

MINUTES OF ST EDMUNDSBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 27 September 2011 at 7.00 pm in the Conference Chamber, West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds.

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor C J E Spicer) (in the Chair),
Councillors Ager, Beckwith, Mrs Byrne, Chung, Clements, Clifton-Brown, Cockle, Cox, Everitt, Farmer, Farthing, Mrs Gower, Griffiths, Hale, Mrs Hind, P Hopfensperger, Mrs R V Hopfensperger, Hordern, Houlder, Marks, Mrs Mildmay-White, Nettleton, Oliver, Pugh, Ray, Redhead, Mrs Richardson, Mrs Rushbrook, Simner, Springett, Mrs Stamp, Stevens, Thorndyke, F J Warby, Mrs P A Warby and Mrs D A Whittaker.

38. Prayers

The Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Katherine Valentine, of Saint Marys Church, Pakenham, opened the meeting with prayers.

39. Minutes

Minute 34 (i)(2) was amended to read 'the hoardings and broken walls still in place in the car parks in the School Yard West in Bury St Edmunds'. Subject to the aforementioned amendment, the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28 June 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

40. Mayor's Communications

The Mayor reported on the civic engagements and charity activities which he, the Mayoress, Deputy Mayor and Mayoress and Past Mayor Councillor Cockle had attended since the last meeting of full Council on 28 June 2011.

In particular, he informed the Council of various youth activities, such as the annual inspection of the Bury Sea Cadets, the Theatre Royal Young Company Creative Learning Department, specifically aimed at 5 to 7 year olds and the West Suffolk Young Musician 2011 Finalists Concert which had all been pleasing and showed that the youth were being engaged. He concluded that he had attended the Rwandan School Project Opening Ceremony and the unveiling of the 2012 Olympic and Para-Olympic Games inspired mosaic at the Bury Leisure Centre.

The Mayor wished Councillor Buckle, the Deputy Mayor, a speedy recovery following a recent operation.

41. Announcements from the Leader of the Council

Councillor Griffiths, Leader of the Council, referred to the recent business festival held in The Apex, which had showcased what Bury St Edmunds had to offer and what a versatile building The Apex was. He also advised that the New Anglia LEP had held their annual conference in The Apex as part of the business festival.

Finally, he reported that The Apex had been commended at the Wood Awards which had been held in the Ricoh Arena in Coventry. He stated that The Apex had been shortlisted in the category of commercial and public access building which had been a strong field.

42. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Broughton, Buckle, McManus, Rout, Mrs Rushen and A Whittaker.

43. **Declarations of Interest**

Members' declarations of interest are recorded under the item to which the declaration relates.

44. **Public Question Time**

Mr Murray of Bury St Edmunds referred to a meeting of the Howard Estate Association for Residents and Tenants (HEART) in July 2011 at which a Church Group had offered to sponsor a youth event in the Newbury Community Centre. He advised that it had subsequently transpired that the Chair and Committee of the Newbury Community Centre had instigated a blanket ban on young people using the publically funded centre. Mr Murray asked what the Council would or could do and whether the Council had any remit to cover what he regarded as the apparent discrimination by the Newbury Community Centre?

In reply, **Councillor Everitt, Portfolio Holder for Bury St Edmunds and Community Safety Portfolio**, stated that the building was run by a Community Association and suggested that an item be placed on the agenda for a meeting between HEART and Kingsgate Church to allow the issue to be discussed. He stated that Ward Members should attend and officers of the Council would provide support if necessary. Councillor Everitt suggested that a change to provide some youth provision could be instigated on a trial basis.

Mr Simon Harding of Bury St Edmunds asked where the Borough Council wanted Bury St Edmunds Town Centre to be.

Councillor Griffiths, Leader of the Council, replied that the Borough Council did not 'want' the centre to be any one particular location. The Town Centre could be classed as being from the Abbey Gardens end of town up to the Multiplex Cinema and all points in between. He stated that perceptions about the 'centre' would depend on specific individuals and organisations and that, if they had a particular affiliation to a part of the town, then they would look on that area as their town centre. He concluded that the Borough Council had done, and would continue to do, everything it could to promote Bury St Edmunds as a whole.

Mr Simon Harding of Bury St Edmunds asked a supplementary question of Councillor Mrs Mildmay-White as a past Chairman of the Cattle Market Working Party. He queried why, if the planned new public building and square were so far to the west of the town centre, had she stated in her role as Chairman of that Working Party, that when the building was completed it would be the centre of town. In 2011, when a planning application for JD Wetherspoons was considered, the Planning Department had also stated that the Corn Exchange was on the edge of the Town Centre and The Apex was the centre?

In reply, **Councillor Mrs Mildmay-White, Deputy Leader of the Council**, stated that a written reply would be provided.

Mr Simon Harding of Bury St Edmunds asked whether the link between the arc and the Town Centre was dead and buried for the foreseeable future and

whether the previously mentioned Compulsory Purchase Order could be used again.

Councillor Griffiths, Leader of the Council, replied that whilst the Council's involvement in the link was at an end, this would not prevent the owners of the adjacent land from doing something in the future and if a developer came forward with a workable scheme the Council would be likely to support them.

Mr Simon Harding of Bury St Edmunds asked whether the Council believed that supporting betting, pound and discount shops and large pub chains in Bury St Edmunds in the long term enhanced the area.

Councillor Griffiths, Leader of the Council, replied that, where permission was required, which businesses went where was a Planning or Licensing function, and as such, the relevant Committees would take decisions based on the appropriate legislation. He advised that planning permission was often not required when one shop closed and another opened so the Borough Council frequently had little, if any influence over what the property of retail markets favoured at any one particular time. As with all things, there was a balance. As a Council, St Edmundsbury did all that it could to enable property owners to find occupants, and the benefits of having occupied premises in the Town Centre instead of empty ones was obvious. Bury St Edmunds was extremely lucky to have a tremendous amount of high quality, top of the range independent shops and restaurants but it was fair to say that not everyone could afford to shop or eat in them.

Mr Simon Harding of Bury St Edmunds, asked a supplementary question which queried why the betting, pound and discount shops and pubs were not allowed within the empty shops of the arc development.

In reply, **Councillor Griffiths, Leader of the Council**, stated that that would be an issue for the arc management to address and not the Borough Council.

Mr Simon Harding of Bury St Edmunds, asked whether the Borough Council were concerned that full Council meetings were so poorly attended by the public.

In reply, **Councillor Griffiths, Leader of the Council**, stated that the days when coming to full Council meetings was the only opportunity to ask questions and get responses were long gone. Whilst the Council welcomed any member of the public, it also recognised that a decreasingly small number of people were prepared to wait for the six or so meetings of full Council. These days, the Council received thousands of emails each year from people asking questions who received rapid responses. He added that the Council had a website full of information, with a form which people could use to ask questions, together with the Freedom of Information Act that many people choose to use. He concluded by stating that visitors were welcome at full Council meetings but he was more concerned with national and local voting patterns, which showed 18 to 35 year olds were less engaged with the democratic process. Younger people were less inclined to attend formal meetings so, across the whole country, more innovative ways to encourage them to play their part in democracy were being sought.

Mr Simon Harding of Bury St Edmunds, asked whether the Borough Council felt that the Corn Exchange should be put back on the market due to the delay with the JD Wetherspoons tenancy.

In reply, **Councillor Griffiths, Leader of the Council**, stated that the Legal Teams were currently dealing with various documents.

Mr Simon Harding of Bury St Edmunds, asked a supplementary question whether the Council was aware that JD Wetherspoon would be more interested in the old Barclays building within the Town Centre.

In reply, **Councillor Griffiths, Leader of the Council**, reiterated that JD Wetherspoon had made an offer on the Corn Exchange and were progressing the legal documentation. He advised that it would be good news for Bury St Edmunds for the Corn Exchange to be invested in and used.

Mr Simon Harding of Bury St Edmunds queried whether Members had read the Fire Officer's report regarding The Apex. He queried whether the building could be used to its full capacity with the foyer and auditorium being used at the same time to maximise income.

In reply, **Councillor Mrs Mildmay-White, Deputy Leader**, stated that a written reply would be provided.

45. **Service by Former Members of the Council: Long Service Awards**

On 16 July 1991 and in addition to the statutory provision for the creation of Honorary Freeman and Honorary Alderman, the Council created a third award option, namely formal acknowledgement of 12 years or more cumulative service by former Members of the Council. Accordingly, the following motions in respect of those who were eligible for the award were duly carried.

(1) **Mark Alan Ereira-Guyer**

On the motion of Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Farthing, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:-

That, in recognition of twelve years of dedicated public service by Mark Alan Ereira-Guyer as an elected Member of the Council for the Risbygate and St Olaves Wards, Bury St Edmunds, and in acknowledgement of his contribution to the work of the Borough Council, and his service to the community and fulfilment of the duties and responsibilities of a Councillor, the Council hereby record its thanks and deep appreciation.

(2) **Jane Ann Bone**

On the motion of Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Mrs Mildmay-White, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:-

That, in recognition of sixteen years of dedicated public service by Jane Ann Bone as an elected Member of the Council for the Clare Ward, and in acknowledgement of her contribution to the work of the Borough Council, including her term of office as Mayor for 1994/1995, and her service to the community and fulfilment of the duties and responsibilities of a Councillor, the Council hereby record its thanks and deep appreciation.

(3) **Nigel Baber Aitkens**

On the motion of Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Ray, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:-

That, in recognition of twenty years of dedicated public service by Nigel Baber Aitkens as an elected Member of the Council for the Chevington and Chedburgh Wards, and in acknowledgement of his contribution to the work of the Borough Council and his service to the community and fulfilment of the duties and responsibilities of a Councillor, the Council hereby record its thanks and deep appreciation.

(4) **David Lockwood**

On the motion of Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Clements, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:-

That, in recognition of twenty-eight years of dedicated public service by David Lockwood as an elected Member of the Council for the Northgate Ward, Bury St Edmunds and in acknowledgement of his contribution to the work of the Borough Council, including his term of office as Mayor for 2003/2004, and his service to the community and fulfilment of the duties and responsibilities of a Councillor, the Council hereby record its thanks and deep appreciation.

On the individual approval of each resolution, the Mayor separately presented former Councillors Ereira-Guyer, Mrs Bone and Lockwood with a framed copy of their specific resolution and a small gift.

46. **Service by Former Members of the Council: Vote of Thanks to Other Immediate Past Members**

On the motion of Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Chung, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:-

That the Council records a vote of thanks in respect of the former Councillors who had not been re-elected or had not stood for re-election, namely, former Councillors Mrs Alexander, Anderson, Bradbury, Chappell, Mrs Charlesworth, Jones, Price and Turner.

47. **Items Referred to full Council by Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Democratic Renewal Working Party**

The Council considered the Schedule of Referrals contained within Report C144 (previously circulated).

(A) Referrals from Cabinet: 20 July 2011

(A)(1) Revised Equality Scheme 2011/2014 and Action Plan

Councillor Ray raised concern regarding recommendation (c) stating that having referred to the Equality Act 2010, he felt that the Council should not change the wording and therefore suggested that recommendation (c) be deleted.

On the motion of Councillor Ray, seconded by Councillor Hordern, it was

RESOLVED:-

That the revised Equality Scheme 2011-2014 and Action Plan 2011/2012, as set out in Report C50 and amended by the Committee as detailed below, be approved:-

- (a) Section 1: include reference to working with Suffolk County Council; and
- (b) Section 3: include reference to Town/Parish Councils and Suffolk County Council in the list of key partnerships.

(A)(2) West Suffolk Waste and Street Scene Services Joint Committee: 17 June 2011

On the motion of Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Hale, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:-

That the Partnering Agreement, dated 9 April 2008, be varied so that the business plan forms an integral part of the service plan.

(A)(3) Asset Management Plan: Ground Lease Shopping Centre, St Olaves Parade, Bury St Edmunds

Councillors Cockle and Hopfensperger raised concern that the Howard Estate Association for Residents and Tenants (HEART) had not been consulted regarding the sale of the ground lease for the St Olaves Shopping Parade. The Portfolio Holder for Culture and Sport advised that the sale of the lease had been on the Asset Management Plan for a long period of time and consultation had been ongoing since before the elections. Councillor Cockle also raised concern regarding the Memorial Garden in the vicinity of the shopping parade. The Portfolio Holder for Culture and Sport advised that the Memorial Garden would remain in the ownership of the Council and would therefore be protected.

On the motion of Councillor Mrs Mildmay-White, seconded by Councillor Stevens, it was

RESOLVED:-

That St Olaves Shopping Parade in Bury St Edmunds be declared surplus and the site sold, either by auction or by private treaty, as outlined in Report C70.

(B) Referrals from Cabinet: 14 September 2011

(B)(1) Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Strategy

On the motion of Councillor Ray, seconded by Councillor Hale, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:-

That the revised Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Strategy, attached to Report C81, be adopted.

(B)(2) Health and Safety Policy

On the motion of Councillor Ray, seconded by Councillor F J Warby, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:-

That the amendments to the Health and Safety Policy in respect of Instruction 15: Health, Safety and Environment Requirements for Contractors, as contained in Report C87, be approved.

(B)(3) St Edmundsbury Local Development Framework Supplementary Planning Document: Development Design and Impact

On the motion of Councillor Clements, seconded by Councillor Everitt, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:-

That the amended draft Supplementary Planning Document on Development Design and Impact, as contained in Appendix A of Report C107, be adopted.

(B)(4) Replacement St Edmundsbury Borough Local Plan 2016: Development Brief for Land East of The Granary, Clare

On the motion of Councillor Clements, seconded by Councillor Stevens, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:-

That the Development Brief for the development of land east of The Granary, Clare, attached as Appendix A to Report C108, be adopted as non-statutory planning guidance for the determination of future planning applications.

(B)(5) Generating Income from Renewable Energy

Councillor Farthing expressed support for investing in renewable energy and stated that photovoltaic panels should be installed on as many buildings as possible to address the Council's carbon footprint.

On the motion of Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Farthing, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:-

That an additional £205,700 be allocated from the unallocated capital provision to fund all renewable energy generation as identified in Exempt Annex 3 (termed "enhanced option").

(B)(6) The Apex Business Plan

Some members expressed concern that additional money was being spent on The Apex given the current economic climate and that the recommendation should be deferred to allow sources of sponsorship to be investigated further, such as Greene King. The Portfolio Holder for Culture and Sport advised that discussions were already ongoing with Greene King who supplied beverages to the venues and were generous supporters of activities in the town. She also advised that a competition had been launched to select a piece of public art in the foyer, using Section 106 money for that purpose from the original developer.

On the motion of Councillor Mrs Mildmay-White, seconded by Councillor Mrs Stamp, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:- That

- (1) an additional capital budget of up to £35,000 be allocated to allow a supplementary scheme of works to the frontage, signage and foyer of The Apex to be implemented; and
- (2) a further sum of up to £50,000 be allocated as a contingency in the capital programme for the provision of the new bar if the Chief Finance Officer assesses that there is a greater return for the taxpayer through the Council making this investment rather than the new catering contractor.

(C) Referrals from Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 6 July 2011

(C)(1) Appointment to Suffolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

On the motion of Councillor Nettleton, seconded by Councillor Griffiths, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:-

That full Council be asked to confirm the appointment of Councillor Beckwith as the Borough Council's nominated representative on the Suffolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2011/2012.

(D) Referrals from Democratic Renewal Working Party: 8 September 2011

(D)(1) Polling District Review

On the motion of Councillor Mrs P A Warby, seconded by Councillor Nettleton, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:- That

- (1) Abbeygate Ward (BAF) in Bury St Edmunds be split into two polling districts with the divide being along Parkway;
- (2) the schedule of Polling Places be amended by removing the entry for the Station Ward of Honington Parish (BAZ) polling with the Village Ward of Honington Parish (WAY);
- (3) the schedule of Polling Districts be amended to reflect the boundary change made by the Community Governance Review with regard to BAO1 Village Ward of Fornham All Saints to BAO Fornham All Saints and BAO2 Town Ward of Fornham All Saints; and
- (4) the schedule of Polling Districts be amended to reflect the creation of 2 new polling districts in the Abbeygate Ward in Bury St Edmunds.

(D)(2) Amendments to the Constitution

On the motion of Councillor Mrs P A Warby, seconded by Councillor Ray, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:-

That Paragraph 15.4 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Call in and Urgency), be amended and that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor be replaced by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee respectively.

(E) Referrals from Cabinet: 14 September 2011

(E)(1) Annual Governance Statement 2010/2011

On the motion of Councillor Ray, seconded by Councillor Mrs Gower, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:- That

- (1) the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2010/2011, as set out in Report C80, be approved;
- (2) the process used to compile the Annual Governance Statement and review of internal controls be endorsed for application in future years; and
- (3) internal control assessment and proposed additional areas for improvement (Assurance Framework and related Action Plan) at Appendices 1 and 2 of Report C80 be approved.

48. **Statement of Accounts: 2010/2011**

The Council considered Report C145 (previously circulated) which sought approval of the Statement of Accounts for 2010/2011.

The Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee had responsibility for scrutinising the Statement of Accounts prior to consideration by full Council, and the Committee had undertaken its responsibilities on 20 September 2011. Councillor Spicer, Vice Chairman of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, informed the Council of the work undertaken by the Committee.

The Statement of Accounts set out St Edmundsbury's financial performance for 2010/2011, and provided details of revenue and capital income and expenditure during the period, an explanation of significant variances between budgeted and actual activity and information regarding the Council's assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2011.

Councillor Spicer informed the Council that the Committee had scrutinised the Annual Statement of Accounts for 2010/2011 and sought explanations on a range of issues. No changes to the accounts were suggested by the Committee.

Councillor Ray, Portfolio Holder for Performance and Organisational Development advised that on page 124, the paragraph regarding Members mileage needed to be deleted as Members mileage had actually decreased by 2,000 miles. Councillor Ray thanked the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee and the staff within the Finance Section for the large amount of work undertaken in order to produce these accounts within the statutory timescales and also the clarity with which the statement was presented.

On the motion of Councillor Ray, seconded by Councillor Stevens, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:- That

- (1) the 2010/2011 Statement of Accounts, as attached to Report C138, be approved, subject to any material changes that may need to be made as a result of the audit being finalised;
- (2) transfer of £0.643 million underspend to the general fund be approved; and
- (3) the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Efficiency, be given delegated authority to make any presentational and non-material changes that may be required up to the date of publication.

49. **Appointment of Parish Council Representative to the Standards Committee**

The Council considered a narrative item which sought endorsement of the appointment of Mr Bryan Hawes as a Member of the Standards Committee representing large sized parishes. Mr Hawes was a Town Councillor on Haverhill Town Council and had been recommended following an interview by the Chairman and Monitoring Officer on 12 September 2011.

On the motion of Councillor Cockle, seconded by Councillor Thorndyke, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:-

That Mr Bryan Hawes be appointed as a Town Council representative on the Standards Committee.

50. **Question on Notice**

In accordance with paragraph 11.2 of the Council Procedure Rules, as contained within the Council's Constitution, Councillor Nettleton had given notice of the following question to Councillor Clements, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning:-

'Does the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning agree that in order to prevent future irresponsible 'call-ins' of planning applications by one rogue Councillor, all future attempts to have an application determined by the Development Control Committee in a Ward other than that represented by a Member should be countersigned by another Member of the Council?'

Councillor Clements, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, replied that whilst he understood the concerns of Councillor Nettleton, the scheme of delegation in the Council's Constitution would need to be amended to enable his suggestion to be implemented. In consideration of the number of concerns over the matter, Councillor Clements requested that officers look at the scheme in relation to the call-in of planning applications by Ward Members and to consider whether changes should be considered by the Democratic Renewal Working Party.

51. **Quarterly Report on Special Urgency**

The Council received and noted a narrative item, as required by the Council's Constitution in which the Leader of the Council reported that at the time the Council agenda was published, no executive decisions had been taken under the Special Urgency provisions of the Constitution.

(Councillor Cockle left the meeting at 9.17 pm)

52. **Reports and Questions**

(a) Report from the Leader of the Council: Councillor Griffiths (Report C146)

The following topics were the subject of questions put to Councillor Griffiths, who duly responded:-

- (1) review of pay structure as part of the shared services agenda; and
- (2) Great Livermere winning the district round of the Suffolk Village of the Year Awards 2011.

(b) Report from the Cabinet Member for the Bury St Edmunds and Community Safety Portfolio: Councillor Everitt (Report C147)

The following topics were the subject of questions put to Councillor Everitt, who duly responded:-

- (1) the new residents' association for people living in the Southgate area of Bury St Edmunds; and
- (2) the Mayor attending an evening patrol with the town pastors.

- (c) Report from the Cabinet Member for the Culture and Sport Portfolio: Councillor Mrs Mildmay-White (Report C148)

Councillor Mrs Mildmay-White congratulated the Parks Section on the successful events held over the summer.

The following topic was the subject of a question put to Councillor Mrs Mildmay-White, who duly responded:-

- (1) the support given to the Rwandan delegation and the success of the Rwanda Charity Ball on 9 September 2011.

- (d) Report from the Cabinet Member for the Economy and Asset Management Portfolio: Councillor Mrs Mildmay-White (Report C149)

Councillor Mrs Mildmay-White referred to the success of the recent Business Festival held in the Borough. She also requested that a copy of the Market Business Plan be circulated to all Councillors.

The following topics were the subject of questions put to Councillor Mrs Mildmay-White, who duly responded:-

- (1) the work being undertaken by Clare Tourism and the success in the In Bloom competition; and
- (2) the success of the 'StartUp Britain' bus and the positive impact on the economy.

- (e) Report from the Cabinet Member for the Environment and Street Scene Portfolio: Councillor Stevens (Report C150)

The following topic was the subject of a question put to Councillor Stevens, who duly responded:-

- (1) the Mayor being involved in a community litter pick.

- (f) Report from the Cabinet Member for the Haverhill and Housing Portfolio: Councillor Mrs Gower (Report C151)

Councillor Mrs Gower thanked the Cemetery Registrar for the wonderful Child Memorial Area recently opened in Haverhill. She also updated Members on the current position regarding the Dale Farm evictions.

No questions were asked.

- (g) Report from the Cabinet Member for the Performance and Organisational Development Portfolio: Councillor Ray (Report C152)

Councillor Ray thanked Members for submitting their training needs analysis forms.

No questions were asked.

- (h) Report from the Cabinet Member for the Resources and Efficiency Portfolio: Councillor Ray (Report C153)

No questions were asked.

- (i) Report from the Cabinet Member for the Transport and Planning Portfolio: Councillor Clements (Report C154)

Councillor Clements reminded Members that the Prince's Foundation were facilitating a workshop on Friday 14 October 2011 in order to provide Members with the opportunity to contribute to the content of the draft Vision 2031 documents. In order that the events could be planned, he requested that Members complete the attendance sheet available in the Members' breakout area. In addition, he reminded Members that the Prince's Foundation had asked for matrices for their areas to be completed to enable the Foundation to get a full picture of the area.

The following topics were the subject of questions put to Councillor Clements who duly responded:-

- (1) the proposed bus services referred to in paragraph 1.7 be provided in both directions;
- (2) all Members be provided with a copy of the Council's response to the Government on the draft National Planning Policy Framework;
- (3) the 'Plain English' summarised version of the draft National Planning Policy Framework be circulated to all Members; and
- (4) a copy of the Council's response to Breckland District Council regarding the planning applications for 5,000 homes in Thetford be circulated to all Members.

- (j) Report from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Councillor Nettleton (Report C155)

No questions were asked.

- (k) Report from the Chairman of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: Councillor Hale (Report C156)

No questions were asked.

- (l) Questions to the Chairmen of Other Committees

No questions were asked.

53. **Conclusion of Business**

The Mayor advised all Members that his Carol Service would be held on 14 December 2011 in the reception area at West Suffolk House and all Members were invited to attend.

The meeting concluded at 9.48 pm.

MAYOR