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**NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON**

**14<sup>th</sup> December, 2017**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Shepherd (in the Chair)  
Councillors Barber, Barfield, Beasant, Bolton, Bramley, Brookes, Brown, Burton, Cairns, Chase, Cracknell, Darby, De Freitas, Dickerson, Fenty, Goodwin, Harness, Hasthorpe, Hyldon-King, Jackson, James, Mickleburgh, Oxby, Parkinson, Patrick, Pettigrew, Rogers, Rudd, Shreeve, Stockton, Sutton, Watson, K. Wheatley, P. Wheatley and Wilson.

<b>OFFICERS:</b>	Rob Walsh	Chief Executive
	Simon Jones	Chief Legal Officer (Monitoring Officer)
	Sharon Wroot	Director of Finance, Resources and Operations
	Royce Coates	Communications Assistant
	Paul Windley	Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager

NEL.106 **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a particularly warm welcome to his guests from Konigswinter.

The Mayor noted, with sadness, the recent passing of Mrs Christine Walker, former Mayoress and wife of former Mayor, Councillor Terry Walker. On behalf of the Council, he offered his deepest sympathy to Councillor Walker and his family.

With regard to this meeting, the Mayor reported that the Standards and Adjudication Committee had recently granted a general dispensation for all Elected Members of this Council. This allowed them to participate in specific matters including items to be considered at this meeting regarding members' allowances and council tax.

NEL.107 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from this meeting were received from Councillors Colquhoun, Hudson, Lindley, McGilligan-Fell, Stinson and Walker.

NEL.108 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Beasant, Bramley, Harness, Rogers, Shreeve and Sutton declared their personal interest in NEL.140 as trustees of the Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District Citizens Advice Bureau.

NEL.109 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of North East Lincolnshire Council held on 21st September, 2017 and the special meeting of North East Lincolnshire Council held on 3rd October, 2017 were approved as correct records.

NEL.110 **LEADERS STATEMENT**

The Council received a statement from the Leader of the Council updating Council in respect of key issues of significance to the social, economic or environmental well-being of the area. Papers setting out 'Special Urgency' decisions taken in accordance with the Constitution and providing an update on the implementation of Motions previously resolved at the preceding Council meetings was circulated at this meeting.

The Leader referred to the recent announcement of a pilot Town Deal for Grimsby. This was the first Town Deal in the country and the Leader noted the need to build on the vision and ambition for growth and stay ahead of the game. As part of this he referred to two important pieces of the jigsaw that fell neatly into place last week. The first was the announcement by Historic England that Grimsby had been granted Heritage Action Zone status, which he felt symbolised the much improved relationship between this Council and Associated British ports. The second was the granting of planning permission for the Grimsby town centre cinema development; a £20m investment into the area. This provided a clear signal of external confidence in our capacity to deliver real and much needed change. The Leader added that this was reflected in comments made by the UK Managing Director of Orsted (formerly known as Dong Energy), paying tribute to the work we're doing and providing a clear commitment to support our endeavour.

In addition, the Leader was delighted to announce that the Council has been awarded £5.4m funding from the European Regional Development Fund to promote, innovate and adopt energy efficiency and renewable energy use. Additional funding from other sources was set to bring the total value of this project to £9.2m and he commended the portfolio holder and officers of the Council, supported by Engie, for bringing in this investment.

The Leader further reflected on the recent Ofsted judgement that our children's services were good, which provided significant evidence of the Council's progress and an endorsement of the prevention and early help model that was at the heart of our approach to tackling the challenges faced by young people and families. He paid tribute to the leadership of the portfolio holder, the Deputy Chief Executive and the Corporate Parenting Board and, on behalf of all Members, thanked all staff involved.

The Leader concluded by noting that the Council was delivering on its priorities and needed to maintain its focus on ambition in order to deliver a borough of which all Members and all communities could be proud of for generations to come. He wished the Mayor and all Members a very happy Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful New Year.

NEL.111

### **QUESTION TIME**

A question had been submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures from Mr Scott Mclachlan. Mr Mclachlan was unable to attend this meeting and therefore the Mayor put the question, as set out below:

Given the previously submitted petition to limit councillors allowances, how does the council intend to inspire youth involvement, as recent polls on 'yougov' show that those under 25 are over 20 times less likely to run for council due to the lack of wages and soon to be lack of allowances if councillors fold to public pressure?

Councillor Patrick, the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Community Assets, Governance and Tourism thanked Mr Mclachlan for his question and reported that the Council did not currently do anything specifically to encourage younger members. However, he added that the Council used to hold one off events each year to attract people who were interested in becoming a councillor and was looking to re-introduce such an event in the new year. He acknowledged the need to have true representation of the diverse communities of the Borough and felt that a certain amount of remuneration did make a difference.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Patrick for his response and noted that this would be sent, in writing, to Mr Mclachlan in accordance with the Council's procedures.

NEL.112

### **UK YOUTH PARLIAMENT MEMBER UPDATE**

The Council received an update from Zachary Steels, North East Lincolnshire Member of the UK Youth Parliament and Max Kerrigan, his Deputy, on current issues affecting children and young people.

Max reported on his attendance at the UK Youth Parliament annual sitting at the House of Commons in the Summer. Ten subjects affecting young people were debated and it had been enjoyable but hard work. He noted that he had met the Speaker of the House and learnt a lot from the experience, including motivational skills.

Zachary explained that this was followed up with a local consultation during September asking 11-18 year olds what the most important issues were to them. He reported that over 5,600 votes had been cast in this area; a 50% increase on the previous year. Similar issues had been reported – transport, mental health and work experience – which indicated that there was still progress to be made.

It was noted that Youth Action were planning a Youth Voice event early next year to agree what action could be taken locally to make a difference.

The Youth Parliament had declared Votes for 16 year olds as its UK priority, while the Curriculum for Life was the priority in England. A petition for Votes for 16 year olds was due to be launched and a Day of Action was planned for 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 to launch the Youth Parliament campaign.

The young reporters project continued to be recognised as providing good practice, with five short films being developed and articles appearing in the Grimsby Telegraph, including on mental health.

Plans for the immediate future included a focus on the national campaigns, continued work with the Local Safeguarding Children Board, and taking forward the local priorities on transport, mental health and access to work.

Zachary and Max concluded by thanking the Council for listening and wished Members a peaceful festive season. They looked forward to returning in March, 2018 for a further update.

NEL.113

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

The Mayor invited Councillor Shreeve to present the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Energy and Environment, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

*"I note that we recently had a near miss when someone had to be rescued from the mud that has developed as a result of the spread of saltmarsh on our beaches which yet again appears to encroaching past the agreed point. Can the portfolio holder confirm that measures are in hand to address this?"*

Councillor Watson, Portfolio Holder for Energy and Environment, responded that the saltmarsh had not progressed beyond the agreed line and any that did would be removed by the beach safety team.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Shreeve asked the portfolio holder to confirm what plans were in place to maintain the effectiveness of the beach safety team.

With the permission of the Mayor, Councillor Patrick, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Community Assets, Governance and Tourism, responded that they were currently seeking to recruit to a vacant post in the team and staffing numbers were being maintained.

The Mayor invited Councillor Jackson to present the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Assets, Skills and Housing, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

*“The Council is now well into its second year of ownership of the former O’Neill’s pub in Cleethorpes. Despite previous assurances from the portfolio holder that a new tenant was imminent, the building still remains empty and boarded up. It is an eyesore on one of the main entrances into the resort and is failing to bring valuable income into the Authority. What is the current situation?”*

Councillor P Wheatley, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Assets, Skills and Housing, responded that since acquiring the former public house premises as part of the strategic land assembly to support longer term inclusion in the Cleethorpes investment plan, the Council had marketed and received offers for a short term letting. In progressing negotiations however, there had been several complexities brought to light which had required thorough consideration and investigation prior to being in a position to secure a tenant. Whilst these delays were regrettable, thoroughness and due diligence by officers was essential. The Council was currently in dialogue with an interested party and once negotiations reach a successful conclusion, the premises would be let.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Jackson enquired whether this was yet another example of this administration’s failure to manage its assets properly and bring in some much needed income.

Councillor P Wheatley responded by referring to his previous response.

NEL.114 **MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Oxby and seconded by Councillor Watson.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 22nd September, 2017 be approved and adopted.

NEL.115 **MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Patrick and seconded by Councillor Hyldon-King.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 27th September, 2017 be approved and adopted.

NEL.116 **MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

At CB.59 (Disposal of Council Owned Vehicles and Assets) Councillor Fenty requested an update on what would happen to redundant lawnmower equipment.

Councillor Patrick agreed to provide a written response on this matter.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Fenty noted that he had yet to receive the written response offered at the Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September when he enquired about the unnecessary cost of the lawnmower equipment and he asked whether this would be provided at the same time.

Councillor Patrick agreed to do so.

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Watson and seconded by Councillor Hyldon-King.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That a written response be provided to Councillor Fenty regarding the unnecessary cost of lawnmower equipment arising from the change in grass-cutting policy and setting out what would happen to the equipment.
- (2) That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 25th October, 2017 be approved and adopted.

NEL.117 **MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Oxby and seconded by Councillor Watson.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 22nd November, 2017 be approved and adopted.

NEL.118 **MINUTES OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Watson and seconded by Councillor Oxby.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Portfolio Holder Energy and Environment meeting held on 4th September, 2017 be approved and adopted.

NEL.119 **MINUTES OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

At PH.EE.17, Councillor Chase sought confirmation that the demolition of the old Cherry Valley building in Pelham Road, Cleethorpes was proceeding and whether there was a definite date for the demolition.

Councillor Watson responded that, as far as he was aware, the demolition was set to proceed and he agreed to provide the demolition date to Councillor Chase as soon as he received it.

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Watson and seconded by Councillor Oxby.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Portfolio Holder Energy and Environment meeting held on 16th October, 2017 be approved and adopted.

NEL.120 **MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY PANEL – CHILDREN AND LIFELONG LEARNING MEETING HELD ON 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Lindley and seconded by Councillor Dickerson.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Scrutiny Panel – Children And Lifelong Learning meeting held on 28th September, 2017 be approved and adopted.

NEL.121 **MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY PANEL – COMMUNITIES MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Shreeve and seconded by Councillor Beasant.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Scrutiny Panel – Communities meeting held on 12th October, 2017 be approved and adopted.

NEL.122 **MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY PANEL – ECONOMY MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

At SPE.34, Councillor Brookes enquired whether the survey of findings on public toilets submitted by the 'Jo Cox Community Action Group' would be brought back to the panel for open debate as he felt that it would inform the provision of excellent toilet facilities in the Borough.

Councillor Jackson, Chair of the Economy Scrutiny Panel, noted that the panel was unable to fully consider the survey when presented at this meeting as the community group was considering tendering for the provision of public toilets. However, he understood that this was now not the case and the panel was due to review the procurement process at its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2018. This would provide an opportunity to take account of the survey and he had asked officers to make sure that it did come back before the panel.

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Jackson and seconded by Councillor Barfield.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Scrutiny Panel – Economy meeting held on 12th September, 2017 be approved and adopted.

NEL.123

**MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY PANEL – ECONOMY MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

At SPE.41 (Review of Existing Traffic Signal Junctions in North East Lincolnshire), Councillor Sutton noted the success of new traffic lights installed at Great Coates and asked whether the Chair agreed that it was a sensible decision to defer the review and work with officers to pursue improvements.

Councillor Jackson responded that it was always the intention to fully involve officers when looking at traffic light controlled junctions. He was content that the panel's resolution would allow the views of the public and road users to be taken into account as part of existing mechanisms.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Sutton enquired whether the Chair therefore agreed that it would be best to engage with the working group on the Toll Bar roundabout proposals.

Councillor Jackson responded by questioning the robustness of consultation with the public over these proposals.

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Jackson and seconded by Councillor Barfield.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Scrutiny Panel – Economy meeting held on 11th October, 2017 be approved and adopted.

NEL.124

**MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY PANEL – HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Dickerson and seconded by Councillor Pettigrew.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Scrutiny Panel – Health and Adult Social Care meeting held on 20th September, 2017 be approved and adopted.

NEL.125

**MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY PANEL – TOURISM AND VISITOR ECONOMY MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

At SPTVE.17 (Dredging – Associated British Ports), Councillor Fenty enquired whether the Chair shared his concerns about the impact on the tourism industry of the clear health risks from people getting stuck in the mud on Cleethorpes beach.

Councillor Brookes, Chair of the Tourism and Visitor Economy Scrutiny Panel, confirmed that the information received by the panel came from a reputable source and it was made clear that it would have been highly dangerous unless help was received. Therefore, he agreed and hoped officers would make sure that everything was done to alleviate the problem.



In a supplementary question, Councillor Fenty enquired whether the Chair agreed that something needed doing as the machines being used to remove saltmarsh growth were also getting stuck in the mud.

Councillor Brookes responded that Members had received reassurances on this matter earlier and he hoped that something would be rapidly done.

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Brookes and seconded by Councillor Parkinson.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Scrutiny Panel – Tourism and Visitor Economy meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 be approved and adopted.

NEL.126 **MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Shreeve and seconded by Councillor Sutton.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee meeting held on 19th October, 2017 be approved and adopted.

NEL.127 **MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Hyldon-King and seconded by Councillor Patrick.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Health and Well Being Board meeting held on 11th September, 2017 be approved and adopted.

NEL.128 **MINUTES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE FOR SHARED SERVICES MEETING HELD ON 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Patrick and seconded by Councillor Watson.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Joint Committee for Shared Services meeting held on 31st October, 2017 be approved and adopted.

NEL.129 **MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Burton and seconded by Councillor Harness.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 13th September, 2017 be approved and adopted.

NEL.130 **MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Harness.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 11th October, 2017 be approved and adopted.

NEL.131 **MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Burton and seconded by Councillor Brown.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 8th November, 2017 be approved and adopted.

NEL.132 **MINUTES OF THE LICENSING AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Rogers and seconded by Councillor Mickleburgh.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Licensing and Community Protection Committee held on 6th September, 2017 be approved and adopted.

NEL.133 **MINUTES OF LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2017**

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Mickleburgh and seconded by Councillor Rogers.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Licensing Sub Committee meeting held on 14th November, 2017 be approved and adopted.

NEL.134 **MINUTES OF STANDARDS HEARINGS PANEL MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2017**

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Goodwin and seconded by Councillor Burton.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Standards Hearings Panel held on 18th August, 2017 be approved and adopted.

NEL.135 **MINUTES OF STANDARDS REFERRALS PANEL HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2017**

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Brookes and seconded by Councillor Sutton.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Standards Referrals Panel held on 25th October, 2017 be approved and adopted.

NEL.136 **MINUTES OF THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2017**

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Oxby and seconded by Councillor Watson.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Appointments Committee held on 4th September, 2017 be approved and adopted.

NEL.137 **MINUTES OF THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2017**

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Watson and seconded by Councillor P Wheatley.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Appointments Committee held on 16th October, 2017 be approved and adopted.

NEL.138 **MINUTES OF THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2017**

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Watson and seconded by Councillor Patrick.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Appointments Committee held on 7th November, 2017 be approved and adopted, noting the appointment of Mr Simon Jones as the Chief Legal Officer which incorporates the statutory role of Monitoring Officer of the Council.

NEL.139 **INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL - SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES**

Council received a report from the Director of Governance, Democracy and Community Engagement detailing the outcome of the Independent Remuneration Panel's review of the Members' Scheme of Allowances.

RESOLVED –

(1) That the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel be accepted.

- (2) That the revised Scheme of Allowances comes into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2018.

NEL.140

### **COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME**

Council received a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Community Assets, Governance and Tourism outlining proposed changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme. This report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 14th December, 2017 and its recommendations were referred to full Council for approval.

Councillor Patrick proposed that the changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme, as set out in the report now submitted, be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Oxby.

Councillor Jackson proposed an amendment that, in addition to the changes outlined in the report, the maximum council tax relief for working age households be reduced to 70%. This was seconded by Councillor Shreeve.

Following a debate, the amendment was put to the vote and upon a show hands was declared lost.

The debate returned to the original motion, which was then put to the vote and, upon a show of hands, was carried.

RESOLVED – That the changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme as set out in paragraph 1.5 of the report now submitted, be approved

NEL.141

### **AMENDMENTS TO PLACES ON COMMITTEES/PANELS OF THE COUNCIL**

Council considered a report advising of proposed changes to places on Committees and Panels of the Council and representation on Outside Bodies since the Annual Meeting held on 25th May, 2017.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That Councillor Cairns retain his seats on the Economy Scrutiny Panel and the Licensing and Community Protection Committee but as a Conservative Group member.
- (2) That Councillor Bramley be appointed to replace Councillor Cairns on the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel as the UKIP Group member.
- (3) That Councillor Brown be appointed to replace Councillor Watson as a Council representative on the North East Lindsey Drainage Board.

NEL.142

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY**

Council received the minutes of the meeting of Humberside Fire Authority held on 28th July and 22nd September, 2017.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Humberside Fire Authority held on 28th July and 22nd September, 2017 be noted.

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.17 p.m.