
Council



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Council** held on
Tuesday 19 March 2019 at **7.00 pm** at the **Conference Chamber,**
West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3YU

This was the last meeting of the St Edmundsbury Borough Council before it's dissolution on 31 March 2019. As a result, the minutes of the meeting remain as drafted following the meeting and cannot be confirmed by the Council and signed by the Mayor. This is consistent with all other dissolved committees and bodies.

Present: **Councillors**

Mayor Margaret Marks
Deputy Mayor Patrick Chung

Terry Clements	Diane Hind	Barry Robbins
Sarah Broughton	Beccy Hopfensperger	Richard Rout
Simon Brown	Paul Hopfensperger	Andrew Smith
Tony Brown	Ian Houlder	Andrew Speed
Carol Bull	Elaine McManus	Clive Springett
John Burns	Jane Midwood	Sarah Stamp
Mike Chester	Sara Mildmay-White	Peter Stevens
Max Clarke	David Nettleton	Peter Thompson
Mary Evans	Robin Pilley	Jim Thorndyke
Robert Everitt	Clive Pollington	Julia Wakelam
Paula Fox	Alaric Pugh	Frank Warby
Susan Glossop	Joanna Rayner	Patricia Warby
John Griffiths	Karen Richardson	
Wayne Hailstone	David Roach	

431. Prayers

The Mayor's Chaplain, The Reverend Canon, Ian Finn, Rector of St Mary's Church, Haverhill opened the meeting with prayers.

432. Remembrance

A minute's silence was held in remembrance for the late former Councillor and Mayor, Mike Jones.

433. **Introduction and Welcome**

Before moving on to business, the Mayor wished to offer a warm welcome to the Honorary Freeman, Alderman and representatives of the military that were in attendance. Particular recognition was given to:

- (a) Lieutenant Commander John Cursiter and Rob Wade, representatives of HMS Vengeance, who had travelled from Scotland for the occasion; and
- (b) Honorary Freeman Sheila Wormleighton, who had attended the very first meeting of St Edmundsbury Borough Council in 1974 and was now present at its last.

434. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor, subject to the addition of a minor amendment to include Councillor Mary Evans in the list of Members present.

435. **Mayor's announcements**

The Mayor reported on the civic engagements and charity activities, which she and the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress had attended since the last meeting of Council on 19 February 2019.

436. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Trevor Beckwith and Jason Crooks.

437. **Declarations of Interests**

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

438. **Leader's Statement (Paper No: COU/SE/19/003)**

Councillor John Griffiths, Leader of the Council, presented his Leader's Statement as outlined in Paper No: COU/SE/19/003.

In his introductory remarks, Councillor Griffiths provided the following:

- (a) **Tribute:** Councillor Griffiths paid his own personal tribute to the late former Councillor Mike Jones.
- (b) **Leader's Statement:** That this was the last Leader's Statement for Councillor Griffiths as Leader of St Edmundsbury Borough Council (SEBC) and he acknowledged the historic occasion of this final Council meeting of SEBC.
- (c) **Metrolink:** Ambitious plans for a £4billion metrolink in Cambridgeshire had been announced in a report commissioned by the Cambridgeshire

and Peterborough Combined Authority. Together with other towns in the Cambridge sub-region, the proposed Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro (CAM) would provide a vital transport link for Haverhill and Mildenhall to the Greater Cambridge area, thus providing West Suffolk with better opportunities for enhancing business and economic growth.

- (d) **Future High Street Fund:** the Council's Expression of Interest for accessing the first round of this funding for Haverhill had been submitted.
- (e) **Rough Sleepers:** Special recognition was given to the Housing team and other Council staff who monitored the well-being of rough sleepers in West Suffolk every two months. The numbers of rough sleepers in West Suffolk had reduced from more than 30 to 10.
- (f) **West Suffolk Operational Hub:** Construction of the steel frame had been completed.
- (g) **National Social Prescribing Week:** This had taken place during week commencing 11 March 2019. Councillor Griffiths acknowledged the success of the LifeLink social prescribing project in Haverhill. Similar schemes were due to become operational in Mildenhall and Brandon shortly.

Whilst not a question, however, as this was the final SEBC Council meeting, Councillor Robert Everitt wished to place on record his thanks on behalf of the Conservative Group and the Council itself, to Councillor Griffiths for his work as Leader of the Council for the past 16 years, and as Leader of the Opposition for one year prior to that.

Councillor Max Clarke, wished to seek Councillor Griffiths' condemnation of the recent attacks on mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand and whether he supported the abolition of Islamophobia on an international scale. In response, Councillor Griffiths wholeheartedly shared Councillor Clarke's sentiments, not only against Muslims, but prejudice against all faiths and denominations.

Councillor Paul Hopfensperger referred to the first sentence of paragraph 3 of Councillor Griffiths' written statement and wished it to be clarified that as a non-grouped independent Member of the Council, it was not only "councillors of all parties..." that had improved "...the quality of life, prosperity and [given] value for money for services..." for residents. Councillor Hopfensperger felt that all councillors elected to SEBC should be acknowledged regardless of whether they had a particular political party affiliation or not.

In response, Councillor Griffiths assured Councillor Hopfensperger that it was a combination of all Members' efforts in respect of trying to achieve the very best for St Edmundsbury's and West Suffolk's local communities and businesses, irrespective of personal or political interest.

Councillor John Burns was delighted to hear the announcement referred to in (c) above, stating that Haverhill had been seeking a rail link to Cambridge for

around 30 years or more. He congratulated all those involved in lobbying for the link.

439. **Public Participation**

No members of the public in attendance had registered to speak.

440. **Referrals Report of Recommendations from the Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee (Report No: COU/SE/19/004)**

Council considered the Referrals Report of Recommendations from the Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee contained within Report No: COU/SE/19/004.

(A) Referrals from Extraordinary Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee: 26 February 2019

1. Haverhill Research Park and Suffolk Business Park Investment Fund

Approval was sought for an investment loan facility of up to £7m towards costs that would support growth on the Enterprise Zones at Haverhill Research Park and Suffolk Business Park, Bury St Edmunds.

The principal intention of this loan facility would be to support the development of business centres for new businesses (start-ups). The provision of such buildings would primarily provide flexible space, enabled West Suffolk to attract new businesses and innovation which would inspire local communities.

Councillor Susan Glossop, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth, drew relevant issues to the attention of Council, including that there were benefits of providing a commercial loan to the developer such as the benefits to the local economy. This loan would provide the match funding to go with the grant applications that had been made by the developer for the capital cost of building both centres. The result of this was to make the delivery of both or either centre more likely and, therefore, to enable West Suffolk to benefit from much needed start-up space for new and growing enterprises.

Any loan from this facility would be arranged at a commercial interest rate (and would be properly assessed and due diligence undertaken) and would generate an annual income for SEBC Council. Any lending would be subject to the strict criteria in the Loans Policy and this included ensuring that due diligence had been undertaken and the repayment of the loan was sufficiently secured to the right value. The risks associated with this proposal were, therefore, low.

The majority of Members supported the proposal, acknowledging that this provided a catalyst for enabling new, small start-up businesses to utilise much needed units, which would help in their endeavours towards expansion and growth.

On the motion of Councillor Susan Glossop, seconded by Councillor Carol Bull, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:

That:

- (1) A £7m investment facility for the development of business centres and associated works by way of loan(s) for Haverhill Research Park and Suffolk Park (Enterprise Zone) Bury St Edmunds, as set out in Report No: CAB/JT/19/007, be approved;
- (2) subject to the satisfaction of the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer that appropriate security is in place to protect the Council's investment and due diligence, highlighting no significant risks to the Council has been completed, delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive in consultation with the SEBC Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth to enter into a loan agreement(s) with the developer; and
- (3) it be agreed for the Council's Section 151 Officer to make the necessary changes to the Council's prudential indicators as a result of resolution 1. above.

**(B) Referrals from Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee:
12 March 2019**

1. Treasury Management Report 2018-2019 and Investment Activity (1 April – 31 December 2018)

Approval was sought for the Treasury Management Report 2018/2019 covering the period 1 April to 31 December 2018.

Councillor Ian Houlder, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance, drew relevant issues to the attention of Council.

On the motion of Councillor Houlder, seconded by Councillor Sarah Broughton, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:

That the Treasury Management Report for 2018-2019 for the period 1 April to 31 December 2018, as detailed in Report No: TMS/SE/19/001, be approved.

2. Former Castle Hill Middle School: Development Brief

Approval was sought for the draft development brief for the former Castle Hill Middle School in Haverhill.

The adopted Haverhill Vision 2031 Local Plan document allocated the site of the former Castle Hill Middle School as a site suitable for development with housing with an indicative capacity of 25 dwellings (Policy HV5c).

Despite being the site of a former school which was destroyed by fire, the allocated housing related solely to part of the playing field and was classified as greenfield.

Prior to commencing work on preparation of the development brief, Ingleton Wood as agent for the developer (Barley Homes), undertook an initial consultation event on 14 June 2018, together with extensive engagement with the local community and key stakeholders. This then helped inform the preparation of the draft development brief.

A large part of the brief identified the constraints and opportunities affecting the site. These included identification of existing natural greenspace and features, the relationship with surrounding development, site levels and opportunities for vehicular access and the relationship with the adjoining land which would form recreational open space. A key element was the policy requirement to provide a pedestrian and cycle access linking the site and Chivers Road with the existing schools which were currently accessed solely from School Lane. This would be achieved through the central spine of the site and would have a fundamental influence on the layout of the site and the adjacent recreational open space.

Councillor Susan Glossop, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth, drew relevant issues to the attention of Council, including that the draft development brief had been prepared in accordance with the Council's adopted protocol and had been subject to public consultation, as detailed in Section 1.2 of Report No: CAB/JT/19/014. Analysis of the consultation responses and consequential changes to the document were contained within sections 4 and 5 of the Consultation Report (Appendix B to Report No: CAB/JT/19/014).

Adoption of the draft Development Brief would be a key element in the delivery of sustainable development at the former Castle Hill Middle School.

Councillor Sara Mildmay-White, Portfolio Holder for Housing, was delighted that this site was coming forward for development by Barley Homes, particularly as it had been empty for a number of years. The consultation had largely been positive, including support expressed for the proposed provision within the site for a footpath and cycle link to School Lane and the two existing schools.

A detailed discussion was held and whilst the draft development brief was generally supported, some concern was expressed in respect of:

- (a) the consultation process, with particular reference to the locations of the drop-in consultation events, which were located some distance away from the proposed development site;
- (b) whether there was evidence to support the statement in the brief, which had concluded that there was 'no real support for the allotment site..';
- (c) that should any s106 contributions for education be agreed, these should be allocated to Castle Manor Academy and not Samuel Ward Academy as it was closer to the proposed development site; and
- (d) that it would be a missed opportunity if the proposed dwellings were not built to low energy use standards.

Councillor Glossop duly responded to the issues raised above, including that the decision not to include allotment provision was following discussion with appropriate officers, and whilst not policy, the implementation of low energy use measures would be promoted.

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

RESOLVED:

That the development brief for the former Castle Hill Middle School, Haverhill, as contained in Appendix A to Report No: CAB/JT/19/014, be adopted as informal planning guidance.

3. West Suffolk Joint Pay Policy Statement: 2019/2020

Approval was sought for the West Suffolk Joint Pay Policy Statement 2019/2020.

Section 38/11 of the Localism Act 2011 required local authorities to produce a Pay Policy Statement annually. Councillor Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance, drew relevant issues to the attention of Council, including that a Joint Pay Policy Statement for 2019/2020 had been produced which reflected a shared workforce and the single Pay and Reward Strategy in place for the two West Suffolk Councils. It also incorporated the outcomes of the 2013 collective agreement which established a modern reward framework for the integrated workforce.

The Pay Policy Statement included:

- (a) the level and elements of remuneration for Chief Officers (senior staff);
- (b) the remuneration of the lowest paid employees;
- (c) the relationship between the remuneration of the highest and lowest paid employees; and
- (d) other specific aspects of Chief Officer remuneration, fees and charges and other discretionary payments.

In addition, Section 7 of the Pay Policy Statement provided an analysis of the gender pay gap for the West Suffolk Councils. Members noted that for the period April 2017 to March 2018, the Councils' combined mean gender pay gap was -0.5%, showing that the average hourly rate of females was 0.5% more than the average hourly rate of males and the median gap. The median gender pay gap was zero, meaning there was no difference between males and females.

Members also noted that the lowest paid contractual employee was paid at spinal column point 9 (£8.68 per hour). Casual staff, aged 25 or over, was paid at the national living wage of £7.83 per hour. Those aged under 25 were paid the national minimum wage of £7.38 per hour. All employees, under National Joint Council terms and conditions, also received the national cost of living award.

Attention was also drawn to the ratio of the Council's current highest paid employee (Chief Executive) and the lowest paid employee, in comparison to other local authorities and public sector organisations, and also to those companies listed in the FTSE 100. The West Suffolk Councils compared favourably, further details regarding this were contained in Section 11 of the Pay Policy Statement.

On the motion of Councillor Houlder, seconded by Councillor Joanna Rayner, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:

That the West Suffolk Joint Pay Policy Statement for 2019/2020, as contained in Appendix 1 to Report No: CAB/JT/19/015, be approved.

441. Questions to Committee Chairmen

Council considered a narrative item, which sought questions of Committee Chairmen on business transacted by their committees since the last ordinary meeting of Council on 19 February 2019, as outlined below:

Committee	Chairman	Dates of meetings
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Cllr Hind	13 March 2019
Development Control Committee	Cllr Jim Thorndyke	7 March 2019

No questions were asked of the above Chairmen.

(Councillor David Nettleton left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.)

442. Urgent Questions on Notice

No urgent questions on notice had been received.

443. Report on Special Urgency

The Leader of the Council reported that no executive decisions had been taken under the Special Urgency provisions of the Constitution.

444. Recognising the History of St Edmundsbury Borough Council (Report No: COU/SE/19/005)

Council considered this report, which presented the history and achievements of St Edmundsbury Borough Council (SEBC) since its formation on 1 April 1974.

Together with Forest Heath District Council, the Borough Council would be abolished on 31 March 2019, with both authorities being replaced by West Suffolk Council from 1 April 2019.

The report referenced a number of SEBC's historical milestones, recollections and achievements of note, particularly in relation to the process leading up to transfer of the Council's housing stock to Havebury Housing Partnership in 2002; the Council's support to enhancing leisure, culture and rural development within the Borough; and the changing governance arrangements of the Council since its creation.

Councillor John Griffiths, Leader of the Council, drew relevant issues to attention of Council, including inviting Members to acknowledge their own memories of sitting on the Council, both regarding specific achievements of the Council and those that had helped make the achievements happen.

In respect of his own recollections, Councillor Griffiths firstly paid tribute to all that had contributed to the success of the Council, making specific reference to late former councillors that had now sadly died since he became Leader of the Council in 2003. He stated that it made a humbling list, which contained the names of so many wonderful people that had worked tirelessly for their communities and the Council.

Councillor Griffiths continued, stating that he had served under 22 Mayors in total and, in his first five years on the Council, under five other Leaders. He became Leader of the Opposition for one year, before being elected as Leader of the Council for the past 16 years. During this time, there were countless stories and achievements to recount; however, Councillor Griffiths was proud to acknowledge the significant improvements and investments made in the Borough's towns and rural areas, whilst facing difficult challenges and continuing to provide excellent services.

As well as noting that the Borough Council was recognised in 2004 as being one of the country's highest performing councils, he paid tribute to all councillors (regardless of political interest or party affiliation), the four Chief Executives he had worked with and all council staff and their predecessors. Specifically, he paid tribute to Councillor David Nettleton, Leader of the Charter Group, and also acknowledged the direct support given to councillors by the Monitoring Officer and the Democratic Services Team.

A detailed discussion was held and other Members added their own personal thanks to councillors, officers, staff and their predecessors. Specific recognition was given to:

- (a) the late former Councillor Mike Jones;
- (b) the late former Councillor Mike Ames; and
- (c) former Councillor Paul Farmer.

As the longest serving councillor of 36 years, Councillor Terry Clements provided his own personal recollections of his time elected to the Borough Council, including:

- (a) budgets allocated to housing prior to the transfer of the Council's housing stock;
- (b) his role in the transfer of the Council's housing stock to Havebury Housing Partnership;

- (c) the investments in leisure services, particularly the cinemas in Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill, and his involvement with establishing a football academy in Bury St Edmunds;
- (d) the development and subsequent adoption of Vision 2031; and
- (e) his mayoralty year in 2017/2018, and his subsequent representation at Compiègne in France, which was one of Bury St Edmunds' twin towns.

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

RESOLVED:

Thanks be given to all who have contributed to the achievements of St Edmundsbury Borough Council since its formation on 1 April 1974.

(At the request of the Mayor, the list of late former councillors as referred to above is appended to these minutes.)

445. Presentation of Long Service Awards (Report No: COU/SE/19/006)

Council considered this report, which presented the awarding of Long Service Awards for 11 Members of St Edmundsbury Borough Council. An updated framed copy of the previously carried resolution for Councillor Trevor Beckwith was also considered.

On 16 July 1991 (*and in addition to the statutory provision for the creation of Honorary Freemen and Honorary Aldermen*) the Council created a third award option, namely formal acknowledgement of 12 years or more cumulative service by former Members of the Council.

As this was the last meeting of St Edmundsbury Borough Council before its dissolution on 31 March 2019, Members eligible for the award, at their wish, would be recognised at this meeting. Special recognition was given to Councillor Terry Clements, as the longest serving Member with 36 years' cumulative service, and to Councillors John Griffiths and Sara Mildmay-White, current Leader and Deputy Leader, and both of whom had served 22 and 24 years' cumulative service respectively.

Accordingly, the following motions were moved and seconded, and upon approval of the resolution by the Council, the Mayor presented special recognition awards, where applicable, and a framed copy of each resolution to each eligible Councillor:

On the motion of Councillor John Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Beccy Hopfensperger, and duly carried unanimously, it was

RESOLVED:

That, in special recognition of **thirty-six years** of dedicated public service by **TERRY (TERENCE) GERALD CLEMENTS** as an elected Member of the Council for the Whelnetham, and Horringer and Whelnetham Wards. In acknowledgement of his contribution to the work of the Borough Council, including his responsibilities as Chairman of former Committees and as a former Portfolio Holder, his term of office as Mayor for 2017/2018, also to 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 motion of Councillor Sara Mildmay-White, seconded by Councillor Carol Bull, and duly carried unanimously, it was

RESOLVED:

That, in special recognition of **twenty-two years** of dedicated public service by **JOHN HENRY MORGAN GRIFFITHS MBE** as an elected Member of the Council for the Ixworth Ward. In acknowledgement of his contribution to the work of the Borough Council, including his responsibilities as Chairman of former Committees, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder, also 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 motion of Councillor John Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Sarah Stamp, and duly carried unanimously, it was

RESOLVED:

That, in special recognition of **twenty-four years** of dedicated public service by **SARA JANE MILD MAY-WHITE** as an elected Member of the Council for the Rougham Ward, and in acknowledgement of her contribution to the work of the Borough Council, including her responsibilities as Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder, 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.

On the motion of Councillor Sara Mildmay-White, seconded by Councillor Paula Fox, and duly carried unanimously, it was

RESOLVED:

That, in recognition of **twenty-one years** of dedicated public service by **JIM (JOHN) THORNDYKE** as an elected Member of the Council for the Stanton Ward, and in acknowledgement of his contribution to the work of the Borough Council, including his responsibilities as Chairman of the Development Control Committee for seven years, 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 motion of Councillor John Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Clive Springett, and duly carried unanimously, it was

RESOLVED:

That, in recognition of **twenty years** of dedicated public service by **FRANK (FRANCIS) JOSEPH WARBY** as an elected Member of the Council for the Eastgate, and Moreton Hall Wards in Bury St Edmunds. In acknowledgement of his contribution to the work of the Borough Council, including his responsibilities as a former Committee Chairman and former Portfolio Holder, his term of office as Mayor for 2006/2007, also 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 motion of Councillor Sara Mildmay-White, seconded by Councillor Joanna Rayner, and duly carried unanimously, it was

RESOLVED:

That, in recognition of **sixteen years** of dedicated public service by **IAN CHARLES HOULDER** as an elected Member of the Council for the Barrow Ward. In acknowledgement of his contribution to the work of the Borough Council, including his responsibilities as a Portfolio Holder, his term of office as Mayor for 2010/2011, also 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 motion of Councillor John Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Susan Glossop, and duly carried unanimously, it was

RESOLVED:

That, in recognition of **sixteen years** of dedicated public service by **PETER ANTHONY STEVENS** as an elected Member of the Council for the Cavendish Ward, and in acknowledgement of his contribution to the work of the Borough Council, including his responsibilities as a Portfolio Holder, 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 motion of Councillor Sara Mildmay-White, seconded by Councillor Terry Clements, and duly carried unanimously, it was

RESOLVED:

That, in recognition of **sixteen years** of dedicated public service by **PATSY (PATRICIA) ANN WARBY** as an elected Member of the Council for the Eastgate Ward in Bury St Edmunds, and in acknowledgement of her contribution to the work of the Borough Council, including her term of office as Mayor for 2009/2010, 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.

On the motion of Councillor John Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Andrew Speed, and duly carried unanimously, it was

RESOLVED:

That, in recognition of **thirteen years** of dedicated public service by **ROBERT DALE EVERITT** as an elected Member of the Council for the Risbygate and Minden Wards in Bury St Edmunds. In acknowledgement of his contribution to the work of the Borough Council, including his responsibilities as a Portfolio Holder, his term of office as Mayor for 2014/2015, also 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 motion of Councillor Sara Mildmay-White, seconded by Andrew Smith, and duly carried unanimously, it was

RESOLVED:

That, in recognition of **twelve years** of dedicated public service by **SARAH OLIVIA BROUGHTON** as an elected Member of the Council for the Great Barton Ward, and in acknowledgement of her contribution to the work of the Borough Council, including her responsibilities as Chairman of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, 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.

On the motion of Councillor John Griffiths, seconded by Councillor John Burns, and duly carried unanimously, it was

RESOLVED:

That, in recognition of **twelve years** of dedicated public service by **KAREN DENISE RICHARDSON** as an elected Member of the Council for the Haverhill East, and Kedington Wards, and in acknowledgement of her contribution to the work of the Borough Council, 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.

In addition, Councillor Trevor Beckwith had served a total of **twenty-three years** on the Council. Councillor Beckwith was officially recognised with a Long Service Award in 2015; however following his return to the Council in 2016, he was to be presented with an updated framed copy of the resolution. He was unfortunately not in attendance and arrangements would therefore be made for him to receive his award following the meeting.

446. **Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Mayor's Chaplain**

Council considered this narrative item. As there would be no further meetings of St Edmundsbury Borough Council prior to its dissolution on 31 March 2019, the Council was asked to consider separate Votes of Thanks to the retiring Mayor and Deputy Mayor who would remain in office until 31 March 2019. Recognition was also given to the Mayor's Chaplain.

(Note: The current Mayor of St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Chairman of Forest Heath District Council were the nominated civic representatives of the new West Suffolk Council until the Council's Annual General Meeting on 22 May 2019.)

1. Retiring Mayor

(At this point, the Deputy Mayor took the Chair.)

On the motion of Councillor John Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Julia Wakelam, and duly carried unanimously, it was

RESOLVED:

That the Council, in recognising the most able and diligent manner in which the retiring Mayor, Councillor Margaret Marks, has carried out the duties of Mayor of the Borough during the past year, record its thanks and deep appreciation of her services as Mayor.

The Deputy Mayor presented the Mayor with her past Mayor's badge and a bouquet of flowers. The retiring Mayor then acknowledged her year in office, including giving particular thanks and recognition to the Mayor's Secretary; Mayor's Officer; the Sword and Mace Bearers; the Deputy Mayor and to all Councillors for their support. She also gave recognition to her chosen charities and acknowledged the work of many members of the community who had given so much to supporting other people.

(The Mayor re-took the Chair.)

2. Deputy Mayor

On the motion of Councillor John Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Sarah Stamp, and duly carried unanimously, it was

RESOLVED:

That the Council, in recognising the most able and diligent manner in which the retiring Deputy Mayor, Councillor Patrick Chung, has carried out the duties of Deputy Mayor of the Borough during the past year, record its thanks and deep appreciation of his services as Deputy Mayor.

The retiring Deputy Mayor then acknowledged his year in office. Mrs Anna Chung, retiring Deputy Mayoress was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

3. Mayor's Chaplain

The Mayor gave recognition to and acknowledged the work of her Chaplain, Reverend Canon Ian Finn, and presented him with his embroidered badge.

447. Mayor's Closing Remarks

Before closing the meeting, the Mayor gave thanks to all officers and staff of the Council for their professionalism and at times, seemingly infinite patience. To those councillors that would not be standing for re-election, the Mayor wished them future good health and happiness; and to those councillors that would be standing, she wished them success with their election campaigns.

The Mayor announced the conclusion of the final meeting of St Edmundsbury Borough Council.

448. Appendix to Minutes: Silences held for those who have passed since 2003

Attached as referred to in minute 444. above.

The Meeting concluded at 9.12 pm

Signed by:

Mayor
