

Council



Forest Heath
District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **Council** held on
Wednesday 20 March 2019 at 6.00 pm at the **Council Chamber, District Offices**, College Heath Road, Mildenhall IP28 7EY

Present: **Councillors**

Chairman	Brian Harvey
Vice Chairman	Chris Barker
Michael Anderson	Carol Lynch
Andrew Appleby	Christine Mason
John Bloodworth	Robin Millar
David Bowman	Robert Nobbs
Ruth Bowman J.P.	Colin Noble
Rona Burt	David Palmer
Louis Busuttil	Peter Ridgwell
Simon Cole	Nigel Roman
Roger Dicker	Reg Sylvester
Andy Drummond	Lance Stanbury
Stephen Edwards	James Waters
Victor Lukaniuk	

This was the last of two meetings of Forest Heath Council before its dissolution on 6 May 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 Chair. This is consistent with all other dissolved Committees and bodies.

348. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2018 were unanimously received as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

349. **Chairman's Announcements (Report No: COU/FH/19/001)**

The report was noted.

350. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ruth Allen.

Councillor Louise Marston was also unable to attend the meeting.

351. **Declarations of Interest**

None were declared.

352. The Leader's Report (Report No: COU/FH/19/002)

The Leader presented his statement to the meeting as set out in Report No COU/FH/19/002.

He highlighted that this was to be his last statement as Forest Heath District Council's Leader and he considered it to have been both an honour and a privilege to have served as such.

The Leader gave thanks to all his fellow Councillors and Officers and spoke in support of the imminent formation of the West Suffolk Council.

The Deputy Leader gave thanks to the Leader and recognition for his instrumental leadership and guidance.

Councillor Victor Lukaniuk drew attention to the reference within the Leader's statement to the homes needed for future generations. He stressed the importance of including residential developments within Brandon, mindful of the restrictions currently imposed by Stone Curlew habitats.

The Leader responded that he would be happy to work with both Brandon Ward Members and Natural England in respect of this matter, in the future.

353. Public Participation

There were no questions or statements from members of the public.

354. Referrals Report of Recommendations from Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee (Report No: COU/FH/19/003)

The Council considered the referrals report of recommendations from the Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee as set out in Report No COU/FH/19/003 in respect of:

1. Treasury Management Report 2018-2019 and Investment Activity (1 April – 31 December 2018)
(Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee: 12 March 2019)

Councillor Stephen Edwards, Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance, presented this referral item.

On the motion of the Cabinet Member, seconded by Councillor David Bowman and with the vote being unanimous, 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: PAS/FH/19/008, be approved.

2. West Suffolk Joint Pay Policy Statement
(Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee: 12 March 2019)

Councillor Stephen Edwards, Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance, presented this referral item.

On the motion of the Cabinet Member, seconded by Councillor Ruth Bowman and with the vote being unanimous, 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.

3. Newmarket Cinema and Restaurant Development: Outline Business Case

(Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee: 12 March 2019)

Councillor Lance Stanbury, Cabinet Member for Planning and Growth, presented this referral item.

Councillor Andrew Appleby spoke in support of the proposal but questioned the appropriateness of the site due to potential traffic/parking issues and the impact the development could have on existing restaurant premises.

In response, the Cabinet Member explained that thorough market testing had been undertaken on a number of potential sites. A key consideration of the preferred site was the fact that the Council owned The Guineas Shopping Centre.

Councillor Appleby proposed an amendment to the recommendation, in that the report be deferred to enable further consideration to be given to alternative sites within the town. This was duly seconded by Councillor David Palmer.

Upon being put to the vote and with 4 voting for the motion, 20 against and with 1 abstention, the Chairman declared it lost.

The Cabinet Member then moved the recommendation and this was seconded by Councillor Robin Millar. With 22 voting for the motion, 2 against and with 1 abstention, it was

RESOLVED:

That:-

1. The project objectives to continue to work towards bringing a cinema and restaurant development to the heart of Newmarket be endorsed.
2. The Outline Business Case for the development of a 3 or 4 screen cinema, as contained in Exempt Appendix A to Report No: CAB/JT/19/018, be approved;

3. A budget of up to £190,000 be approved, funded by Strategic Priorities and MTFS reserve, to deliver the further design and study work as set out in paragraph 6.1 and Table 11 of the Outline Business Case; and
4. An additional £20,000 be approved, funded by Strategic Priorities and MTFS reserve, to undertake a condition and options review of the Guineas multi-storey car park.

355. Questions to Chairmen of other Committees

There were no questions to Chairmen of other Committees.

356. Urgent Questions on Notice

There were no urgent questions on notice.

357. Recognising the History of Forest Heath District Council and Long Service Awards (Report No: COU/FH/19/004)

The Leader presented this report which sought to recognise the history and achievements of Forest Heath District Council.

On the motion of the Leader, seconded by Councillor Ruth Bowman and with the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

That:-

1. Thanks be given to all who had contributed to the achievements of Forest Heath District Council since its formation on 1 April 1974; and
2. A token of appreciation be awarded to the following Councillors to recognise each having served at least 4 terms on Forest Heath District Council:
Councillor Nigel Roman – 40 years
Councillor Carol Lynch – 28 years
Councillor Stephen Edwards – 20 years
Councillor Chris Barker – 16 years
Councillor Rona Burt – 16 years
Councillor Robin Millar – 16 years

The Chairman invited Councillor Ruth Bowman to address the meeting in respect of the Council's recognition of the six District Councillors with commendable length of service.

Following which the Chairman presented each with a plaque and a long service certificate, and each recipient acknowledged their award in turn.

358. Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Chairman and Vice-Chairman

At this point the Vice Chairman took the Chair for the first part of this agenda item.

As there would be no further meetings of Forest Heath District Council prior to its dissolution on 31 March 2019, the Council was asked to consider separate votes of thanks to the retiring Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

On the motion of the Leader, seconded by Councillor David Bowman and with the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

That the Council, in recognising the most able and diligent manner in which the retiring Chairman, Councillor Brian Harvey has carried out the duties of Chairman of the District during the past year, record its thanks and deep appreciation of his services as Chairman.

The Vice Chairman then awarded Councillor Harvey with his past Chairman's badge and invited him to acknowledge his year in office.

The Chairman then re-took the Chair.

On the motion of Councillor Rona Burt, seconded by Councillor Carol Lynch and with the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

That the Council, in recognising the most able and diligent manner in which the retiring Vice-Chairman, Councillor Chris Barker has carried out the duties of Vice-Chairman of the District during the past year, record its thanks and deep appreciation of his services as Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman invited Councillor Barker to acknowledge his year in office.

359. Chairman's Closing Remarks

The Chairman made his closing remarks to signify the dissolution of Forest Heath District Council, which would be replaced by the creation of West Suffolk Council from 1 April 2019.

The Chairman gave thanks to his fellow Members and Officers. Specific mention was made to the Vice Chairman for his support whilst the Chairman recovered from an operation.

Lastly, the Chairman wished all retiring Members well and invited all present to join him for refreshments in the Members' Room.

The meeting concluded at 6.59 pm