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

18th July 2024

Present:

Councillor Beasant (in the Chair)
Councillors Aisthorpe, Augusta, Bonner, Boyd, Bright, Brookes, Clough, Crofts, Dawkins, Downes, Emmerson, Farren, Freeston, Goodwin, Haggis, Harness, Hasthorpe, Henderson, Holland, Hudson, Humphrey, Jackson, Jervis, Kaczmarek, Mill, Morland, Parkinson, Patrick, Pettigrew, Shepherd, Shreeve, Shutt, Silvester, K Swinburn, S Swinburn, Wheatley and Wilson.

Officers in Attendance:

- Simon Jones (Assistant Director Law and Governance - Monitoring Officer)
- Paul Windley (Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager)
- Paul Wisken (Civic and Mayoral Officer)

The proceedings were opened with prayers by the Civic and Mayoral Officer.

NEL.15 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor commented on the recent twinning visit to Cleethorpes by a delegation from Konigswinter, which had been well received.

The Mayor reminded Members that he would be conducting a 24 hour sponsored walk around Grant Thorold Park this month in aid of the Mayoral charities. There would also be a cake sale tomorrow morning. Again, in aid of the Mayoral charities.

The Mayor was pleased to announce that there would be a new award for foster carers at this year's Civic Awards ceremony.

The Mayor noted that a new audio system was in place for this meeting and that meeting would be recorded for test purposes. The intention was to commence

broadcasting of Council meetings from the meeting in December 2024.

NEL.16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from this meeting were received from Councillors Cairns, Cracknell, Lindley and Mickleburgh.

NEL.17 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of North East Lincolnshire Council held on 14th March 2024, the Mayor Making Meeting of North East Lincolnshire Council held on 15th May 2024, and the Annual Meeting of North East Lincolnshire Council held on 23rd May 2024 be approved as correct records.

NEL.18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Humphrey declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in NEL.21 as the motion may have had an impact on his employer.

NEL.19 QUESTION TIME

The following question was submitted by Mr Bryan Dicker to Councillor Cracknell, Portfolio Holder for Children and Education:

“Why did I receive the answer I received from the Legal Officer that the then Assistant Director did not need to answer my questions, despite no obvious legal restriction, at the special scrutiny meeting convened on 27th September 2023? It took the independent report to answer one of the questions posed. The £1.5m that was cited was, in essence, a made-up figure, and reinforces my request at the time for all of us to be given their crystal ball.”

In the absence of the portfolio holder, Councillor Jackson, Leader of the Council, responded that the minutes confirm that Mr Dicker was able to address the scrutiny panel on 27 September 2023. The council had a constitutional route for the public to ask questions at any scrutiny panel meeting. They must be submitted no later than 5 working days before the date of the meeting and such questions were of the scrutiny panel members, not the officers that support the panel.

The following question was submitted by Mr Bryan Dicker to Councillor Jackson, Leader of the Council:

“The report also recommends that the council should review their Constitution. The public was prevented from posing two stingy questions that officers failed to answer at scrutiny and there is still no function for any questions to be asked at Cabinet level. It is no wonder I was asked why I was helping

because the council will only do what they want. What will the Leader of the Council do to rectify this gross restriction in democracy that could have raised alarm bells sooner than what the Scartho public meeting should have done?”

Councillor Jackson, Leader of the Council, responded that Mr Dicker was well aware of the process, having submitted questions at the earlier panel meeting of 21 September, as confirmed by those minutes. Whilst the council did not have a constitutional platform for public questions to Cabinet, public participation in local decision making was encouraged in a number of ways:

- All meetings are open and transparent and conducted in public, save where specific items of business fall into the statutory definition of exempt business.
- All reports and papers are published on the Council website well in advance.
- The public are able to submit questions to Full Council, in accordance with question time procedure, as indeed Mr Dicker has done tonight.
- The public are able to compile petitions in accordance with the petition scheme.
- The public are able to submit questions to any scrutiny panel.
- The public are able to speak at regulatory committees (i.e. Planning).
- The public are given notice of pending key decisions via the published forward plan.
- The public are able to see reports and decision notices made by Council and Cabinet.
- The public are able to write to their ward councillors or directly to members of the Cabinet to seek information, which Mr Dicker has done to me on a number of occasions.

Councillor Jackson didn't believe the review of the Constitution mentioned in the report was around public questions or speaking rights at meetings.

NEL.20 LEADERS STATEMENT

The Council received a statement from the Leader of the Council.

The Leader offered his congratulations to Melanie Onn and Martin Vickers on their respective victories in the parliamentary elections and looked forward to working with them both in the best interests of North East Lincolnshire. He hoped the council would enjoy the same fruitful working arrangements with the new Government as it had over recent years with the previous Conservative administration. He outlined the continued challenges faced by local government that he hoped the new Government would pay early attention to. The local government financial model was in need of review and there were major challenges for the sector across demand led services, including children's, adult's and SEND. He felt that the council's job would be easier if we enjoyed longer

term certainty of funding to aid resource planning generally, for example multi-year settlements.

The Leader reported on the Government's plans for housing, including the anticipated setting of delivery targets. A relaxation of the planning regime had already been signalled and there could be significant implications for North East Lincolnshire. Further announcements were awaited.

The new Prime Minister had expressed his enthusiasm for further devolution. The Leader noted that the Greater Lincolnshire devolution deal had passed the necessary statutory tests, and the draft legislation was ready to be laid before Parliament. The Leader urged progress on this matter so that we can start to enjoy the benefits across Greater Lincolnshire, in tandem with a similar deal on the north bank of the Humber.

Despite becoming a minority administration following the local elections, the Leader confirmed that his administration intended to stick with its ambitious plans for growth and change across North East Lincolnshire. As well as overhauling skills provision to help local people take advantage of the new, better paid jobs that are being created across all our key employment sectors, there was a need to ensure the right housing and infrastructure was in place for our current residents as well as those who want to move into the area. The Leader commented that it was essential to make North East Lincolnshire a more attractive place to live in and visit. The regeneration schemes that were being delivered, based on the Grimsby and Cleethorpes Masterplans, the grant funding they had attracted in recent years, and the greater private sector confidence and investment that brought, were key to that ambition. The Leader particularly wanted North East Lincolnshire to be a place where young people can thrive and prosper, with good jobs and careers and an environment that encouraged them to stay. He hoped that all parties in the Council Chamber could unite around those aims and objectives.

The Leader reported that Cabinet had approved the final concept designs for the regeneration of Market Place and the refurbishment of Pier Gardens in Cleethorpes. These two exciting schemes were being funded from the £18.4 million of Levelling Up funding won for the resort and had been designed following extensive public engagement, including via the Cleethorpes Masterplan process, detailed consultation with local businesses and very helpful input from the relevant scrutiny panel. Work had now commenced on site on the new, iconic building on Sea Road, also funded through the Levelling Up programme. Events were vital to the resort and the Leader thanked all involved for a superbly organised Armed Forces weekend, not least our brilliant council teams who had cleared the waste generated by thousands of visitors and ensured the resort was spick and span again by the Monday morning.

On public transport, the Leader noted that the council had been successful in securing significant grant funding for our Bus Service Improvement Plan, and, in partnership with Stagecoach East Midlands, were introducing and maintaining

significant improvements in local bus services. These included introducing a new route as well as extending others and increasing some frequencies. We had been able to re-introduce free travel before 9.30 am for concessionary bus pass holders and maintain the travel anywhere £1 fare at weekends and in the evenings. This was great news for existing bus users but was also encouraging new passengers, saving them money, reducing congestion and helping the environment.

The Leader concluded his statement by noting that the current Council tracking of actions document had been circulated and there had been no special urgency decisions taken since the March 2024 meeting of Council.

NEL21 PETITION FOR DEBATE – EAST MARSH HOUSING REFORM

A petition for debate was received requesting that the Council take immediate action to improve housing standards and promote community well-being in East Marsh by launching the process of 'Selective Licensing' across the entirety of the East Marsh, with the aim to implement with immediate effect. Additionally, the petition urged the Council to establish an 'Article 4 Direction' on Wellington Street in Grimsby.

Councillor Wilson challenged the legality of pursuing the petition requests. The Monitoring Officer advised that there may be restrictions around geographical areas but this would be determined at a later stage and there was nothing to prevent the Council debating the matter presented.

Councillor Aisthorpe presented the petition and moved that the process of selective licensing be launched across the entirety of the East Marsh ward with the aim of implementation with immediate effect, and that an Article 4 direction be established on Wellington Street in Grimsby. This was seconded by Councillor Aisthorpe.

During the course of the debate on the petition, Councillor S Swinburn suggested that the matter also be referred to the Cabinet Working Party that had been established to look at selective licensing across the Borough.

Prior to the vote on this matter, the Monitoring Officer advised that the Council could only agree to support the principle of implementation at this stage.

The matter was put to the vote and, upon a show of hands, it was:

RESOLVED – That support in principle be given for the process of selective licensing to be launched across the entirety of the East Marsh ward with the aim of implementation with immediate effect, and for an Article 4 direction to be established on Wellington Street in Grimsby

NEL.22 AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

The Council considered a report detailing the activities of the Audit and Governance Committee during the Council year and setting out how it has discharged its responsibilities. This report was referred to Council by the Audit and Governance Committee at its meeting on 18th April, 2024.

The Mayor welcomed the independent Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee, Mr. Tim Render, to the meeting. Mr Render attended the meeting remotely and he was invited to introduce his report. Standing Orders were suspended for this purpose. Due to technical issues, Mr Render was unable to deliver his speech in full and Councillor Holland, Deputy Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee, stepped in to complete the speech on Mr Render's behalf.

In his speech, Mr Render stressed the importance of the council having assurance that it is properly controlling what it does, especially at times of change. This was the 'bread and butter' of the work carried out by the audit committee. He noted the challenges faced by the council as well as the significant opportunities where it was vital to ensure that appropriate governance and control arrangements were in place. Alongside this, the committee's key purpose was to ensure that the rules set by Council were followed, that the council was protecting public assets and had effective arrangements for managing resources and securing value for money. The key roles of the committee were to ensure that there was an effective system of internal control (not just for resources, but also for delivering Council objectives) and to make sure that system was working. Mr Render was pleased to again provide assurance about those arrangements. That conclusion followed the work reviewed from internal and external audit, specific exercises looking at Treasury Management and the Council's accounts, and the committee's work monitoring and reviewing the governance of the Council's partnerships and major areas of change. He referred to specific work on Adult Social Care, Children's Services, and the planned changes for services delivered currently by Equans.

The committee would be publishing its new work programme later this month and this would be shared with scrutiny to ensure that their respective work was complementary, and adds to the effective functioning of the Authority.

Following best practice in audit, the committee assessed itself against expected standards of effectiveness and found that it was essentially effective, but it was recognised that there were areas of work where we may not demonstrate all the elements of good practice for committees. The result of the assessment was included in the annual report. Mr Render outlined two areas for development. Firstly, making sure that all Committee members had the skills and knowledge needed for the rather specialised role of audit. Secondly, aiming to enhance the

independence of the committee's work, particularly through the appointment of a second independent member of the committee.

Mr Render commented on last year's periodic independent audit of the Council's own Internal Audit service. The service was judged to "generally conform" to the requirement of the standards, which was the highest rating that could be achieved, and provided assurance about the quality and performance of Internal Audit.

Mr Render reported on the committee's work over the previous year and was pleased to report that the statutory audits for 2021/22 and 2022/23 had now been completed by External Audit. The delays in sign-off were caused by national technical issues and did not reflect in any way on the performance of the Council's finance team. However, the External Auditor continued to include in his value for money judgement the weaknesses reported in the Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services from November 2021, and therefore qualified his opinion on the value for money delivered by the Council. The committee had reviewed the Children's Services governance arrangements within and it would continue to keep an eye on its control arrangements.

Mr Render thanked officers for their support of the committee's work. He was, as ever, grateful to members of the Committee who continued to demonstrate enthusiasm in developing the audit function. He was pleased to see that the membership of the committee had little changed for the current municipal year as continuity was so important to the specialised role that the committee had. He commended the report to Council.

RESOLVED – That the Audit and Governance Committee annual report for 2023/24 be approved.

NEL.23 APPOINTMENT OF SECOND INDEPENDENT AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER

The Council considered a report on the appointment of a second independent member of the Audit and Governance Committee.

RESOLVED –.

1. That Mr Walter Leschenko be appointed as the second independent member of the Audit and Governance Committee, subject to confirmation of references.
2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to finalise the conditions of appointment to this role.
3. That the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the appropriate rate of remuneration for this role be approved.

NEL.24 WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Council considered a report seeking approval of North East Lincolnshire Council's Council Size Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

RESOLVED – That North East Lincolnshire Council's Council Size Submission be approved for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

NEL.25 NURSERIES CONSULTATION REVIEW REPORT

The Council considered the independent Nurseries Consultation Review report. This report was considered by the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 7th March 2024 and the matter was referred to Council to further consider the findings and discuss the recommendations within the report

Councillor Jackson moved that the report be received and referred to the Audit and Governance Committee for consideration as part of its role. This was seconded by Councillor Shreeve.

During the course of the debate, Councillor Patrick noted that at the meeting of the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel on 7th March, 2024, the panel had agreed to an additional recommendation that scrutiny be involved in this subject in a more open and transparent way. He moved that this be added as an amendment. This was seconded by Councillor Shutt.

This amendment was carried upon a show of hands. Following a debate, the amended substantive motion was also carried upon a show of hands.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be received and referred to the Audit and Governance Committee for consideration.
2. That scrutiny be involved in this subject in a more open and transparent way in future.

Note – Councillor Freeston left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

NEL.26 FOOD PROVIDERS

The Council received a report from the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities providing a progress update on local community food provision and associated issues. This report had been updated following deferral of consideration of this matter at the meeting of Council on 14th March 2024.

The Monitoring Officer advised Council on the consideration of this item, noting that an amendment remained live at the time of the deferral. Given the updating of the report, it was agreed to dismiss the standing amendment and allow the mover the opportunity to open the debate.

Councillor Shepherd moved the recommendations in the report and added that he was happy to support a letter to the appropriate Minister calling for more funding in this area and also to lobby our two local MPs to clarify their position. This was seconded by Councillor Jackson.

Councillor Aisthorpe moved the following amendment as she felt that the recommendations failed to outline any actions to address her concerns:

- That the Food Poverty Action Plan be produced as part of the work of the Health and Well Being Board and for this to be considered, in due course, by the Communities and Health Scrutiny Panels.
- That the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities refers the matter to our two local Members of Parliament to lobby the Government on behalf of the Council for a further extension of the Household Support Fund, or a sustainable successor source of funding.

This was seconded by Councillor Emmerson.

Following a debate, the amendment was put to the vote and, upon a show of hands, was carried.

The amended substantive motion was then put to the vote and it was

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be received.
2. That members of the Communities Scrutiny Panel be invited to visit the two main food bank providers.
3. That the Food Poverty Action Plan be produced as part of the work of the Health and Well Being Board and for this to be considered, in due course, by the Communities and Health Scrutiny Panels.

4. That the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities refers the matter to our two local Members of Parliament to lobby the Government on behalf of the Council for a further extension of the Household Support Fund, or a sustainable successor source of funding.

NEL.27 AMENDMENTS TO PLACES ON COMMITTEES AND PANELS OF THE COUNCIL

The Council considered a report from the Monitoring Officer advising of proposed changes to places on Committees and Panels of the Council.

RESOLVED –.

1. That Councillor Freeston replace Councillor Cairns as a member of the Standards and Adjudication Committee.
2. That Councillor Shepherd be removed as a substitute member of the Standards and Adjudication Committee.
3. That Councillor K Swinburn be appointed as a Conservative Group substitute on the Transport, Infrastructure and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Panel.
4. That Councillor Cairns be appointed as a Conservative Group substitute on the Licensing and Community Protection Committee.

NEL.28 NOTICE OF MOTION

The Council considered a Notice of Motion, to be proposed by Councillor Henderson and seconded by Councillor Holland, submitted in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders as set out below:

This Council recognises that residents being able to have confidence in our sound management is fundamental to local democracy. We are approaching a time of unprecedented levels of investment being directed at an exciting programme of projects. Competent delivery of projects and the ability to openly demonstrate value for money is an expectation that the public has every right to demand and must be met. Can any of us say that the level of residents' trust in us is where it should be? How do we move the dial to restore public confidence to a high level?

In line with what is rapidly being seen as best managerial practice, it is proposed that NELC adopts Project Accounting as an approach to establishing the right financial governance over our most material projects.

For those who are unfamiliar with Project Accounting, it is a type of managerial accounting oriented toward the goals of project management and delivery. It

involves tracking, reporting, and analysing financial results and implications, and the creation of financial reports designed to track the financial progress of projects; the information generated by this analysis is used to aid project management and provide accountability. While project accounting was traditionally used for large construction, engineering, and government projects, it has now expanded into several other sectors and has become an industry standard approach.

The following six specific actions are proposed for enactment by this Council:

- 1. The creation of a register of material projects and a mechanism for their financial performance to be reviewed.*
- 2. Ensuring that each material project has an assured Green Book Business Case, especially including cash flow analysis and being clear as to what funding will be released from the project to NELC as benefits are realised.*
- 3. Ownership of the project budget for each project to be established and an accountability framework created within which that owner must operate.*
- 4. Reporting of the financial performance of each project on a quarterly basis, using the Treasury Green Book model for cost / benefit tracking.*
- 5. A select committee, based on expertise and inviting the input of expertise drawn from within the business community be established to advice on the implementation of Project Accounting.*
- 6. A mandatory training programme for Members be held, so they understand Project Accounts and can have an informed conversation with officers and the public.*

Arising from the debate on the motion, Councillor Patrick moved an amendment that the six specific actions be proposed as recommendations rather than for enactment. This was seconded by Councillor Wilson.

At this point, the Mayor moved that the Council's Standing Orders governing the length of meetings be suspended to permit this meeting to continue beyond 10.00 p.m. This was seconded by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Goodwin. Upon a show of hands, the motion was carried and it was:

RESOLVED - That the Council's Standing Orders governing the length of meetings be suspended to permit this meeting to continue beyond 10.00 p.m.

During the debate on the amendment, a closure motion was proposed by Councillor Shepherd, seconded by Councillor Brookes, that the vote be put. Upon a show of hands, this proposal was lost. Following further debate, the amendment was put to the vote. A recorded vote was held in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Standing Orders. The votes cast were recorded as follows:

For the Amendment:

Councillors Augusta, Bonner, Bright, Clough, Downes, Farren, Goodwin, Haggis, Henderson, Holland, Humphrey, Jervis, Kaczmarek, Mill, Patrick, Shutt, Wheatley and Wilson (18 votes).

Against the Amendment:

Councillors Aisthorpe, Beasant, Boyd, Brookes, Crofts, Dawkins, Emmerson, Harness, Hasthorpe, Hudson, Jackson, Morland, Parkinson, Pettigrew, Shepherd, Shreeve, Silvester, K Swinburn and S Swinburn (19 votes).

The amendment was therefore lost.

Following a debate, the substantive motion was put to the vote. A recorded vote was held in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Standing Orders. The votes cast were recorded as follows:

For the Motion:

Councillors Bonner, Bright, Downes, Goodwin, Henderson, Holland (6 votes).

Against the Motion:

Councillors Aisthorpe, Augusta, Beasant, Boyd, Brookes, Clough, Crofts, Dawkins, Emmerson, Haggis, Harness, Hasthorpe, Hudson, Humphrey, Jackson, Jervis, Kaczmarek, Mill, Morland, Parkinson, Pettigrew, Shepherd, Shreeve, Shutt, Silvester, K Swinburn, S Swinburn, Wheatley and Wilson (29 votes).

Abstained:

Councillors Farren and Patrick (2 votes).

The substantive motion was therefore declared not carried.

NEL.29 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The Chair invited Councillor Bonner to present the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

"The most recent Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2013) of housing needs for North East Lincolnshire states that the main priority is for social housing and affordable housing for rent in order to meet the majority of affordable housing needs and a net affordable housing requirement of at least 586 dwellings per annum over a five-year period to clear the existing backlog of households in need and meet future household need.

The loss of 966 properties since 2013/14 has increased the shortage of affordable housing, resulting in an estimated 1,295 households in need of accommodation.

Recent sales of land for housing have not included any provision for social housing or low-cost rented properties and as a result of the shortage of accommodation for people with low-income thousands of residents of North East Lincolnshire are forced to live in unsuitable accommodation and sub-standard housing.

How is North East Lincolnshire Council responding to the need for affordable homes for people who are currently forced to live in substandard accommodation or those who do not have a home of their own?"

Councillor S Swinburn, Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport, responded by confirming that the Council was not a housing authority and that social housing provision, although very important to our area's housing needs, sat with our partners, the Lincolnshire Housing Partnership (LHP). The council worked very closely with LHP and other social housing associations to encourage them to expand their social housing footprints throughout the area. One example of this was LHP's plans to deliver new a social housing development in Immingham. The council was also working on improving the viability of numerous brownfield sites within the urbanised areas of North East Lincolnshire, working to overcome challenges with the Section.106 process by engaging with Homes England to increase opportunities for developers on land that had traditionally been considered undevelopable. An example of this was Garth Lane. In terms of affordable housing both through our own land sales or other land acquisition, the Local Plan (Policy 18) sets out how the council was seeking to address the scale of affordable housing, by increasing the provision of affordable homes through the planning system (identified in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment). The Council required contributions to be made in accordance with qualifying thresholds and requirements. Councillor S Swinburn noted that he had further facts and figures on this matter and he would ask Democratic Services to forward this on to Councillor Bonner.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Bonner asked the portfolio holder would agree that a caring council should do everything in its powers to ensure that all its residents had a decent home to live in. Councillor S Swinburn confirmed that he did agree.

The Chair invited Councillor Kaczmarek to present the following question to the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Regeneration, Devolution and Skills, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders:

With the success of the Konigswinter visit and our 50 years of Twinning, will the Leader of the Council share my commitment to supporting, encouraging and

promoting a closer and longer lasting exchange of culture and friendship with Konigswinter?”

Councillor Jackson confirmed that he did.

The Chair invited Councillor Patrick to present the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

“After the recent occupation of Weelsby Woods by a group of travellers, and the aftermath of waste that was found following their departure, does he feel the policy of temporary stopover sites is fit for purpose?”

Councillor Harness, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets, responded that he did but it was not possible to legislate for travellers who descend on sites unannounced. In this case, the travellers refused to engage or discuss a temporary stopover agreement, legal action was taken as quickly as possible. He was sure that all Members would agree that the clear up of this mess was a sad drain on council resources. He thanked council operatives for their help in clearing the waste and the Friends of Weelsby Woods for their work. Since implementation of the stopover agreement two years ago, there had been only two traveller visits to the area; one left very quickly and the other stayed overnight. The Transport, Infrastructure and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Panel was due to receive an update on the policy at its meeting in September 2024 and this would be an opportunity to discuss this incident and review the policy.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Patrick asked if the event and its subsequent aftermath were an example of the policy being successful.

Councillor Harness responded that, whatever the policy, we would always be vulnerable to encampments and this would be subject to legal action. He reminded Councillor Patrick that since the days of looking at designated sites, the number of visits had reduced significantly.

The Chair invited Councillor Patrick to present the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

“Does the Portfolio Holder share my view that all planning applications should be judged on their own merits within planning policy framework and community benefit and free from the considerations of vested interest and familiarity?”

Councillor S Swinburn responded that he did.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Patrick enquired whether the portfolio holder would like to speculate on why some members of the public were not

entirely convinced that this was being followed as a result of the events at the previous week's Planning Committee meeting.

Councillor S Swinburn would not comment on speculation.

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

"In 2019, North East Lincolnshire Council declared a 'climate emergency'. On 15th December 2022, some 18 months ago, the Council committed to faster progress with a view to achieving a net zero carbon impact by the Council and our assets by 2030. This Council also reaffirmed its commitment to engage with partners, business and communities in order to achieve net zero carbon, across the Borough, as proximate as practicably possible to the Council's own accelerated 2030 aspiration. Despite these urgent Council commitments, and an 18-month interval, the Council website shows that the Net Zero Carbon Roadmap is still referencing 2040 as the date for achieving net zero carbon with the plan and workstream geared around that date. In terms of understanding potential obstacles to achieving the intended 2030 timeframe, could the Portfolio Holder kindly provide members with the estimated financial cost for the Council to achieve net zero carbon impact by 2030?"

Councillor Hudson Portfolio Holder for Environment and Net Zero, responded that the date on the website was an oversight and would be corrected. With regard to the predicted costs, there were so many variables that it was impossible to predict costs. We do not know what technologies would be available in the future, nor the level of government funding. The council had successfully bid for millions of pounds worth of funding and this was being used to replace energy systems which we would have otherwise had to find from our own finances. He hoped that when we achieve our goals that there would be a lot of savings for the council as a result of more efficient heating systems and vehicles, and this would have a positive impact on the overall budget

In a supplementary question, Councillor Holland asked for confirmation that the council did not have any idea of cost estimates.

Councillor Hudson confirmed that this was correct.

NEL.30 MINUTES OF THE CABINET AND COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

The Council received the minutes of decisions taken under delegated powers at the following meetings, subject to any questions asked in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders:

Cabinet - 13th March, 3rd April and 12th June 2024
Portfolio Holder Economy, Net Zero, Skills and Housing - 26th March 2024
Portfolio Holder Environment and Transport - 25th March 2024
Scrutiny Panel Children and Lifelong Learning - 7th March 2024
Scrutiny Panel Communities - 12th February and 22nd February 2024
Scrutiny Panel Economy - 19th December 2023, 9th January, 27th February and 12th March 2024
Scrutiny Panel Health and Adult Social Care - 20th March 2024
Scrutiny Panel Tourism and Visitor Economy - 14th March 2024
Scrutiny Panel Transport, Infrastructure and Strategic Housing - 13th June 2024
Joint Meeting of the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel and the Economy Scrutiny Panel - 21st February 2024
Health and Wellbeing Board - 19th February 2024
Audit and Governance Committee - 18th April 2024
Planning Committee - 28th February, 27th March and 24th April 2024
Licensing and Community Protection Committee - 13th March and 18th June 2024
Licensing Sub Committee - 25th April, 22nd May and 22nd May 2024
Standards Referrals Panel - 24th April 2024
Appointments Committee - 8th April 2024

The Mayor advised that one question on notice had been received on the above minutes. The questioner would be permitted one supplementary question and there would be no debate on the questions asked or the answers given.

- (1) A question on notice was submitted by Councillor Farren to Councillor S Swinburn, Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport, in accordance with the Council's Constitution as follows:

Portfolio Holder for Economy, Net Zero, Skills and Housing – 26th March 2024
PH.ENZSH.3 (Petition - Revoke/Stop House in Multiple Occupancy on Douglas Street in Cleethorpes and other streets in this area.)

Residents of Douglas Road and surrounding areas, who submitted a petition, are ever more impatient for a solution for the challenges that the House of Multiple Occupation in their residential area brings. When the report is released, will the portfolio holder meet with residents and Ward Councillors of Sidney Sussex to discuss the findings?

Councillor S Swinburn responded that he would be willing to do so.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Farren asked for confirmation of the date that the report was expected to be released.

Councillor S Swinburn responded that he did not know at present.

Councillor Jackson moved approval of the minutes of the Cabinet and the Committees en bloc. This was seconded by Councillor Shreeve.

Councillor Patrick requested an amendment to the minute AC.60 of the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 18th April to show that he had proposed and Councillor Holland had seconded the proposal and that this had been agreed upon a vote. This was agreed by Council.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the following meetings of Cabinet and the Committees of the Council be approved and adopted, subject to the amendment of minute AC.60 of the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 18th April as detailed above:

- Cabinet - 13th March, 3rd April and 12th June 2024
- Portfolio Holder Economy, Net Zero, Skills and Housing - 26th March 2024
- Portfolio Holder Environment and Transport - 25th March 2024
- Scrutiny Panel Children and Lifelong Learning - 7th March 2024
- Scrutiny Panel Communities - 12th February and 22nd February 2024
- Scrutiny Panel Economy - 19th December 2023, 9th January, 27th February and 12th March 2024
- Scrutiny Panel Health and Adult Social Care - 20th March 2024
- Scrutiny Panel Tourism and Visitor Economy - 14th March 2024
- Scrutiny Panel Transport, Infrastructure and Strategic Housing - 13th June 2024
- Joint Meeting of the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel and the Economy Scrutiny Panel - 21st February 2024
- Health and Wellbeing Board - 19th February 2024
- Audit and Governance Committee - 18th April 2024
- Planning Committee - 28th February, 27th March and 24th April 2024
- Licensing and Community Protection Committee - 13th March and 18th June 2024
- Licensing Sub Committee - 25th April, 22nd May and 22nd May 2024
- Standards Referrals Panel - 24th April 2024
- Appointments Committee - 8th April 2024

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.39 p.m.