against</b>
<b>Abstentions</b>

<b>47</b>
<b>13</b>
<b>9</b>



<b>For</b>
<b>Against</b>
<b>Abstentions</b>

<b>69</b>
<b>0</b>
<b>0</b>

Norfolk County Council - Date: 9 May 2023 Appendix C

RECORDED VOTE – ITEM NUMBER: Motion 3 Potholes and Highways Maintenance Budgets

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
ADAMS Timothy	absent			KIRK Julian	x		
ADAMS Tony	x			LONG Brian	x		
ANNISON Carl	x			MACKIE Ian	x		
AQUARONE Steffan	x			MASON BILLIG Kay	x		
ASKEW Stephen	absent			MAXFIELD Ed	absent		
BAMBRIDGE Lesley	x			MORIARTY Jim	absent		
BENSLY James	x			MORPHEW Steve	x		
BILLS David	x			NEALE Paul	x		
BIRMINGHAM Alison	absent			NUNN William	absent		
BLUNDELL Sharon	x			OLIVER Judy	absent		
BORRETT Bill	x			OLIVER Rhodri	x		
BOWES Claire	x			OSBORN Jamie	x		
BROCIEK-COULTON Julie	x			PECK Greg	x		
CARPENTER Graham	x			PENFOLD Saul	x		
CARPENTER Penny	x			PLANT Graham	x		
CLANCY Stuart	x			PRICE Ben	x		
COLWELL Robert	x			PRICE Richard	x		
CONNOLLY Ed	absent			PROCTOR Andrew	absent		
CORLETT Emma	x			RICHMOND Will	x		
DALBY Michael	x			Reilly Matthew	x		
DARK Stuart	x			RILEY Steve	absent		
DAUBNEY Nick	absent			ROPER Dan	absent		
DAWSON Christopher	absent			Rumsby Chrissie	x		
DEWSBURY Margaret	x			SANDS Mike	x		
DIXON Nigel	absent			SAVAGE Robert	absent		
DUIGAN Phillip	x			SAYERS David	absent		
EAGLE Fabian	x			SHIRES Lucy	x		
ELMER Daniel	x			SMITH Carl	absent		
FISHER John	x			SMITH-CLARE Mike	x		
FITZPATRICK Tom	x			STONE Barry	x		
GRANT Andy	absent			STOREY Martin	x		
GURNEY Shelagh	x			THOMAS Alison	x		
HEMPSALL Lana	absent			THOMSON Vic	absent		
HORSBRUGH Michael Chenery of	x			VARDY Eric	x		
JAMES Jane	x			VINCENT Karen	x		
JAMIESON Andrew	x			WALKER Colleen	x		
JERMY Terry	x			WARD John	x		
JONES Brenda	x			WATKINS Brian	x		
KEMP Alexandra	x			WEBB Maxine	x		
KIDDIE Keith	x			WHITE Tony	x		
KIDDLE-MORRIS Mark	x			WHYMARK Fran	x		
				WILBY Martin	absent		

<b>For</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Against</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Abstentions</b>	<b>0</b>



<b>For</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Against</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Abstentions</b>	<b>3</b>



<b>For</b>
<b>Against</b>
<b>Abstentions</b>

<b>5</b>
<b>45</b>
<b>14</b>



<b>For</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Against</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Abstentions</b>	<b>0</b>



<b>For</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Against</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Abstentions</b>	<b>5</b>