

COUNCIL MEETING

Date: 23 April 2014

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors:-

Pam Whiting (Chairman of the Council)
Steven North (Leader of the Council)
Glenn Harwood MBE (Deputy Leader of the Council)

Peter Baden
Tony Boto
Wendy Brackenbury
David Brackenbury
Pauline Bradberry JP
Derek Capp
John Farrar
Richard Gell
Roger Glithero JP
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith
Marika Hillson
Sylvia Hobbs
Marian Hollomon
Dudley Hughes JP
Sylvia Hughes

Richard Lewis
Andy Mercer
Bob Nightingale
Sarah Peacock
Ron Pinnock
Rupert Reichhold
Anna Sauntson
Alex Smith
Phillip Stearn
Jeremy Taylor
Robin Underwood
Jake Vowles
Peter Wathen
Clive Wood
Colin Wright

474. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Gill Mercer, and Councillors Brian Northall, David Read and Robin Underwood.

475. CHANGE TO AGENDA ORDER

The Chairman proposed that, with consent of Members, the item "Community Governance Review" be moved forward on the Agenda and considered before the reports of Committees in view of the attendance at the meeting by members of the public in connection with this item, together with the presentation on Library Development.

476. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2014 approved and signed by the Chairman.

477. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor John Farrar declared an "other interest" in item 12 (Appointment of the Independent Remuneration Panel) and left the meeting for consideration of the item.

The Chief Executive advised Members that it would not be necessary for them to declare an interest in the Community Governance Review item arising from Parish Council membership as this was a matter of public record.

The Monitoring Officer provided guidance on the issue of pre-determination of matters under consideration in the Community Governance Review and where Members had irrevocably reached a determination before considering the evidence presented at this meeting, they would need to declare an interest and not participate in the decision-making. No interests were declared in respect of this item.

478. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chairman did not make any announcements.

The Chief Executive did not make any announcements.

479. LEADER'S ADDRESS

The Leader of the Council did not make an address.

480. PUBLIC SPEAKERS

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9, Councillor Sarah New (Ashton Parish Council and also representing Laxton Drive residents) and Councillor Heather Hanlon (Chairman of Barnwell Parish Council) addressed the meeting on the Agenda item "Community Governance Review".

481. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Members received and considered the final recommendations for changes to parish arrangements in the District following the conclusion of the second stage of public consultation.

RESOLVED:

That the following changes to parish arrangements in the District be approved.

(Reason: to fulfil the Council's responsibility to undertake community governance review)

i) **Lutton/Warminginton**

That that the old parish of Papley be transferred from Warminginton to Lutton

ii) **Oundle and surrounding parishes**

No change be made to the current arrangements.

iii) **Ashton**

The number of parish councillors be increased from five to six.

iv) **Raunds/Ringstead**

That the boundary be amended so that it runs along the A45 to the west of Raunds Town Football Club

v) **Irthlingborough/Stanwick/Higham Ferrers/Rushden**

a) That Stanwick Lakes be retained within the Irthlingborough parish boundaries, whilst amending the boundary to the south-east of Stanwick Lakes to follow the River Nene navigation and transfer a small part of Stanwick to Irthlingborough (marked [1] on map 3 attached to the report).

b) That the whole of the Irthlingborough Lakes area be transferred to Irthlingborough (marked [2] on map 3 attached to the report).

c) That the boundary between Irthlingborough and Higham Ferrers be amended so that the boundary runs along the River Nene navigation in the three areas to the west of the A45, (marked [3] on map 3 attached to the report)

vi) **Chelveston-cum-Caldecott/Stanwick/Higham Ferrers**

a) That Map 4 Site 1 be transferred from Stanwick to Chelveston-cum-Caldecott

b) That Map 4 Site 2 be transferred from Chelveston-cum-Caldecott to Stanwick

c) That Map 4 Site 3 be transferred from Higham Ferrers to Chelveston-cum-Caldecott

vii) **Thrapston**

That Thrapston be unwarded for Town Council purposes

viii) **Thrapston/Islip**

That 9 Sedge Close be transferred from Islip to Thrapston

ix) **Higham Ferrers**

That Chichele Close, Hind Stile and Market Square be transferred from Higham Ferrers Lancaster Ward to Higham Ferrers Chichele Ward

x) **Rushden**

a) That 1A Barnwell Drive be transferred from Rushden Sartoris Ward to Rushden Pemberton Ward (to be included in the same ward as the remainder of Barnwell Drive)

- b) That numbers 1 and 3 Ashby Drive be transferred from Rushden Pemberton Ward to Rushden Sartoris Ward (to be included in the same ward as the remainder of the odd numbers in Ashby Drive)
- c) That 233 Avenue Road be transferred from Rushden Hayden Ward to Rushden Bates Ward (to be included in the same ward as the remainder of Avenue Road)

482. PRESENTATION ON LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

A presentation on Library Development and the range of services provided at Libraries in the County was given by Anne Lovely and Debbie Foster of Northamptonshire County Council's Library Service.

483. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) Development Control Committee – 27 February 2014 and 19 March 2014

The reports of the above Committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Pauline Bradberry JP, were received.

(b) Licensing Committee – 5 March 2014

The report of the above Committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Glenn Harwood MBE, was received.

(c) Policy and Resources Committee – 10 March 2014 and 7 April 2014

The reports of the above Committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Richard Lewis, were received.

It was noted that in minute 418, resolution i) should refer to "Coronation Avenue" not "Coronation Road".

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations in the following minutes be approved:

412 Food Law Enforcement Service Plan and Health and Safety Service Plans 2014, and updated Enforcement Policy

That the Food Safety and the Health and Safety Service Plan 2014-15 be adopted.

(Reason: To ensure that the Council complies with its legal obligations in respect of food safety and health and safety)

413 Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Age Conditions and Fees and Charges

That the condition relating to an age limit for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers be removed.

(Reason: To ensure that the Council complies with its legal obligations in respect of environmental crime)

465 Future Provision of the Pest Control Service

That the Equalities Impact Assessment be endorsed.

That, having considered the options and risk analysis of the potential changes to service delivery, adopt Option 2 in the report for the ongoing provision of Pest Control Service.

That the Head of Environmental Services be authorised to waive fees for treatments carried out after the first free treatments where special circumstances are deemed to apply and to produce criteria for defining such special circumstances.

That the Pest Control Service be reviewed again in 12 months' time

(Reason: to maintain the provision of a key public service to those households who are vulnerable and would otherwise have difficulty paying for it)

(d) Planning Policy Committee – 17 March 2014

The report of the above Committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor David Brackenbury, was received.

(e) Governance and Audit Committee – 24 March 2014

The report of the above Committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Colin Wright, was received.

(f) Scrutiny Committee – 2 April 2014

The report of the above Committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Phillip Stearn, was received.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations in the following minutes be approved:

455. Call-in Procedure

That the number of members of the Scrutiny Committee required to initiate the call-in procedure be amended from four to three councillors

(Reason – to reflect the reduction in the membership of the Scrutiny Committee)

That the call-in be effected by the Chief Executive, or his designated nominee, in consultation with the Chairman or, where the Chairman is absent or has initiated or supported a call-in, the Vice Chairman.

(Reason – to remove the exclusion of the Committee Chairman from initiating or supporting a call-in request)

That the provision excluding the Chairman from initiating or supporting a call-in request be deleted.

(Reason – to empower the Committee Chairman to initiate or support a call-in request)

484. OTHER REPORTS

(a) Licensing Panels

(i) Liquor and Gambling Panel – 24 February 2014

The minutes of the meeting of the Licensing (Liquor and Gambling) Panel held on 24 February 2014 were received.

485. MOTIONS

There were no motions.

486. QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

487. APPOINTMENT OF THE FOUR TOWNS PLAN WORKING PARTY

The Leader of the Council referred to the decision made at the Council (Issues Debate) meeting held on 12 February 2014 to proceed with a Four Towns Plan and it would be beneficial to appoint a Working Party to assist in the preparation of the Plan. The Leader proposed that the membership of the Working Party should be appointed from all Members of the Council rather than only from members of the Planning Policy Committee.

RESOLVED:-

That a Four Towns Plan Working Party be established and Members be appointed from the entire membership of the Council.

488. APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

The Democratic and Electoral Services Manager presented a report regarding the appointment of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel.

In accordance with Regulations under the Local Government Act 2000, the Council was required to establish an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to review Councillors' allowances. Minor changes had been made in recent years, but the overall scheme had not been the subject of a full and independent review since 2008.

The IRP would undertake a full review in due course of all current allowances payable to Councillors, as required by the regulations.

The IRP had also been appointed as the relevant Parish Remuneration Panel and would be responsible for making recommendations to Town and Parish Councils within the District as to the types and levels of allowances payable to Town and Parish Councillors.

A recruitment process had taken place to appoint new members to the IRP for East Northamptonshire, which had been completed in March 2014. The interviews had been undertaken by the Deputy Chief Finance Officer and both Deputy Monitoring Officers and the following candidates had been recommended for appointment to the Panel.

- Mr Michael Dodson
- Mr Martyn Hale
- Mr Edward Owen; and
- Mrs Janet Wood

As four people had been recommended for appointment, which might present issues with split voting, authority was sought to co-opt a fifth person from an existing IRP.

RESOLVED:

That the appointment of Mr Michael Dodson, Mr Martyn Hale, Mr Edward Owen; and Mrs Janet Wood to the East Northamptonshire Independent Remuneration Panel until May 2019 be approved.

That, if required, authority be delegated to the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager to co-opt a member of the Northamptonshire or Welland Independent Remuneration Panels.

That the Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel be paid travelling expenses at a rate of £0.45 per mile for journeys made to attend meetings where they discharge their functions and responsibilities.

(Reason: to comply with Regulations under the Local Government Act 2000,

489. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business because exempt information, as defined under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, may be disclosed.

490. PROVISION OF A SWIMMING POOL IN THE SOUTH OF THE DISTRICT – UPDATE REPORT

A report was considered providing Members with an update on the actions agreed by the Council at its meeting held on 13 January 2014 regarding the provision of swimming facilities in the south of the District. The Council had resolved that options 1, 3 and 7 in the report should be examined and a further report submitted for consideration.

The report set out the financial implications in respect of carrying out the essential maintenance works to replace the air handling unit to the changing rooms/offices and the replacement of ducting to the swimming pool area. The financial implications of options 1, 3 and 7 regarding the transfer of ownership of the facility; the provision of a new pool at the Pemberton Centre site, and for carrying out essential maintenance together with limited refurbishment of the facility were reported.

Members considered the capital funding available and the funding of other capital projects for which commitments had already been made. It was not possible to be specific about the life expectancy of a refurbished facility as the expected working life of the equipment involved varied. However, the structure of the building was considered to be sound.

Members commented that if only the essential maintenance were to be carried out, this would not provide any visible improvements for the users of the pool and there had been numerous complaints about the appearance of the pool in recent years. A schedule of proposed refurbishment works had been prepared to address the defects identified.

Members were also of the view that when the contract for the running of the pool was re-let in 2016, suitable provisions should be made for the contractor to keep the facility in a well maintained condition and this would need to be robustly monitored by the Council.

The option of transferring ownership of the pool was likely only to be viable if the refurbishment work was undertaken and once the current contract for operating the pool expired in 2016, although work to assess the feasibility of this option could progress.

RESOLVED: That

- i) Option 7 for the carrying out of essential maintenance with limited refurbishment be proceeded with.
- ii) An assessment of the feasibility of option 1 to transfer of ownership of the facility be undertaken.
- iii) The costs involved in proceeding with option 7, currently estimated to be £330,095, be included in the Capital Programme and funded from capital reserves.
- iv) The costs of carrying out an assessment of option 1, estimated to be £10,000, be funded from Revenue underspends in 2013/14.
- v) Authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman of the Finance Sub-Committee and the S151 Officer, to decide on procurement routes for the chosen option(s).

- vi) Authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman of the Finance Sub-Committee and the S151 Officer, to progress the chosen options into the approved capital programme.

(Reason: to ensure swimming facilities continue to be provided in the South of the District and to make the necessary financial provision for the chosen option(s))

Chairman