Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **Council** held on **Wednesday 14 June 2017** at **6.00 pm** at the **Council Chamber, District Offices,** College Heath Road, Mildenhall IP28 7EY

Present: **Councillors**

Chairman Ruth Bowman J.P.
Vice Chairman Brian Harvey

Ruth Allen	Stephen Edwards
Michael Anderson	Victor Lukaniuk
Andrew Appleby	Louise Marston
Chris Barker	Colin Noble
David Bowman	David Palmer
Rona Burt	Peter Ridgwell
Louis Busuttil	Nigel Roman
Simon Cole	Lance Stanbury
Roger Dicker	James Waters
Andy Drummond	

229. **Welcome**

On opening the meeting the Chairman took the opportunity to make specific welcome to David Collinson who had recently joined the West Suffolk Councils as Assistant Director for Planning and Regulatory Services.

230. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 April 2017 and the Annual Council meeting held on 10 May 2017 were unanimously accepted as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

231. **Chairman's Announcements (Report No: COU/FH/17/011)**

The Chairman reminded Members that those engagements listed within the itinerary up to 10 May 2017 had been undertaken by the previous Chairman, Councillor Carol Lynch.

The Chairman also made specific reference to the funeral of District Councillor Bill Sadler which took place on 1 June 2017 (as set out within Report No: COU/FH/17/011). She informed the meeting that it had been incredibly well attended with Forest Heath Councillors having formed a guard of honour outside the church in honour of their past colleague.

The report was noted.

232. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Bloodworth, Carol Lynch, Christine Mason, Robin Millar and Reg Silvester.

233. **Declarations of Interest**

The following Councillors declared non-pecuniary interests in Agenda Item 9. 'Community Governance Review' (Report No: COU/FH/17/014) as Members of the Parish/Town Councils that the report proposed Parish boundary changes in respect of:

- Councillor Andrew Appleby (Newmarket Town Council)
- Councillor Ruth Bowman (Mildenhall Parish Council)
- Councillor Simon Cole (Exning Parish Council)
- Councillor Roger Dicker (Kentford Parish Council)
- Councillor Andy Drummond (Newmarket Town Council)
- Councillor Nigel Roman (Mildenhall Parish Council)

234. **The Leader's Report (Report No: COU/FH/17/012)**

The Leader presented his statement to the meeting, as set out in Report No: COU/FH/17/012.

The report was noted.

235. **Public Participation**

Agenda Item 9. Community Governance Review (Report No: COU/FH/17/014)

Councillor Bill Rampling, Chairman of Moulton Parish Council, addressed the meeting in respect of the above item and specifically Issue No. 3: Kentford/Moulton.

He reiterated Moulton Parish Council's response, as set out in the report, in that the Parish Council wholeheartedly supported Option 2.

Councillor Rampling also advised the meeting that residents in the additional residences that would be affected by the proposals in Option 3 had voiced objection to this option; due to the historic links they had with Moulton and their wish to remain part of this Parish (and not Kentford).

On conclusion, the Chairman thanked Councillor Rampling for his comments and agreed to take them on board when considering the item in question, later in the meeting.

236. **Referrals Report of Recommendations from Cabinet**

Referral from Extraordinary Joint Cabinet: 30 May 2017
'A Single Council for West Suffolk – Draft Business Case'

The Chairman advised Members that they were simply asked to note this item which was the subject of the following report on the agenda.

237. **A Single Council for West Suffolk - Draft Business Case (Report No: COU/FH/17/013)**

Prior to considering this item, a short supplementary paper was tabled and the Chairman allowed the meeting a few minutes in which to peruse this.

The Leader was then invited to present the report which sought consent of the Council to jointly (with St Edmundsbury Borough Council) undertake a public engagement exercise on the option of a single district-level council for West Suffolk.

The Leader advised the meeting that a new single council would bring real and lasting benefits to all residents in the area. It would give West Suffolk greater ability to deliver services vital for communities, whilst at the same time driving forward ambitious opportunities for the area.

The Leader spoke on increased resilience and being better placed in which to respond to challenges as a new single council.

A number of Members spoke on this item, primarily in relation to concerns regarding future Ward sizes and the number of Councillors who would be representing communities.

The Leader explained that all Members would have opportunity to have input in the process and it would be down to Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury to shape the new council, in consultation with Parishes, community groups etc. He advised that the figures set out in Report No: COU/FH/17/013 were purely indicative.

A question was also raised as to whether the Mildenhall Hub would still go ahead if a new single council was formed. The Leader assured the meeting that the project would still progress in partnership with those agencies who were also included within the proposed scheme.

Councillor Lance Stanbury also spoke in favour of a new single council and made reference to the longstanding successful partnership arrangement between Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury.

Councillor Stanbury explained that the proposal was a tremendous opportunity which would create greater resilience and a stronger unified voice to deliver services at a local level. And he highlighted the importance of the role of the Future Governance Member Steering Group.

It was proposed by the Leader, seconded by Councillor David Bowman and with 20 voting for the motion and with 1 abstention, it was

RESOLVED:

That:-

1. Council agreed in principle that the draft business case, attached as Appendix A of Report No: COU/FH/17/013 and inclusive of the tabled supplementary document, demonstrated that that a single district-level

council for West Suffolk represented the most effective governance arrangements moving forward;

2. The draft business case be tested through an engagement exercise with the public and other key stakeholders in accordance with the approach set out in Paragraph 1.2 of Report No: COU/FH/17/013;

3. The detailed considerations required in forming a single council would continue to be assessed by the Future Governance Member Steering Group set up for the purpose; and

4. A further report would be presented to both Councils at their meetings in September 2017 containing the final business case and incorporating the outcomes of the engagement exercise.

238. **Community Governance Review (Report No: COU/FH/17/014)**

The Chairman advised the meeting that at the final stage of Forest Heath's Community Governance Review, Report No COU/FH/17/014 set out the results of consultation on the final recommendations from the Council meeting in February 2017.

The recommendations from the February meeting were to be tested in the consultation, and Council was able to change them if they considered there was sufficient evidence to do so.

The Chairman also advised that, as in February, the three 'Issues' would be taken separately, as three separate debates, so that Members could take part in each if they wished. A separate motion would need to be proposed, seconded and voted upon for each.

The Director was then invited to introduce each item and to explain the options open to Members to take.

Issue No. 1: Exning/Newmarket

Whether or not (and how) Exning Cemetery should be transferred from Newmarket Parish to Exning Parish by way of a minor boundary change.

Councillor Andy Drummond moved that Option A: Adopt the Recommendation, be approved. This was duly seconded by Councillor Simon Cole and with the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

1a. That, as set out in Appendix A to Report No: COU/FH/17/014, the final recommendation for Issue No. 1: Exning/Newmarket be adopted as the outcome of this CGR, and the boundary between the two parishes be amended accordingly, as set out in the consultation map within Appendix A.

Issue No. 2: Mildenhall/West Row

Whether or not (and how) the existing Parish of Mildenhall should be divided to create two parishes, each with its own parish council: a smaller Parish of Mildenhall and a new Parish of West Row.

Councillor Lance Stanbury spoke in relation to this Issue and questioned whether sufficient evidence had been provided to adequately demonstrate the need within West Row for this proposed change.

Prior to making a decision, Councillor Stanbury suggested that it might be useful to know the definite view of Mildenhall Parish Council taking into consideration the results of the public consultation, which the Parish would not have known when they made their response.

To this end Councillor Stanbury proposed (new) Option C: the final decision for Issue No 2: Mildenhall/West Row be deferred until the July 2017 meeting of Council to allow Mildenhall Parish Council to clarify its formal response in the light of the results of the formal consultation process. And this was duly seconded by Councillor Louis Busuttil.

In response to questions and comments on this Issue from Members, the Chairman clarified that the proposed deferment would be undertaken in accordance with the existing terms of reference for the CGR.

Upon putting the motion to the vote and with the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

1b. That, in accordance with the existing terms of reference for the review, the final decision for Issue No 2: Mildenhall/West Row be deferred until the July 2017 meeting of Council to allow Mildenhall Parish Council to clarify its formal response in the light of the results of the formal consultation process.

Issue No. 3: Kentford/Moulton

Whether or not (and how) new and existing properties to the North of Moulton Parish should be transferred to Kentford Parish.

The Director clarified that, whilst Kentford Parish Council had expressed a preference for Option 3, both Parish Councils were in agreement that the new properties covered by Option 2 (the option favoured by Moulton Parish Council) should transfer from Moulton to Kentford. In terms of the original objectives of the CGR, this was therefore an issue on which there remained a consensus.

Councillor Roger Dicker, as Ward Member for Kentford/Moulton, also spoke in support of Option 2 and made reference to those residents (as per Councillor Bill Rampling's earlier comments in the meeting) who objected to Option 3.

Councillor Dicker moved that Option A: Adopt the Recommendation, be approved. This was duly seconded by Councillor Andy Drummond and with the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

1c. That, as set out in Appendix A to Report No: COU/FH/17/014, the final recommendation for Issue No. 3: Kentford/Moulton be adopted as the outcome of this CGR, and the boundary of Kentford Parish be extended to included properties at or in the vicinity of the 'Farrier's Grange' and 'Lambert Grove' developments, as set out as Option 2 in the consultation map within Appendix A.

Attention was then drawn to Recommendations 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the report.

It was moved by Councillor David Bowman, seconded by Councillor Simon Cole, and with the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

That:-

2. The following statutory resolutions be made in respect of this CGR:
   (a) no existing parish be abolished as part of the review;
   (b) there be no change to the name of any existing parish;
   (c) there be no change to the current arrangements which determine whether an existing parish has a council or not i.e.:
      (i) if it currently has a parish meeting it will continue to do so; and/or
      (ii) if it currently has a parish council it will continue to do so;

3. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England be requested to make any necessary consequential changes to district and/or county council electoral arrangements, if applicable;

4. The timing of the implementation of any agreed changes to parish electoral arrangements arising from this review be dealt with as set out in Section 1.4 of Report No COU/FH/17/014; and

5. The decisions taken as part of this CGR be published and, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, and the advice of the Boundary Commission, the necessary order(s) be made and implemented at the appropriate time(s) before the next parish elections in 2019.

239. **Response to Network Rail's Proposed Suffolk Level Crossing Reduction Order (Report No: COU/FH/17/015)**

Councillor Lance Stanbury, Cabinet Member for Planning and Growth, presented this report which sought Council's ratification of the letter of objection previously sent to the Department of Transport, as contained in Appendix B of Report No: COU/FH/17/015, making an objection to Network

Rail's proposed closure of the stop, look and listen at grade pedestrian crossing at Weatherby, Newmarket.

On the motion of the Cabinet Member, seconded by Councillor Andy Drummond, and with the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

That the Council ratified the letter of objection previously sent to the Department of Transport dated 4 May 2017, as contained in Appendix B of Report No: COU/FH/17/015, therefore making a valid objection to Network Rail's proposed Transport and Works Act 1992 (Suffolk Level Crossing Reduction) Order.

240. **Representation on Suffolk County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The Council was asked to nominate one Member and one substitute Member to serve on the County's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Simon Cole advised that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had, at their meeting on 6 June 2017, nominated Councillor John Bloodworth as the full Member and Councillor Christine Mason as the substitute Member for 2017/2018.

Councillor Cole then formally moved the recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, this was duly seconded by Councillor Rona Burt and with the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

That Councillor John Bloodworth be nominated as the District Council's representative and Councillor Christine Mason as the nominated substitute Member on the Suffolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2017/2018.

241. **Appointment of Independent Persons (Report No: COU/FH/17/016)**

Councillor David Bowman, Chairman of the West Suffolk Joint Standards Committee presented this report which sought Council approval to appoint the Independent Persons for West Suffolk, to operate until 1 July 2017.

Councillor Bowman explained that Mr Arnold Barrow had been operating as one of the West Suffolk Independent Persons since 2014 and it was proposed to reappoint him for a further term.

The other Independent Person who was appointed in 2014 alongside Mr Barrow no longer wished to continue in the role. Hence, a recruitment process had been undertaken, as a result of which Mrs Zoe Finn was recommended for appointment.

On the motion of Councillor Bowman, seconded by Councillor Nigel Roman and with 19 voting for the motion and with 2 abstentions, it was

RESOLVED:

That:-

1. Mr Arnold Barrow be reappointed as an Independent Person until 1 July 2019; and

2. Mrs Zoe Finn be appointed as an Independent Person until 1 July 2019.

242. **Questions to Chairmen of other Committees**

There were no questions to Chairmen of other Committees.

243. **Urgent Questions on Notice**

There were no urgent questions on notice.

The meeting concluded at 6.58 pm

Signed by:

Chairman