
Council



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Council** held on
Tuesday 19 February 2019 at 6.00 pm at the **Conference Chamber, West
Suffolk House**, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3YU

Present: **Councillors**

Mayor Margaret Marks
Deputy Mayor Patrick Chung

Terry Clements	Wayne Hailstone	Barry Robbins
Trevor Beckwith	Beccy Hopfensperger	Richard Rout
Sarah Broughton	Paul Hopfensperger	Andrew Smith
Simon Brown	Ian Houlder	Andrew Speed
Tony Brown	Elaine McManus	Clive Springett
Carol Bull	Sara Mildmay-White	Peter Stevens
John Burns	David Nettleton	Peter Thompson
Mike Chester	Robin Pilley	Jim Thorndyke
Max Clarke	Joanna Rayner	Julia Wakelam
Robert Everitt	Karen Richardson	
Susan Glossop	David Roach	

419. Prayers

As the agenda was relatively short for this meeting, the Mayor had not asked her Chaplain to open the meeting with prayers.

420. Minutes

Councillor Paul Hopfensperger proposed an amendment to the minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2018, as he considered that the minutes did not accurately reflect the events that had taken place when he had asked questions of Councillor Diane Hind during Agenda Item 8, 'Questions to Committee Chairmen' and instead wished for the questions, and responses, to be stated in full in the minutes. Councillor Trevor Beckwith duly seconded the amendment; however, upon being put to the vote, the amendment was defeated.

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

421. **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 18 December 2018.

422. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jason Crooks, Paula Fox, Diane Hind, John Griffiths, Jane Midwood, Clive Pollington, Alaric Pugh, Sarah Stamp, Frank Warby and Patsy Warby.

Councillors Max Clarke and Andrew Speed apologised for their lateness and would be joining the meeting later.

423. **Declarations of Interests**

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

424. **Leader's Statement (Paper No: COU/SE/19/001)**

In the absence of the Leader, Councillor Sara Mildmay-White, Deputy Leader of the Council, presented her Deputy Leader's Statement as outlined in Paper No: COU/SE/19/001.

No questions were asked on this occasion.

425. **Public Participation**

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

426. **Referrals Report of Recommendations from Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee**

Council noted the following:

**(A) Referrals from Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee:
22 January 2019**

Council noted that there were no referral emanating from the meeting of the Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee meeting held on 22 January 2019.

**(B) Referral from Extraordinary Joint Executive (Cabinet)
Committee: 5 February 2019**

1. Exempt: Investing in our Commercial Asset Portfolio (para 3)

As this item was exempt, it was considered later in private session under Agenda Item 11.

427. **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 18 December 2018, as outlined below:

Committee	Chairman	Dates of meetings
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Cllr Mike Chester (Vice-Chairman in Cllr Hind's absence)	9 January 2019
Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee	Cllr Sarah Broughton	31 January 2019
Development Control Committee	Cllr Jim Thorndyke	3 January 2019 7 February 2019
Licensing and Regulatory Committee	Cllr Clive Springett (Vice-Chairman)	29 January 2019

No questions were asked of the above Chairmen / Vice-Chairmen.

428. **Urgent Questions on Notice**

No urgent questions on notice had been received.

429. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

As the next item on the agenda was exempt, on the motion of Councillor Sara Mildmay-White, seconded by Councillor Joanna Rayner, and duly carried it was

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of the following item because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the item, there would be disclosure to them of exempt categories of information as prescribed in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, and indicated against the item and, in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

430. **Exempt: Referral Report of Recommendations from Extraordinary Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee: 5 February 2019 (Exempt Report No: COU/SE/19/002) (para 3)**

(Councillor Sarah Broughton declared a local non-pecuniary interest in this item as the businesses in which she is a partner uses the services of a business listed in the exempt report (further details to be provided once exemption (para 3) has been removed.) Councillor Broughton remained in the meeting for the consideration of this item.)

Approval was sought in private session for an addition to the Council's commercial asset portfolio, together with associated funding required.

The Council had the opportunity to purchase the freehold interest of property in Bury St Edmunds as a commercial investment. If it were to proceed, the purchase would be made from the Council's Investing in Growth fund and would help toward achieving the aspiration of a 1% (after borrowing costs) return across the whole fund.

In the absence of the Leader of the Council, Councillor Susan Glossop, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth, drew relevant issues to the attention of Council, including providing background to the proposal; the details of the Council's provisional offer; the financial case for making the investment; and the potential wider place-shaping and strategic value.

An addendum to the exempt report had been circulated prior to the meeting and an additional addendum was tabled, which provided a revised recommendation following the Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee's consideration of the matter. These provided the updated position since the publication of the agenda.

The Mayor invited officers to provide further background and details on technical aspects of the proposal.

Having considered the proposal in detail, Council considered it to be a positive and beneficial move for the Council.

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

RESOLVED:

That:

The resolution will be published in due course following the lifting of the exemption.

(Councillor David Nettleton wished it to be recorded that he voted against the motion.)

(Councillors Max Clarke, Karen Richardson and Andrew Speed joined the meeting during the consideration of this item. Councillor Paul Hopfensperger left the meeting during its consideration.)

The meeting concluded at 6.49 pm

Signed by:

Mayor
