

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

Date: 18 May 2016

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors:-

Rosalie Beattie
Tony Boto
David Brackenbury
Val Carter
John Farrar
Richard Gell
Roger Glithero JP
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith
Helen Harrison
Glenn Harwood MBE
Marika Hillson
Sylvia Hobbs
Marian Hollomon
Helen Howell
Barbara Jenney
David Jenney
Lance Jones

Richard Lewis
Dorothy Maxwell
Andy Mercer
Gill Mercer
Steven North
Sarah Peacock
Janet Pinnock
Ron Pinnock
Roger Powell
Valerie Raven-Hill
Rupert Reichhold
Geoff Shacklock
Phillip Stearn
Peter Wathen
Pam Whiting
Colin Wright

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Peter Wathen proposed that Councillor Rupert Reichhold be elected Chairman of the Council. Councillor David Brackenbury seconded the motion.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Rupert Reichhold be elected Chairman of the Council for the 2016/17 municipal year.

Councillor Reichhold, having made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office, took the chair, and announced that the Chairman's Consort would be Mrs Nicolette Reichhold. Cllr. Reichhold thanked Councillor Marika Hillson for her work as Chairman in 2015/16

2. VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING CHAIRMAN

Councillor Helen Howell praised the work of Councillor Marika Hillson as Chairman of the Council in 2015/16 and proposed a Vote of Thanks. Councillor Barbara Jenney seconded the motion.

RESOLVED:

That the best thanks of this Council be tendered to Councillor Marika Hillson for her discharge of the duties of Chairman of the Council for the District of East

Northamptonshire, in the Civic Year 2015/16; and to Mr Tony Iacobucci who has accompanied her during her Civic Year, for his support.

Councillor Hillson was then presented with her past Chairman's medal and responded to the vote of thanks as follows:

I want to give my heartfelt thanks to Cllr Helen Howell, for her kind words and also congratulate her for being re-elected as this year's Raunds Mayor. In fact I want to start with thanking all the Civic leaders for 2015/16 who have made the Civic year for Tony and myself a memorable one and who have been inspirational and a credit to their towns and Districts in their charity fund raising work.

Due to work commitments, Tony, my consort, sends his apologies tonight.

My year has also been shared with various residents as a thank you to those who have selflessly made a difference to our communities and many residents have attended events, as my guests.

In my Civic year, I have held 5 major charity events, attended over 120 Civic events including a garden party held at Buckingham Palace hosted by the Queen and some members of her family.

As well as representing East Northants at local events, we also attended events in Wisbech, Rutland, Peterborough, Grantham and Alconbury to name but a few.

I know God has many Mansions as stated in the bible as we have had the pleasure of visiting many of them in the last year to attend Civic services in Cathedrals and many beautiful churches in the District and beyond.

We have danced at many Civic Balls, cut ribbons at grand openings, met many VIP's, celebrated significant anniversaries and attended the Queens 90th Birthday Beacon lighting hosted by Northants County Council.

My Civic duties have been too numerous to report in their entirety but I have written over 30 features in my year for the Nene Valley News, Evening Telegraph, ENCircle and Outlook on the many events we have attended and on the charity events I have organised and supported.

My first event was to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain, which was held at the Frontier centre, the first Civic event ever to be held in Irthlingborough, a great atmosphere and turnout and well supported by Civic guests and the community.

The tragic scenes of a Syrian baby boy been washed up on a beach in Turkey moved Fr John Hall and myself to hold my second event a service at St Peters Church, Irthlingborough along with the support of 5 Church leaders, one of whom is our own District Councillor, Cllr John Farrar, envoy to the Salvation Army. We raised money and goods which was donated to "hand in hand for Syria" which was delivered within 3 weeks right into Syria to those in need.

My third event was the Chairman' Charity District Talent Contest. 5 Towns battled it out to see which one of their acts would be top of the District. Rev Richard Coles hilariously compared the event at Huxlow School and also did a surprise act with Jonathan Reynolds a West End singer. The raffle consisted of 30 prizes donated by major stars such as Michael Caine, Tom Jones and Harry Potters, Daniel Radcliff. Tristan Knott from Rushden took the first prize with our own Tracey Barker from Irthlingborough taking second place.

For me the high light of the year was my fourth event, the Chairman's Civic service. I was deeply touched by the community support that was given to me and proud to invite many dignitaries to our church and town. Over 40 dignitaries, 2 MP's, the Bishop of Peterborough, the Lord Lieutenant and my own community of Irthlingborough packed the church. 10 Community Awards were given out and many of the community were involved in the service.

My fifth and last event was The Chairman's Charity Valentines dinner and Dance, another great success. The Mid Soul Sensation soul band whose members came from London and New York gave a memorable performance and a first prize of a champagne hamper from Prince Charles Estate were the right ingredients for a night to remember.

My offer to write grants at the start of my year was taken up by several organisations. Writing a bid is just as labour intensive as organising a charity event and the result is all or nothing. But when a bid is successful it can make a significant tangible difference to a community project for the residents of the town.

I have been very fortunate and grateful throughout my year to have had the support of my Fiancée Tony, who co-founded the consort club, and it must be noted whose members give up a year of their time to support us Civic leaders in our work and I give them all, my thanks for their patience and support in our year.

My thanks also to our families, friends, Councillors, our residents, the members of I-Grow, Fr John Hall, Rev Richard Coles, Jonathan Reynolds and many local businesses who have sponsored my events.

My special thanks to the Chairman's PA, Louise Tyers, all the staff at East Northants and Cllr Rupert Reichhold who supported me as Vice Chairman throughout the year.

In regard to Funds I have raised, every year I strive to raise funds to make a difference to my community and have raised considerable sums over the years. This year has been a personal best for me.

I want to conclude my final report with a short slide show, cheque presentation and my best wishes to the New Chairman and Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year.

I am delighted to report I have raised a Grand total of £62,116.00 in my year as Chairman.

Please can I please ask Donna Mason and Trisha Brigden from Kettering General hospital to come forward to accept a cheque for £3,100.00 to be donated for a phototherapy unit for the children's Skylark Ward.

3. THE CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

Councillor Rupert Reichhold addressed the meeting, and thanked Members for the confidence they had placed in him and thanked Councillor Hillson for her service as Chairman.

Ladies and Gentlemen: I thank Councillor colleagues for their confidence in electing me as our Chairman for the forthcoming year. I promise to do my best in this role.

My consort, my wife, Nicolette Reichhold, was born in Oundle. We got married there in 1969 and relocated to Oundle in 1998, a year before I was first elected to this Council.

I pay tribute to Cllr Marika Hillson for her outstanding work as our outgoing Chairman: I could not have had a nicer chief.

The Charities I nominate for my Chairman's Year are

- *The National Autistic Society*
- *The Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Charity; and*
- *The Gurkha Welfare Trust*

The National Autistic Society (NAS) is an excellent organisation which has done wide ranging work in achieving a better understanding of Autism - a communications problem, not a clinical illness and in providing services for vulnerable adults and children. By happy coincidence, the NAS have a day service in Irthlingborough and I will ask for assurances that monies raised from my Chairman's appeals will be applied to this service.

The Royal Anglian Regiment embodied, in 1959, the old Northamptonshire Regiment and includes, the C, Northamptonshire Company in its 2nd Battalion, based nearby.

Charity begins at home - but does not stop there! While the state does what it can to support injured soldiers, veterans and their families, it is right that we do what we can to supplement this by voluntary support.

Gurkha soldiers, with no obligation to do so, have fought as part of the British Army since, I think, 1855: examples: In the Italian campaign, 1943 - 5, three Gurkha Battalions and one Northamptonshire Battalion fought together in the battle of Monte Cassino. More recently, in even more testing conditions, Royal Anglians and Gurkhas have fought together in Afghanistan - this time with German Army allies.

4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor Janet Pinnock proposed that Councillor Colin Wright be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council. Councillor Ron Pinnock seconded the motion.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Colin Wright be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for the 2016/17 municipal year.

Councillor Wright, having made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office, thanked fellow Councillors for the confidence they had placed in him. He announced that Mrs Linda Wright would be the Vice-Chairman's Consort during the year.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11 April 2016 (pages 372 to 377) were agreed as true and correct record of the proceedings and were signed by the Chairman.

6. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Wendy Brackenbury, Dudley Hughes JP, Sylvia Hughes, Anna Sauntson, Alex Smith, Robin Underwood and Jake Vowles.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

8. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had no further announcements to make.

The Chief Executive had no announcements to make.

9. ELECTION OF LEADER

The Chairman reported that Councillor Steven North had, in accordance with Article 6.02 of the Council's Constitution, been nominated for the appointment of Leader of the Council.

Councillor North's appointment was proposed by Councillor Glenn Harwood MBE and seconded by Councillor Roger Glithero.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Steven North be elected Leader of the Council for the 2016/17 municipal year.

10. ELECTION OF DEPUTY LEADER

The Chairman reported that in accordance with Article 6.04 of the Council's Constitution, Councillor Glenn Harwood MBE had been nominated for appointment as Deputy Leader of the Council.

Councillor Harwood's appointment was proposed by Councillor Steven North, and seconded by Councillor Richard Lewis.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Glenn Harwood MBE be elected Deputy Leader of the Council for the 2016/17 municipal year.

11. THE LEADER'S ADDRESS

Councillor Steven North addressed the meeting as follows:

Dear Chairman, members, guests and honoured guests

Local government is in a period of transformation. In the autumn not only did we have the financial settlement; there was also the spending review. None of this was good news for local government.

The Government continues to reduce the Revenue Support Grant (the amount we receive to part fund the services we provide) while still limiting our tax raising freedom. They are also reviewing New Homes Bonus (NHB) (an amount we receive for every house that goes on

the tax base) and carrying out a complete review of local government finance. Although there is a commitment to business rate retention, we still are far short on the detail.

The Government are also very keen on Local Government reorganisation. Unfortunately nobody really knows what that is. The only thing that really matters is the people we represent and that they are getting a good service.

At ENC we have always been an efficient council, being innovative in what we do, and this continues. The way local government is financed is changing, and we have to adapt to that change. We may have to look at things on a more commercial basis. All this allows us to maintain the services we provide.

We are in a reasonably sound position, and have still managed to use part of the NHB as intended, that is rewarding areas that have received growth. By the end of this financial year we will have put nearly a million pounds back into the community with the Communities Facilities Fund. This does not include the Member Empowerment Fund, which is for smaller projects. This will continue with or without NHB.

We are still moving forward with the Rushden Sustainable Urban Extension and supporting the new village at Deenethorpe. Both are very exciting projects, and will deliver over 3,500 houses, as well as better quality job opportunities. The housing will be well on the way to meeting the required housing numbers, which is over 8,000 by 2031. This sounds a lot but this area has always been a popular place to live. It also meets this council's commitment to protect villages as much as possible from unwanted development. We are also looking at putting in place a new district plan, as well as supporting Neighbourhood Plans.

In the New Year we will also be entering into a new leisure contract. Within this is a new outreach element. This will help all our parishes, and hopefully enable people to participate in a healthier and more active lifestyle. We have also put in place a greenway strategy. In time this will allow you to bike, walk across half of the county. This is all part of the wider wellbeing agenda and making the most of our wonderful countryside.

Next spring the most exciting thing for a generation will be opening. That is Rushden Lakes. There will be over 30 acres of retail and 200 acres of countryside to enjoy. It will also complement the very popular Stanwick Lakes. There are over 60,000 people in the bottom half of the district alone. It is no more than the local population deserve. This will be a benefit to the whole area.

We appreciate there will be a few more vehicles around and we are very grateful to both our MPs Peter Bone and Tom Purseglove for pressing for the improvements to the Chowns Mill roundabout, and for the widening of the A45 from Stanwick to Thrapston.

None of this can be achieved without the hard work and dedication from staff and members, so thank you all. And thank you for your support. It is a real privilege to serve and Lead this council.

12. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) Governance and Audit Committee – 18 April 2016

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

(b) Planning Management Committee – 20 April and 11 May 2016

The reports of the above Committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Phillip Stearn, were received.

(c) Policy and Resources Committee – 25 April 2016

The report of the above Committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Richard Lewis, was received.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendation in the following minute be approved:

471 Housing Investment Opportunity

That the purchase of two properties in Duck Street, Rushden be approved.

(Reason –.to respond to an approach by Riverside Housing Association to purchase the two properties.)

13. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES 2016/17

The Council considered the appointments to Committees, having regard to the requirements of political balance and the nominations made by the various political groups.

RESOLVED:

That the following Committees with the Members as shown be appointed for the Civic Year 2016/17:

Policy Committees

Policy & Resources Committee

(15 members, including Leader & Deputy Leader as ex-officio members)

Councillors

Tony Boto	Marika Hillson
David Brackenbury	Dudley Hughes JP
Wendy Brackenbury	Richard Lewis
Val Carter	Andy Mercer
Roger Glithero JP	Steven North
Glennil Greenwood-Smith	Sarah Peacock
Helen Harrison	Phillip Stearn
Glenn Harwood MBE	

**Planning Policy Committee
(15 Members, including Leader & Deputy Leader as ex-officio members)**

Councillors

Tony Boto	David Jenney
David Brackenbury	Gill Mercer
Wendy Brackenbury	Steven North
Val Carter	Sarah Peacock
Glenn Harwood MBE	Roger Powell
Sylvia Hobbs	Jake Vowles
Marian Hollomon	Pam Whiting
Sylvia Hughes	

Other Committees

**Planning Management Committee
(18 members)**

Councillors

Richard Gell	Gill Mercer
Roger Glithero JP	Ron Pinnock
Helen Harrison	Anna Sauntson
Sylvia Hobbs	Geoff Shacklock
Helen Howell	Alex Smith
Dudley Hughes JP	Phillip Stearn
Barbara Jenney	Robin Underwood
Lance Jones	Peter Wathen
Andy Mercer	Pam Whiting

Licensing Committee (12 members)

Councillors

Tony Boto	Dorothy Maxwell
Richard Gell	Andy Mercer
Roger Glithero JP	Gill Mercer
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith	Geoff Shacklock
Helen Howell	Peter Wathen
Barbara Jenney	Pam Whiting

Scrutiny Committee (11 members)

Councillors

Rosalie Beattie	Janet Pinnock
John Farrar	Roger Powell
Helen Howell	Valerie Raven-Hill
Sylvia Hughes	Geoff Shacklock
David Jenney	Jake Vowles
Dorothy Maxwell	

Governance and Audit Committee (7 members)

Councillors

John Farrar	Robin Underwood
Lance Jones	Peter Wathen
Valerie Raven-Hill	Colin Wright
Alex Smith	

Joint Standards Complaints Committee (7 ENC Members)

Councillors

Rosalie Beattie	Gill Mercer
Marika Hillson	Valerie Raven-Hill
David Jenney	Colin Wright
Andy Mercer	

14. OTHER APPOINTMENTS

(a) Outside Bodies

RESOLVED:

That Members be appointed to serve on outside bodies in accordance with Appendix 1 to these Minutes until May 2017 or such longer period as the Constitution of those bodies dictate.

(b) Other Committees, Panels and Boards

RESOLVED:

That the following appointments be made for 2016/17

(a) Licensing (Liquor & Gambling) Panel (3) Licensing (Taxi & Miscellaneous) Panel (3)

Panel to be drawn from Licensing Committee membership determined by the Democratic & Electoral Services Manager under delegated powers

(b) North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee Councillors David Brackenbury, David Jenney and Steven North

(c) North Northamptonshire Joint Delivery Committee Councillors David Brackenbury, David Jenney and Steven North

(d) Welland Joint Committee (2 plus 1 reserve) Councillors Richard Lewis and Steven North (Reserve: Councillor Glenvil Greenwood-Smith)

(e) Council-appointed Working Parties and Boards

**(i) District Regeneration and Tourism Working Group
(8 Members)**

Councillors	Steven North	Richard Lewis
	Glenn Harwood MBE	Sarah Peacock
	David Brackenbury	Janet Pinnock
	Lance Jones	Phillip Stearn

**(ii) Deenethorpe Airfield Village Board
(5 Members)**

Councillors	Roger Glithero JP	Phillip Stearn
	Helen Harrison	Jake Vowles

**(iii) Rushden East Sustainable Urban Extension Project Board
(5 Members)**

Councillors	David Brackenbury	Gill Mercer
	Marian Hollomon	Steven North
	David Jenney	

**(iv) Leisure Procurement Working Party
(5 Members)**

Councillors	Glenvil Greenwood-Smith	Gill Mercer
	Helen Howell	Peter Wathen
	David Jenney	

**(v) Community Facilities Fund Working Party
(6 Members)**

Councillors	Wendy Brackenbury	Glenn Harwood MBE
	Roger Glithero JP	Richard Lewis
	Helen Harrison	Steven North

(f) Appeals Panel (must not be Members of Policy & Resources Committee)

Councillors	Valerie Raven-Hill	Robin Underwood
	Ron Pinnock	Barbara Jenney (Reserve)

(g) Councillor Contacts for Whistleblowing Policy

Councillors Marian Hollomon and Barbara Jenney

**(h) Local Government Reform Working Party
(7 members)**

Councillors: Leader of the Council	Steven North
Deputy Leader of the Council	Glenn Harwood MBE
Tony Boto	Andy Mercer
Helen Howell	Jake Vowles
Richard Lewis	

15. COMMITTEE-RELATED APPOINTMENTS

The following Committee-related business was conducted, with the Members of the individual Committees endorsing the decisions:

(a) Policy & Resources Committee

1. Appointment of Chairman Richard Lewis
2. Apologies Dudley Hughes JP & Wendy Brackenbury
3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman Glenvil Greenwood-Smith
4. Appointment of Sub-Committees etc

- Personnel Sub-Committee
(5 Members)

Leader of the Council – Steven North
Deputy Leader of the Council – Glenn Harwood MBE
Wendy Brackenbury
Roger Glithero JP
Sarah Peacock

- Finance Sub Committee
(7 Members)

Leader of the Council – Steven North
Deputy Leader of the Council – Glenn Harwood MBE
David Brackenbury
Val Carter
Roger Glithero JP
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith
Richard Lewis

- Welfare Reform Sub-Committee (6 Members)

Leader of the Council – Steven North
Helen Harrison
Richard Lewis
Andy Mercer
Sarah Peacock
(vacancy)

- Disabled Facilities Grants Panel
(6 Members)

Glenvil Greenwood-Smith
Marika Hillson
Richard Lewis
Steven North
Sarah Peacock
Anna Sauntson

(b) Planning Policy Committee

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Appointment of Chairman | David Brackenbury |
| 2. Apologies | Wendy Brackenbury, Sylvia Hughes & Jake Vowles |
| 3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman | Tony Boto |

(c) Scrutiny Committee

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Appointment of Chairman | Jake Vowles |
| 2. Apologies | Sylvia Hughes & Jake Vowles |
| 3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman | David Jenney |

(d) Planning Management Committee

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Appointment of Chairman | Phillip Stearn |
| 2. Apologies | Dudley Hughes JP, Anna Sauntson, Alex Smith & Robin Underwood |
| 3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman | Gill Mercer |

(e) Licensing Committee

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Appointment of Chairman | Glenvil Greenwood-Smith |
| 2. Apologies | |
| 3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman | Barbara Jenney |
| 4. Appointment of Licensing (Liquor & Gambling) Panel | Panel of 3 trained Members to be chosen by the Democratic & Electoral Services Manager under delegated powers. |

(f) Governance and Audit Committee

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Appointment of Chairman | Colin Wright |
| 2. Apologies | Alex Smith & Robin Underwood |
| 3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman | Peter Wathen |

16. PROGRAMME OF ORDINARY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THE 2016/17 MUNICIPAL YEAR

A programme of meetings was submitted for approval in accordance with Section 1.1(vii) of Part 4.1 of the Council's Constitution.

RESOLVED:

That the Programme of Meetings for the 2016/17 Municipal Year attached to the Annual Council Meeting Agenda be approved.

Chairman

REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES – APPOINTMENTS 2016/2017

Economic and Community Development

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP CORE GROUP

Councillor Steven North

GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Councillors Sarah Peacock and Phillip Stearn

GROUNDWORK NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Councillor Gill Mercer

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

Councillor Steven North (Reserve – Councillor Glenn Harwood MBE)

SOUTH EAST MIDLANDS LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

Councillor Glenn Harwood MBE (Reserve – Councillor Steven North)

OUNDLE & THRAPSTON YOUTH COUNSELLING (CHAT)

Councillor Rupert Reichhold

WELLAND MARKET TOWNS GROUP

Councillor Phillip Stearn (Reserve – Councillor Richard Lewis)

WELLAND PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Councillor Glenvil Greenwood-Smith

Educational

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON COURT

Chairman of the Council (Ex Officio)

Health Facilities

HEALTH, ADULT CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor Marian Hollomon (Reserve – Councillor Helen Howell)

KETTERING GENERAL HOSPITAL: FOUNDATION TRUST

Councillor Dorothy Maxwell

Leisure/Tourism

(DESTINATION) NENE VALLEY BOARD

Councillor Sarah Peacock

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Councillor Steven North

STANWICK LAKES MANAGEMENT BOARD

Councillors Glenvil Greenwood-Smith, Dudley Hughes JP and Richard Lewis.
(Reserves: Councillors Sylvia Hobbs and Helen Howell)

Planning and the Environment

CPRE (CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNTY BRANCH)

Councillor Tony Boto

EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONSORTIUM

Councillor Tony Boto

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

Councillor Richard Lewis (Reserve: Councillor Steven North)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT BOARD

Councillors Richard Lewis and Steven North

RIVER NENE REGIONAL PARK COMPANY BOARD

Councillor Glenvil Greenwood-Smith

ROCKINGHAM MOTOR SPEEDWAY – ROCKINGHAM FORUM

Councillors Roger Glithero JP and Helen Harrison

Regional/County Local Government

EAST MIDLANDS LEADERS BOARD/EAST MIDLANDS COUNCILS (replacing East Midlands Regional Assembly and Local Government East Midlands)

Councillor Steven North (Substitutes: Councillors Richard Lewis and Glenn Harwood MBE)

EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE LOCALITY FORUM

Councillor Helen Howell

FOURTH OPTION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Councillor Phillip Stearn

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Councillor Steven North (Substitute: Councillor Glenn Harwood MBE)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION - RURAL COMMISSION

Councillors Valerie Raven-Hill and Rupert Reichhold (Substitute Councillor Geoff Shacklock)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PARKING COMMITTEE

Councillor Gill Mercer (Substitute – Councillor Helen Howell)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PARTNERSHIP

Councillor Steven North (Substitute – Councillor Glenn Harwood MBE)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Councillor Gill Mercer (Reserve – Councillor Marika Hillson)

SPARSE

Councillor Rupert Reichhold

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PENSIONS BOARD

Councillor Richard Lewis

Grant Related

COMMUNITY LAW SERVICE

Councillor Marika Hillson

SERVE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Councillor Rupert Reichhold

SERVICE SIX

Councillor Richard Lewis

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Date: 18 May 2016

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 8.30pm

Present: Councillors:-

Rosalie Beattie
Tony Boto
David Brackenbury
Val Carter
John Farrar
Richard Gell
Roger Glithero JP
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith
Helen Harrison
Glenn Harwood MBE
Marika Hillson
Sylvia Hobbs
Marian Hollomon
Helen Howell
Barbara Jenney
David Jenney
Lance Jones

Richard Lewis
Dorothy Maxwell
Andy Mercer
Gill Mercer
Steven North
Sarah Peacock
Janet Pinnock
Ron Pinnock
Roger Powell
Valerie Raven-Hill
Rupert Reichhold
Geoff Shacklock
Phillip Stearn
Peter Wathen
Pam Whiting
Colin Wright

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

In addition to the apologies for absence announced at the Annual Council Meeting earlier in the evening, an apology for absence had been received from Miss Pauline Bradberry.

18. MOTIONS

The Proper Officer of the Council had received the following Notices of Motion under Procedure Rule 11 and in accordance with paragraph 5.1 of Part 5.9 of the Council's Constitution concerning the Appointment of Honorary Aldermen:

- a) Proposed by Councillor Glenvil Greenwood-Smith and seconded by Councillor Tony Boto:

“That we, the Members of the Council for the District of East Northamptonshire, in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, acknowledge the eminent service rendered to the Council by Miss Pauline Bradberry and in recognition of that service, WE DO HEREBY CONFER the title of Honorary Alderman.”

RESOLVED:

That the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred on Miss Pauline Bradberry.

In Miss Bradberry's absence due to a long-standing holiday commitment, Councillor Greenwood-Smith accepted the Honorary Alderman Badge and Certificate of Conferment from the Chairman of the Council and, on behalf of Miss Bradberry, thanked Members for awarding the honour.

- b) Proposed by Councillor Tony Boto and seconded by Councillor Glenvil Greenwood-Smith:

"That we, the Members of the Council for the District of East Northamptonshire, in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, acknowledge the eminent service rendered to the Council by Mr Albert Campbell and in recognition of that service, WE DO HEREBY CONFER the title of Honorary Alderman."

RESOLVED:

That the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred on Mr Albert Campbell.

Mr Campbell accepted the Honorary Alderman Badge and Certificate of Conferment from the Chairman of the Council and expressed his thanks to Members for awarding the honour to him.

- c) Proposed by Councillor Barbara Jenney and seconded by Councillor Sarah Peacock:

"That we, the Members of the Council for the District of East Northamptonshire, in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, acknowledge the eminent service rendered to the Council by Mr Clive Wood and in recognition of that service, WE DO HEREBY CONFER the title of Honorary Alderman."

RESOLVED:

That the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred on Mr Clive Wood.

Mr Wood accepted the Honorary Alderman Badge and Certificate of Conferment from the Chairman of the Council and at the invitation of the Council addressed Members to express his thanks for the award of the honour.

- d) Proposed by Councillor Roger Glithero and seconded by Councillor Richard Lewis:

"That we, the Members of the Council for the District of East Northamptonshire, in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, acknowledge the eminent service rendered to the Council by Mr John Richardson MBE and in recognition of that service, WE DO HEREBY CONFER the title of Honorary Alderman."

RESOLVED:

That the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred on Mr John Richardson MBE.

Mr Richardson accepted the Honorary Alderman Badge and Certificate of Conferment from the Chairman of the Council and at the invitation of the Council addressed Members to express his thanks for the award of the honour.

Chairman

PLANNING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Date: 01 June 2016

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: Phillip Stearn Chairman
Gill Mercer Vice Chairman

Richard Gell
Roger Glithero JP
Sylvia Hobbs
Helen Howell
Barbara Jenney
Andy Mercer

Ron Pinnock
Geoff Shacklock
Alex Smith
Robin Underwood
Peter Wathen
Pam Whiting

19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Helen Harrison and Anna Sauntson.

20. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2016 were approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings, subject to:

Minute 479 (i) – 15/01191/FUL – Nene Business Park, Diamond Way, Irthlingborough – last paragraph amended to read “....., to agree the reasons for approval **and conditions.**”

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND INFORMAL SITE VISITS

(a) Declarations Of Interest

Councillor	Application	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other Interest
Pam Whiting	General	Knew two of the speakers		Yes

(b) Informal Site Visits

No informal site visits had been undertaken.

22. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

No questions were submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

23. SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS – UPDATE

In accordance with Minute 280 from the meeting held on 28 November 2012, the Planning Development Manager submitted an update report detailing progress with regard to the drafting of S106 Agreements in respect of matters where the Committee had previously resolved to grant planning permission, subject to the prior finalisation of such an agreement.

The Planning Development Manager advised that the S106 Agreements for the applications listed below were being drafted:

- 10/00857/OUT Irthlingborough West
- 15/01195/VAR Rushden Hospital
- 15/01976/VAR Grensons, Queen Street, Rushden

The Planning Development Manager confirmed that no extensions of time were being sought.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

24. DELEGATIONS TO HEAD OF PLANNING SERVICES

In accordance with Minute 441 of the meeting held on 21 March 2012, the Committee received a report providing an update on applications where actions had been delegated to the Head of Planning Services.

The Planning Development Manager advised that application 15/01191/FUL Aldi, Irthlingborough had now been completed and issued.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

25. PUBLIC SPEAKERS

The following people spoke on the items as indicated:

- **Councillor Dorothy Maxwell** - 16/00469/OUT - 3 Northampton Road, Rushden (Ward Member)
- **Lynn Gilbert** - 16/00469/OUT - 3 Northampton Road, Rushden (Objector)
- **Richard Davison-Francis** - 16/00542/OUT - 258 Newton Road, Rushden (Objector)
- **Jeremy Mace** – 16/00660/FUL – 9 Laxton Drive, Oundle (Applicant)

26. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Committee considered the planning applications report, with updated information, on a number of the applications and representations made by public speakers at the meeting.

(i) 16/00469/OUT - 3 Northampton Road, Rushden

The Committee considered an application which sought outline planning permission for the demolition of an existing dwelling and outbuildings and the erection of nine residential dwellings, modification of access to off road parking and amenity space, (all matters reserved except access and scale).

The application had been brought before the Committee at the request of a Ward Member.

Members noted that both Rushden Town Council and Higham Ferrers Town Council had objected to the application. Members further noted that one letter had been received from a nearby resident objecting to the application.

Concerns were raised about the proposed number of dwellings on the site and it was noted that the applicant had agreed to amend the application's description to read "up to 9 dwellings".

The Committee **agreed to grant** the application, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report, update sheet and the following additional conditions:

- 1) Prior to the commencement of any part of the development, a Construction Management Plan shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the local planning authority. The Construction Management Plan shall include and specify the provision to be made for the following:
 - a. Dust mitigation measures during the construction period;
 - b. Control of noise emanating from the site during the construction period;
 - c. Hours of construction work for the development;
 - d. Contractors compounds and other storage arrangements;
 - e. Enclosure of phase or sub-phase development sites;
 - f. Provision for all site operatives, visitors and construction vehicles loading, off-loading, parking and turning within the site during the construction period;
 - g. Arrangements during the construction period to minimise the deposit of mud and other similar debris on the adjacent public highways;
 - h. Routing agreement for construction traffic; and
 - i. Details of any temporary site access.

The construction of the development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved Construction Management Plan unless otherwise approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason: In the interest of highway safety.

- 2) Notwithstanding the submitted details and prior to the commencement of the development hereby permitted, details showing the proposed slab levels of the developments in relation to the existing and proposed levels of the site and the surrounding roads shall have been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall thereafter be carried out in accordance with the details so approved.

Reason: For the avoidance of doubt and to ensure a satisfactory form of development in relation to the surrounding land and buildings.

(ii) 16/00542/OUT – 258 Newton Road, Rushden

The Committee considered an application which sought outline planning permission for the demolition of a detached bungalow and the erection of two one and a half storey residential dwellings, access and scale. Layout, external appearance and landscaping are reserved for future consideration.

The application had been brought before the Committee at the request of a Ward Member.

Members noted that Rushden Town Council had objected to the application. Members further noted that two letters had been received from nearby residents objecting to the application.

The Committee **agreed to defer** the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken.

(iii) 16/00589/FUL – Grensons Shoes Ltd, Queen Street, Rushden

The Committee considered an application for the conversion of a listed building to form 14 two bedroomed flats including the demolition of a 20th century extension and north light sheds.

The application had been brought before the committee in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation as Members had considered the original application.

Members noted that planning permission had been granted in 2014 for the conversion of the former factory to 16 flats but the applicant had now chosen to reduce the number of units so that they could add an en-suite to each of the flats.

The Committee **agreed to grant** the application, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report, the update sheet and completion of a satisfactory legal agreement.

(iv) 16/00590/LBC – Grensons Shoes Ltd, Queen Street, Rushden

The Committee considered an application for the conversion of a listed building to form 14 two bedroomed flats including the demolition of a 20th century extension and north light sheds.

The application had been brought before the committee in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation as Members had considered the original application.

Members noted that listed building consent had been granted in 2014 for the conversion of the former factory to 16 flats but the applicant had now chosen to reduce the number of units so that they could add an en-suite to each of the flats.

The Committee **agreed to grant** the application, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report and the update sheet.

(v) 16/00660/FUL – 9 Laxton Drive, Oundle

The Committee considered an application to raise the garden fence to 1.7m high to boundary edge adjacent to the highway. Members noted that it was a retrospective application as the work had been carried out.

The application had been brought before the Committee at the request of the Ward Member as Ashton Parish Council had strongly objected to the application.

Members noted that Oundle Town Council had also objected to the application and three letters of objection had been received from nearby residents.

The Committee **agreed to grant** the application, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report.

27. APPEAL DECISION MONITORING REPORT

The Committee received a report which provided an update on the planning appeals determined by the Planning Inspectorate from 25 April 2016 to 13 May 2016.

The Committee noted that the appeal against refusal of application 15/02105/FUL 19 Moor Road, Rushden had been allowed and the applicant awarded costs. During a detailed discussion of the issues, the Legal Officer explained the process which would need to be followed if the Committee wished to challenge the Inspector's decision. There was a six week deadline from the date of the Inspector's decision to seek leave to appeal from the new Planning Court. Any challenge could only be on a point of law, where it was believed that the Inspector had erred. If the Council was not able provide sufficient evidence then the application to seek leave to appeal would not be successful.

Going forward, officers undertook to bring any significant Inspector decisions as a verbal update to the first available Committee meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

Chairman

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Date: 06 June 2016

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Richard Lewis (Chairman)
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith (Vice-Chairman)
Steven North (Leader of the Council)
Glenn Harwood MBE (Deputy Leader of the Council)

Tony Boto Marika Hillson
Wendy Brackenbury Dudley Hughes JP
Val Carter Andy Mercer
Helen Harrison Philip Stearn

28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Brackenbury, Roger Glithero JP and Sarah Peacock.

29. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

31. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

32. MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES

a) Housing Policy Working Party – 23 March 2016

The minutes of the meeting of the Housing Policy Working Party held on 23 March 2016 were received (see pages 28 to 32).

33. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

The Head of Environmental Services submitted a report which sought Members approval for the Council to re-join the Northamptonshire Waste Partnership.

In November 2014, a decision had been taken to withdraw from the Northamptonshire Waste Partnership (NWP). When that decision was taken the NWP was not seen as an effective forum for developing the solutions needed to address issues around waste collection and disposal and the cost of membership did not represent value for money.

Earlier this year, the Chief Executive's of the county, district and borough councils commissioned a report into the future delivery of waste services in Northamptonshire, both collection and disposal. The report made several recommendations that would have implications for the way the Council, as a Waste Collection Authority, delivered services in the future. Two main reviews would be commissioned as a result:

- Delivery of one or more Energy from Waste plants in the county
- Harmonisation of collection arrangements within the county

The County Council had also initiated a review of green waste collection across the county, with a view to procuring a single county-wide service and directing the collection authorities as to where to dispose of that waste. The Chief Executive's Group had now tasked the NWP with progressing all of these reviews.

When the decision had been taken to withdraw from the NWP it had been anticipated that dialogue would continue between the waste collection and disposal authorities in the county at a strategic level. This had not materialised and these discussions had continued within the framework of the NWP with the effective exclusion of officers from this Council. The NWP would now be the forum where the critical issues would be resolved so it now had a clear purpose and value.

R.1 RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

- (i) That the Council re-joining the Northamptonshire Waste Partnership be approved;
- (ii) That up to £13,000 from existing reserves for 2016/17 be made available; and
- (iii) That it be noted that provision will be made in the budget from 2017/18 onwards.

(Reason – to enable the Council to work collaboratively with other councils in the County to provide efficient and effective waste collection and disposal services that meet the needs of its communities.)

34. APPOINTMENT OF WORKING PARTIES AND PANELS BY THE COMMITTEE FOR 2016/17

RESOLVED:

That the following appointments to the Committee's Working Parties and Panels be made:

Housing Policy Working Party (6 Members)

Councillors Tony Boto, Helen Harrison, Richard Lewis, Steven North and Sarah Peacock.

Homelessness Prevention Panel (3 Members)

Councillors Wendy Brackenbury, Glenvil Greenwood-Smith and Richard Lewis.

(Reason – to appoint members to the Committee's Working Parties and Panels for 2016/17.)

35. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

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 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, may be disclosed.

36. DEBT WRITE OFFS

The Finance Manager submitted a report which set out the amount of debt that had been written off during the financial year 2015/16 and requested approval to write off one debt in excess of £25,000 in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Constitution.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the debt of £31,304.83, and any outstanding bailiff fees and costs, be written off.
- (ii) That the position of debts written off for the financial year 2015/16 be noted.

(Reason – to meet requirements as set out in section 5.46 of the Council's Financial Procedure Rules (Part 4.3 of the Constitution.)

Chairman

Councillors	Tony Boto (Chair)	TB
	Rupert Reichhold (Vice-Chair)	RR
	Helen Harrison	HH
	Steven North	SN

Also in attendance

Executive Director	Sharn Matthews	SM
Housing Services Officer	Louise Bagley	LB
Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager	Carol Conway	CC
Environment Protection Manager	Karen Pell	KP
Environmental Health Protection Manager	Jenny Walker	JW
Housing Enabling Officer	Aine Cooper	AC
Homes Direct Representative	Beverley Tebbutt	BT
Planning Policy and Conservation Manager	Richard Palmer	RP

		ACTION
1.	Apologies	
	Apologies were received from Cllr Peacock, Cllr Lewis, and Paul Bland	
2.	Minutes of the meeting of 17th February 2016	
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes were approved and signed by the chairman 	

3.	Matters Arising	
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beverley Tebbutt from Homes Direct was welcomed. • A training session on the council's statutory obligations in respect of allocations and homelessness is being held on Monday 18th April for members of the Housing Policy Working Party • The visit to the opening of the Castle Court development on 20th April was discussed 	
4.	Housing and Planning Bill and NPPF update	
4.1	<p>RP advised that the full NPPF consultation response was taken to Planning Policy Committee (PPC) on 22nd February. The PPC were largely supportive of the response and some key points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retaining an element of perpetuity regarding the provision of starter homes • Concerns over the restriction of the first time buyer age limit • Registered brownfield sites have previously been recorded under different methodologies • Safeguarding the best employment land against loss to residential development • Concerns over delivering rented/shared ownership properties if a greater number of starter homes are built on exception sites <p>The council's response to the consultation including comments by the HPWP and approved by the PPC is attached as Appendix 1.</p>	
4.2	<p>A workshop on the DCLG Technical Consultation on the Implementation of Planning Changes is being held on Tuesday 29th March at 2pm, followed by a briefing for Development Management Committee members on Wednesday 30th March. Appendix 1 of agenda item 7 of the PPC on 4th April provides an analysis of the proposed changes to which responses are invited.</p>	
	RP left the meeting at 2.30pm	
5.	Welfare Reform Update	
5.1	<p>The Autumn Statement and Spending Review 2015 introduced a cap on the amount of rent to be covered by housing benefit in the social rented sector for all new tenancies from 1st April 2016, with housing benefit entitlement changing from 1st April 2018.</p> <p>This will impact in ENC in respect of any social tenancies above the LHA cap and it is believed will also affect people of pension age. In addition single people under 35 (currently</p>	

	under 25) will have their housing benefit limited to the Shared Accommodation Rate which means they will only be eligible to claim rent at a single room rate. Details of the changes are attached at appendix 2	
6.	Housing Allocations Policy Review – Medical Awards and Accessible Properties	
6.1	CC presented a discussion paper and explained that the Medical and Social Needs Panels decide whether to award priority cards or enhance an applicants banding. A priority card is initially awarded for six months, and is given when there is an urgent medical or social need to move. There are also exceptions to the allocations policy with regard to social needs.	
6.2	The proposed additional wording to the medical assessment form would ensure that moving would aid and improve the medical needs of the applicant. Applicant declarations are being strengthened to ensure that the applicant's information can be shared as necessary and that fraud is minimised. It was proposed to alter the wording on page 7 of the medical assessment form to read <i>'Any person who knowingly withholds pertinent facts about their housing application or seeks to gain an award through giving untrue information may be suspended, for a specific period, from the Housing Register. Further legal action may be taken if appropriate.'</i>	
6.3	It is proposed to discontinue 'double banding' and by signing the form, an applicant states that they understand that cannot bid on an unsuitable property	
6.4	Currently about twelve cases are not being met through the standard housing allocations policy and it is proposed that they are dealt with individually. Recently in a few cases, private occupational therapy assessments have been commissioned to quickly ascertain if properties on new developments are suitable for adaptations to meet the needs of individual applicants. In the future the aim is to have more joint working between Housing Strategy and Private Sector Housing teams with more of a case conference approach.	
6.5	Concerns were raised regarding the possible perception that applicants had bypassed the system should they be dealt with outside the housing allocations policy. It was agreed that the section in the policy which enabled the council to withhold properties from the Choice Based Lettings Scheme should be strengthened to ensure transparency.	Housing Strategy Team
6.6	There was discussion, given the limitations of the DFG budget around whether applicants should move or remain in	

	<p>a property where the required works were possible and whether adaptations for an older person should be undertaken in family housing if they would later need to be removed.</p> <p>It was agreed that the balance between quality of life and the cost of moving versus the cost of adapting a property should be taken into consideration. Decisions should be made on a case by case basis, taking the needs of the applicant as well as the practicality and financial impact into account.</p>	
6.7	<p>JW suggested linking the DFG policy into the Housing Allocations Policy. Consider if the DFG is necessary and appropriate, reasonable and practicable. If not, then there is potential for an element of DFG funding to be used to facilitate a move into an appropriate property.</p>	
6.8	<p>LB suggested some additions to the policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered Providers of bungalows to allow people on high rate PIP to move into the property that would usually only be for an older person. • Priority cards (medical) should be time limited and reviewed to check if the banding should continue. Band 1 – reviewed at 9 months Band 2 – reviewed at 12 months <p>Members agreed that priority can be extended if there were no properties available that met the needs of the applicant</p>	
	<p>Cllr North and Beverley Tebbutt left the meeting at 3.30pm</p>	
7.	Potential for a Local Housing Company	
7.1	<p>KP explained that there are two properties in Duck Street, Rushden that Riverside Housing Association are seeking to dispose of. They were originally sold to Riverside by the council. If Riverside sells them before January 2019 they must offer them back to the council for the value of the debt on them. Riverside Housing is waiting to hear if ENC wish to purchase the properties back. They are also exploring other options such as leasing the properties to another housing association until they could sell them on the open market.</p>	
7.2	<p>The properties have been recently tenanted, so it is hoped that they will be in satisfactory condition but the exact level of works is not yet known. The properties could either be sold on or let out, potentially as shared supported housing.</p>	
7.3	<p>Working Party members were supportive in principle of the purchase of the properties but more information was needed and it was agreed that a report should be taken to the 25th April meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration. KP asked that Members provide feedback on the draft report. If P&R wished to proceed with the purchase, a final decision could be made</p>	<p>KP/CC Working Party</p>

	by Council in July.	
8.	Any Other Business	
8.1	It was agreed that Members will receive reports for meetings electronically and should contact CC should they require a hard copy.	
8.2	Due to a recent internal audit on working parties, risks now need to be added to the agenda for each meeting. CC to set up a discussion of the risk register and agenda with Sharn before the next meeting	CC
9.	Next Meeting	
	<p>The next meeting will be held on Weds 20th April 2pm in the Kasen Room.</p> <p>The Castle Court opening will take place before the meeting on 20th April at 12 noon, at Chancery Lane, Thrapston.</p> <p>The allocations training will take place on Monday, 18th April at 1.30 pm in the Members Room.</p> <p>Further working party meeting dates were confirmed: Weds 18th May at 1.30 pm Weds 15th June at 2 pm Weds 13th July at 2 pm</p>	
	The meeting concluded at 4pm	

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: 8 June 2016

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors:- Jake Vowles (Chairman)
David Jenney (Vice-Chairman)
Rosalie Beattie Roger Powell
Helen Howell Valarie Raven-Hill
Dorothy Maxwell Geoff Shacklock
Janet Pinnock

37. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 14 March 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Farrar and Sylvia Hughes.

39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

40. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10.3.

41. UPDATE ON CALL-IN OF POLICY DECISIONS

The Committee was presented with an update on the activities of the Council's policy committees and sub-committees and decisions taken since the last meeting of the Scrutiny Committee. No decisions made by the Finance Sub-Committee, Personnel Sub-Committee, Policy & Resources Committee or Planning Policy Committee had been required to be called in.

RESOLVED:

That the update on the call-in of policy decisions be noted.

42. VARIATION OF AGENDA

With the consent of the Committee, the Chairman varied the order of the published Agenda.

43. SERVICE PLAN REVIEW – FINANCIAL SERVICES

The Chief Finance Officer and the Finance Manager jointly presented an outline of the Finance Service Plan covering the activities carried out by the External Funding Manager; EnCor Financial Services; the Internal Audit Consortium; the Procurement Consortium and External Audit. Copies of the presentation slides were circulated to Members of the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Chief Finance Officer and the Finance Manager be thanked for the presentation and the content of the service plan be noted.

(The Chief Finance Officer and the Finance Manager left the meeting at the conclusion of their presentation).

44. GRANTS FOR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES - PRESENTATIONS BY “COMMUNITY LAW” AND “SERVE/VOLUNTARY ACTION OUNDLE”

The Community Partnerships Manager outlined the grants made by ENC to local service providers and introduced representatives from Community Law and Serve/Voluntary Action Oundle who were in attendance to provide the Committee with details of the services they provided to residents of the District, with case studies to illustrate their work.

Copies of their presentation were circulated to Members by Community Law.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked the representatives of both Community Law and Serve/Voluntary Action Oundle for their presentations.

45. PRESENTATION BY THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SCRUTINY GROUP.

On behalf of the Group, Councillor Helen Howell provided a summary of the work carried out by the Group to date and their initial findings. Copies of the presentation prepared by the Group were circulated to Members.

The Group had examined the feasibility of developing a car share scheme in the District. This could be done either by developing ENC’s own scheme based on schemes already running or by approaching other Authorities to explore the development of a joint scheme.

The Group had sought a steer from the Committee on which approach to take. The Committee indicated that the Group should have further discussions with other Northamptonshire councils to gauge interest. The Committee considered that the issues raised in the presentation deserved more in-depth discussion and the Group should therefore report back with its latest findings to the next meeting to enable this to be done.

46. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

The meeting having lasted for two hours, in accordance with procedure Rule 8 in Part 4.1 of the Council’s Constitution it was proposed and duly seconded that the meeting should continue.

RESOLVED:

That the meeting continue to complete the following items of business on the Agenda.

47. PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 4 2015/16

The Corporate Support Manager presented a report detailing the performance of the Council in respect of agreed indicators and other statistics for the period January to March 2016.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

48. PLANNING ENFORCEMENT SCRUTINY GROUP

Councillor David Jenney provided a verbal update on the work carried out to date by the Planning Enforcement Scrutiny Group.

49. WORK PLAN 2016/17

The Committee noted that both the Public Transport and Planning Enforcement Scrutiny Groups would report to the next meeting of the Committee in September 2016. Following the review of the Financial Services Service Plan earlier in the meeting, the Committee's reviews of departmental Service Plans had now been completed.

The Chairman of the Committee reported that the Leader of the Council had asked that the Committee undertake a review of the outside bodies to which the Council appointed a representative. This was to enable those outside bodies to which the Council should continue to appoint a representative to be identified and the review was to be completed by the end of the 2016/17 Municipal Year in time for appointments to be made at the 2017 Annual Council meeting.

The review would be commenced by asking the appointed representatives to provide an assessment of their role by way of a questionnaire to be issued by the Executive Director. This would have the objective of identifying those bodies to which the Council is either required to, or has a demonstrable benefit from, appointing a representative; those bodies to which there was no demonstrable benefit to appointing a representative and those remaining bodies where the Committee would reach a view on the continuation of appointments. The Committee would review the outcome of the questionnaire on appointments at its September 2016 and January 2017 meetings.

RESOLVED:

That the review outlined above be incorporated into the Committee's Work Plan for 2016/17 and Councillors Jake Vowles and Rosalie Beattie be appointed to assist the Executive Director in the initial stage of the review.

Chairman

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date: 15 June 2016

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors:- **Glenvil Greenwood-Smith (Chairman)**
Barbara Jenney (Vice-Chairman)

Tony Boto	Andy Mercer
Richard Gell	Geoff Shacklock
Helen Howell	Peter Wathen
Dorothy Maxwell	Pam Whiting

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Roger Glithero JP and Gill Mercer.

51. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

53. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

No questions had been received under Procedure Rule 10.3.

54. TAXI POLICY REVIEW

The Interim Health Protection Manager presented a report which provided the Committee with the consultation responses received following a six week consultation period for proposed changes to the Taxi Licensing Policy documents.

At the meeting in March 2016, the Committee discussed in detail proposed changes to the taxi policy and agreed, that subject to required changes being made, that the Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to approve the documents to go out for a six week consultation period. This was approved by the Policy and Resources Committee and the consultation documents were made available on the Council's website and the consultation period ended on 13 May 2016.

At the end of the consultation, seven responses had been received and ranged from a couple of issues to a full in depth review of the policy with several pages of comments. The documents had also been reviewed by legal services and colleagues around the County to ensure that they were in line with legislation and guidance.

A number of comments had been received about the requirement to provide and maintain a suitable fire extinguisher in the vehicle and following consideration of these comments it was now proposed to reduce the size of the required extinguishers to 1kg.

Comments had also been received about the requirement that children under the age of 13 would be prohibited from using a front passenger seat. The Council was aware that this requirement may cause issues with drivers who had County Council school transport contracts. The County Council had their own set of requirements for those contracts, but it was felt to be a reasonable requirement as an overriding policy. It was accepted that the County Council contracts may be different but the aim of the requirement was to try and minimise child sexual exploitation issues.

The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 had just come into force and this may require the alcohol and drugs section in the Criminal Records Policy to be rewritten to make it compatible with the new legislation.

In response to a question about when drivers and operators were required to inform the Council of any changes, it was confirmed that the working day requirement was the Council's working days e.g. not weekends or bank holidays.

It was questioned how people whose first language was not English were dealt with. It was confirmed that the Knowledge Test was delivered in writing, so drivers were able to read English. When the draft Policy was considered by the Policy and Resources Committee a question was asked about a mandatory English assessment and officers were considering papers provided by Bedford Borough Council. However, some elements of their policy was already contained within our Knowledge Test, which all drivers now had to go through.

RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE:

That, subject to amendments being made, the revised Taxi Policy documents be approved.

55. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

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 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 may be disclosed.

56. LICENSING ACTIVITY AND UPDATE REPORT

The Interim Health Protection Manager presented a report which detailed the licensing activity and accident and emergency statistics.

RESOLVED:

To note the licensing activity and update report.

57. LICENSING – THE POLICE PERSPECTIVE

PC Bryan, Northamptonshire Police, supported by the Licensing Enforcement Officer, gave a presentation on the Police's perspective to licensing.

Officers undertook to provide the Committee with information on the number of appeals which went to the Magistrates Court and how East Northamptonshire compared to other local authorities.

58. PREVIOUS PANEL DEBRIEF

The Committee reviewed the outcomes of previous panels.

It was suggested that it may be helpful to provide guidance for parish and town council on how to respond to licensing consultations.

Chairman

PLANNING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Date: 22 June 2016

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.00pm

Present: **Councillors:** Phillip Stearn **Chairman**
Gill Mercer **Vice Chairman**

Richard Gell
Roger Glithero JP
Sylvia Hobbs
Helen Howell
Dudley Hughes JP
Barbara Jenney
Andy Mercer

Ron Pinnock
Geoff Shacklock
Alex Smith
Robin Underwood
Peter Wathen
Pam Whiting

59. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Helen Harrison and Anna Sauntson.

60. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2016 were approved as a true and correct record of the proceeding.

61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND INFORMAL SITE VISITS

(a) Declarations Of Interest

Councillor	Application	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other Interest
All Committee Members	16/00919/FUL (Amenity Area, Smithfield Court, Smithfield Place, Raunds)	ENC is the landowner		Yes
Helen Howell	16/00919/FUL (Amenity Area, Smithfield Court, Smithfield Place, Raunds)	Was a member of Raunds Town Council's Planning Committee who had objected to the application		Yes

(b) Informal Site Visits

Councillor Peter Wathen declared that he had visited the site at Amenity Area, Smithfield Court, Smithfield Place, Raunds (16/00919/FUL).

62. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

Councillor Barbara Jenney had submitted the following question in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 10.3:

“Where do Members stand with regard to Householder Appeals?”

Under this “quicken” type of appeal, only representations made within the Officer’s report and the decision notice can be considered. There is no opportunity for further submissions to be put forward. Therefore no comment from Members either in support of, or contrary to Officer recommendation would be taken into account.”

The Chairman responded as follows:

Annexe C of the Planning Inspectorate’s Procedural Guide “Planning Appeals - England” March 2016 states at C.7.2:

“The local planning authority’s case will be its reasons for refusal and the documentation supplied with the questionnaire. The local planning authority’s reasons for refusal should be clear and, where the Committee’s decision goes against the planning officer’s recommendation, it is good practice for the reasons for this to be stated clearly in the Committee minutes. In turn this will mean that if an appeal is made the local authority’s documentation will contain all of its reasons and if the appellant arranges to view the documentation before they make their appeal, they will be aware of the full background to the refusal. With its documentation the local planning authority should identify any factual error in the appellant’s grounds of appeal and any new material or changes made which were not before it at the time it made its decision.”

The updated procedures do not allow for further statements from the Council in support of the refusal other than the Committee minutes and officer report. The procedures also preclude the submission of additional third party comments once an appeal has been received by the Planning Inspectorate. During an appeal, the Council sends copies of all representations received before the determination of the application. In the future, if Members wish to support a refusal of a householder application, they can submit additional comments the day after the Committee resolution having notified officers at that Committee that they wish to do so. These comments/statements can then be forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate as part of the appeal documentation.

Planning Services will be arranging a programme of Member Training on a range of topics, including appeals, that are relevant to members of the Planning Management Committee.

63. SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS – UPDATE

In accordance with Minute 280 from the meeting held on 28 November 2012, the Planning Development Manager submitted an update report detailing progress with regard to the drafting of S106 Agreements in respect of matters where the Committee had previously resolved to grant planning permission, subject to the prior finalisation of such an agreement.

The Planning Development Manager advised that the S106 Agreements for the applications listed below were being drafted:

- 15/01195/VAR Rushden Hospital
- 15/01976/VAR Grensons, Queen Street, Rushden

- 16/00589/FUL Grensons, Queen Street, Rushden

Members considered a request by the Planning Development Manager for an extension of time in respect of application 10/00857/OUT Irthlingborough West until the end of August 2016.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the extension in respect of application 10/00857/OUT Irthlingborough West be approved.

64. CHANGE TO ORDER OF AGENDA

The Chairman advised that agenda item 6 - Planning Application 14/02372/OUT – Proposal for 110 Dwellings at Land between Benefield Road and Old Dry Lane, Brigstock, would be considered after planning application 16/00654/OUT as the two items were related.

65. PUBLIC SPEAKERS

The following people spoke on the items as indicated:

- **Councillor David Coleman** - 16/00542/OUT - 258 Newton Road, Rushden (On behalf of Rushden Town Council)
- **Steve Sampson** - 16/00542/OUT - 258 Newton Road, Rushden (On behalf of Applicant)
- **Ian Simpson** - 16/00654/OUT - Land off Benefield Road and Old Dry Lane, Brigstock (Objector)
- **Councillor Sally Wilks** - 16/00654/OUT - Land off Benefield Road and Old Dry Lane, Brigstock (On behalf of Brigstock Parish Council)

66. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Committee considered the planning applications report, with updated information, on a number of the applications and representations made by public speakers at the meeting.

(i) 16/00542/OUT – 258 Newton Road, Rushden

At the Planning Management Committee meeting held on 1 June 2016 the Committee had considered an application which sought outline planning permission for the demolition of a detached bungalow and the erection of two one and a half storey residential dwellings, access and scale. Layout, external appearance and landscaping were reserved for future consideration.

The Committee had agreed to defer the application to enable a site visit to take place.

The application had been brought before the Committee at the request of a Ward Member.

Members noted that Rushden Town Council had objected to the application. Members further noted that two letters had been received from nearby residents objecting to the application.

The Committee considered that they should only be considering issues around the scale of development as there was already access to the site.

The Committee **agreed to refuse** the application, contrary to officer advice, on the grounds of adverse impact on the character and appearance of the area/over development.

The Committee delegated authority to the Head of Planning Services, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Ward Member, to confirm the exact wording of the reasons for refusal.

(ii) 16/00654/OUT – Land off Benefield Road and Old Dry Lane, Brigstock

The Committee considered an application which sought outline planning permission for the construction of up to 110 residential dwellings, with all matters reserved, except for the main site access. Introduction of structural planting and landscaping, informal public open space and children's play area, surface water floor mitigation and attenuation, vehicular access point from Benefield Road and associated ancillary works.

The application had been brought before the committee in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation.

Members noted that both Brigstock Parish Council and Sudborough Parish Council had objected to the application. Members further noted that 313 representations from nearby residents objecting to the application had been recorded. It was clarified that more than 313 letters had been received, but representations from the same property/address had been recorded as one representation.

The Committee noted that refusal reason 6 (Flood Risk and Drainage) had now been withdrawn as the applicant had provided an Addendum which had addressed the concerns raised by the Lead Local Flood Authority.

The Committee **agreed to refuse** the application for the following reasons:

- The proposal would result in new housing development on unallocated greenfield land without adequate justification. The Local Planning Authority is able to demonstrate a deliverable five year housing land supply and as such the development is contrary to Policies 1, 7, 9 and 10 of the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy 2008, Policy 1 of the Rural North Oundle and Thrapston Plan 2011, and the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 which favours sustainable development and requires that applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material consideration indicate otherwise. In addition, the proposal is contrary to Policies 11, 28 and 29 of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Focused Changes to the Pre-submission Plan (as amended by the Proposed Main Modifications February 2016).
- The lack of local services and transportation facilities due to the location of the site means that the proposal is unsustainable and will prejudice the aims of the Northamptonshire Highway Development Management Strategy 2013, Policy 9 of the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy 2008 and the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 which seek to focus development areas that will contribute to

the general aim of reducing the need to travel and by giving preference to locations that are accessible by a choice of means of travel. In addition, the proposal is contrary to Policies 11 and 15 (c) of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Focused Changes to the Pre-submission Plan (as amended by the Proposed Main Modifications February 2016).

- In the absence of a satisfactory unilateral undertaking or any other form of Section 106 legal agreement, the Local Planning Authority is not convinced that the infrastructure directly required for the proposed development will be provided and as such the proposal would be contrary to Policy 6 of the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy 2008, Policies 13 and 15 of the Rural North Oundle and Thrapston Plan 2011, Developer Contributions SPD 2006, Open Space SPD 2011 and Northamptonshire County Council Planning Obligations Framework and Guidance 2011. In addition, the proposal is contrary to Policy 10 of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Focused Changes to the Pre-submission Plan (as amended by the Proposed Main Modifications February 2016).
- The proposed development by reasons of scale and location would detract from the linear built form of the village and would have a detrimental impact on the historic form, setting and character and appearance of the village and its surrounding rural landscape, particularly as viewed from the A6116. The proposal, therefore, would fail to conserve and enhance the existing landscape character and historical assets, contrary to Policy 13 (h) and (o) of the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy 2008 and paragraphs 17 and 61 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 and policies 3 and 8 (d) (ii) of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Focused Changes to the Pre-submission Plan (as amended by the Proposed Main Modifications February 2016).
- The applicant has failed to demonstrate that the proposed development would not harm historic assets and provide an archaeological evaluation in support of the application. The proposal therefore would be contrary to Policy 13 (o) of the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy 2008, paragraph 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 and Policy 2 of the In addition, the proposal is contrary to Policies 11, 28 and 29 of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Focused Changes to the Pre-submission Plan (as amended by the Proposed Main Modifications February 2016).

67. PLANNING APPLICATION 14/02372/OUT – PROPOSAL FOR 110 DWELLINGS AT LAND BETWEEN BENEFIELD ROAD & OLD DRY LANE, BRIGSTON

The Senior Development Management Officer submitted a report that requested permission from the Committee to allow the Head of Planning Services to withdraw refusal reasons 3, 8, 4, 6 and 7 in respect of planning application 14/02372/OUT which was currently subject to a Public Inquiry. This would enable the appeal to be handled efficiently and would avoid unnecessary costs for the parties involved in the Public Inquiry.

At the Committee's meeting on 1 April 2015, it was resolved to refuse outline planning permission for the construction of 110 dwellings at land between Benefield Road and Old Dry Lane in Brigstock for eight reasons. A resubmission had subsequently been made under planning reference 16/00654/OUT, which had been considered this evening.

Local Planning Authorities were required to behave reasonably in relation to procedural matters at an appeal, and, in the event that the applicant /appellant had provided additional information to address/overcome a refusal reason, the authority was required to reconsider whether it would be necessary to pursue a refusal reason at an appeal. Failure to do this

could lead to further work being undertaken by the opposite party and extend the duration of the appeal, leading to costs which could have been avoided.

RESOLVED:

1. To withdraw refusal reasons 3 and 8 of planning application reference 14/02372/OUT for the reasons set out in paragraph 2.1 (1) and (2) of the report; and
2. To delegate authority to the Head of Planning Services, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Ward Member, to withdraw refusal reasons 4, 6 and 7 of planning application reference 14/02372/OUT in the circumstances set out in paragraph 2.2 (3), (4) and (5) of the report.

68. CONTINUATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(iii) 16/00988/VAR – Land off A45 London Road, Raunds

The Committee considered an application to vary Condition 27 (beepers), to allow no more than four deliveries to be made between the hours of 22:00 and 07:00 hours on any one night pursuant to application 15/02095/FUL

The application had been brought before the Committee as it was a major application and Members had considered the original application.

The Committee **agreed to grant** the removal of Condition 27, as opposed to it being amended, subject to the conditions detailed on the original planning application being carried forward.

(iv) 16/00919/FUL – Amenity Area Smithfield Court, Smithfield Place, Raunds

The Committee considered an application for the construction of four three bedroomed semi detached houses and two one bedroomed flats.

The application had been brought before the Committee as the site was currently owned by East Northamptonshire Council. A contract was in place to sell the site, subject to planning permission being granted. Members noted that this was not a material planning consideration.

Members noted that both Raunds Town Council and Raunds Labour Party had objected to the application. Members further noted that eight letters had been received from nearby residents objecting to the application. A petition of 49 signatures had also been received in opposition to the scheme.

The Committee **agreed to refuse** the application, contrary to officer advice, on the grounds of loss of amenity space which is not surplus to requirements and insufficient amenity for future residents.

The Committee delegated authority to the Head of Planning Services, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Ward Member, to confirm the exact wording of the reasons for refusal.

Chairman