

# Shadow Council

**Minutes** of a meeting of the **Shadow Council** held on  
**Tuesday 18 December 2018** at **6.30 pm** at the **Conference Chamber,**  
**West Suffolk House,** Western Way, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3YU

Present: **Councillors**

**Chair** Sarah Stamp

**Vice Chair** Brian Harvey

Michael Anderson	Robert Everitt	Clive Pollington
Trevor Beckwith	Paula Fox	Alaric Pugh
David Bowman	Susan Glossop	Joanna Rayner
Ruth Bowman J.P.	John Griffiths	Karen Richardson
Sarah Broughton	Wayne Hailstone	Peter Ridgwell
Simon Brown	Diane Hind	Barry Robbins
Tony Brown	Paul Hopfensperger	Nigel Roman
Carol Bull	Victor Lukaniuk	Richard Rout
John Burns	Carol Lynch	Andrew Smith
Rona Burt	Margaret Marks	Andrew Speed
Louis Busuttil	Jane Midwood	Clive Springett
Mike Chester	Sara Mildmay-White	Peter Stevens
Patrick Chung	Robin Millar	Jim Thorndyke
Terry Clements	David Nettleton	Julia Wakelam
Simon Cole	Robert Nobbs	Patricia Warby
Andy Drummond	Colin Noble	James Waters
Stephen Edwards	David Palmer	
Mary Evans	Robin Pilley	

## 48. Minutes

Councillor David Nettleton made reference to Minute No 46. 'Civic Leadership Review (Report No: COU/SA/18/013)' set out within the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2018 and proposed, in view of the perceived importance of the item in question, that the minutes be amended to include the number of votes cast for (33) and against (22) the substantive motion. This amendment was duly seconded by Councillor John Griffiths.

Accordingly, the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2018 were, therefore, confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair, subject to the following **amendment**:

Minute No 46. Civic Leadership Review (Report No: COU/SA/18/013)

*"Upon the motion being put to the vote, **and with 33 voting for the motion and with 22 against**, it was..."*

**49. Chairman's Announcements**

At the invitation of the Chair, the Vice-Chair Councillor Brian Harvey addressed the meeting.

Councillor Harvey advised the Shadow Council that it was intended at the start of the civic year that he and Councillor Sarah Stamp would each take six months of chairing the Shadow Council, similar to how the Leaders would change over.

However, as he currently held the position of Chairman of Forest Heath District Council, which occupied a considerable amount of his time, and in light of Councillor Stamp doing such an excellent job as Chair it seemed sensible for him to remain as Vice-Chair of the Shadow Authority.

Councillor Stamp thanked Councillor Harvey for his kind words and advised the meeting that the Constitution agreed in May for the Shadow Authority confirmed that the Chair would remain in post for the year, hence, there was no need to put any re-appointment on the agenda.

**50. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ruth Allen, John Bloodworth, Max Clarke, Jason Crooks, Roger Dicker, Beccy Hopfensperger, Ian Houlder, Christine Mason, Elaine McManus, David Roach, Lance Stanbury and Frank Warby.

Councillors Andrew Appleby, Chris Baker, Louise Marston, Reg Silvester and Peter Thompson were also unable to attend the meeting.

**51. Declarations of Interests**

None were declared.

**52. Leader's Statement (Report No: COU/SA/18/014)**

Councillor John Griffiths, presented what was to be his last statement as Leader of the Shadow Council, as contained in Report No: COU/SA/18/014.

Councillor Griffiths stated that it had been a huge privilege to have been elected Leader of the Shadow Council in May 2018 and tremendous progress had been made since then.

No questions were posed to Councillor Griffiths on his statement.

**53. Election of the Leader of the Shadow Council**

The Chair advised the Shadow Council that, as referenced within the minutes of the last meeting, Councillor John Griffiths had indicated his intention to step aside and nominate the current Deputy Leader, Councillor James Waters, to lead the Shadow Council for the remainder of the 2018/2019 year.

In his introductory remarks, Councillor Griffiths made reference to how much he had enjoyed working alongside friend and colleague Councillor Waters for a number of years, and particularly since the inception of the Shadow Council in May 2018.

He was therefore delighted to nominate that Councillor Waters was elected Leader of the Shadow Council for the remainder of the 2018/2019 year. This was duly seconded by Councillor Robin Millar.

Upon the motion being put to the vote, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That Councillor James Waters be elected Leader of the Shadow Council for the remainder of the 2018/2019 year.

**54. Election of the Deputy Leader of the Shadow Council**

Councillor James Waters echoed the sentiments made by Councillor John Griffiths under the previous agenda item, and stated that he was looking forward to continuing to work together for West Suffolk.

He therefore proposed that Councillor Griffiths be elected Deputy Leader of the Shadow Council for the remainder of the 2018/2019 year. This was duly seconded by Councillor Sara Mildmay-White.

Upon the motion being put to the vote, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That Councillor John Griffiths be elected Deputy Leader of the Shadow Council for the remainder of the 2018/2019 year.

**55. Public Participation**

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

**56. Referrals Report of Recommendations from the Shadow Executive (Cabinet) (Report No: COU/SA/18/015)**

The Shadow Council considered the Referrals Report of Recommendations from the Shadow Executive (Cabinet) contained within Report No: COU/SA/18/015.

**(A) Referrals from Shadow Executive (Cabinet): 27 November 2018**

**1. Council Tax Base for Tax Setting Purposes 2019/2020**

Approval was sought to set the tax base for 2019/2020 for West Suffolk.

Shadow Council were reminded that Orders had been laid allowing West Suffolk to harmonise the council tax of Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury over a period not exceeding seven years.

Councillor Stephen Edwards, one of the Shadow Executive Members with the responsibility for Resources and Performance, drew relevant issues to the attention of the Shadow Council.

Councillor Andrew Smith raised a query in that the figures set out in Paragraph 1.5 of Report No: COU/SA/18/015 did not match those listed within Recommendation 1.

Councillor Edwards confirmed that, to his understanding, the figures within the recommendation were correct and he would ask Officers to check those listed within Paragraph 1.5 and respond to Members outside of the meeting.

On the motion of Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Jo Rayner and duly carried, it was:

**RESOLVED:**

That:-

1. The tax base for 2019/2020, for the whole of West Suffolk is 55,056.11 equivalent Band D dwellings, and for each of the predecessor areas is: Forest Heath 18,313.11 and St Edmundsbury 36,743.00, as detailed in paragraph 1.4.3 of Report No: EXC/SA/18/018; and
2. The tax base for 2019/2020 for the different parts of its area, as defined by parish or special expense area boundaries, are as shown in Appendices 3 and 4 to Report No: EXC/SA/18/018.

*(Following conclusion of the meeting, Officers checked the source reports and confirmed that the figures in Recommendation 1, as proposed by the Cabinet Member and voted on, were consistent and correct.*

*Paragraph 1.5 therefore contained an error and this was communicated to all West Suffolk Members via their weekly bulletin.)*

**57. Urgent Questions on Notice**

No urgent questions on notice had been received.

The Chair wished all present a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and the meeting concluded at 6.44pm.

**Signed by:**

**Chairman**

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