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NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

21st May 2026

Present:

Councillor Boyd (in the Chair)
Councillors Aisthorpe, Augusta, K. Batson, P Batson, Beasant, Bonner, Brasted, Bright, Callison, Charlesworth, Clough, Crofts, Dawkins, Downes, Emmerson, Freeston, Goodwin, Grice, Haggis, Henderson, Hudson, Humphrey, Jackson, Kaczmarek, Lindley, Mayne, Mill, Morland, I. Oliver, N. Oliver, Parkinson, Patrick, Russell, Sawkins, Shreeve, Swinburn, Taylor and Wilson.

Officers in Attendance:

- Sharon Wroot (Chief Executive)
- Simon Jones (Assistant Director Law and Governance) (Monitoring Officer)
- Guy Lonsdale (Interim Section 151 Officer)
- Zoe Campbell (Senior Scrutiny and Committee Advisor)
- David Humm (Civic Chauffeur and Assistant)
- Eve Richardson-Smith (Head of Law and Assurance)
- Paul Windley (Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager)

The proceedings were opened with prayers by Father Andrew Cole.

NEL.5 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from this meeting were received from Councillors Brookes, Jervis and Mills.

NEL.6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest by Members in the items on the agenda for this meeting.

NEL.7 NOTICE OF MOTION

The Council considered a Notice of Motion, proposed by Councillor Freeston and seconded by Councillor Grice, submitted in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and Section 91A of the Local Government Act 2000, as set out below:

This Council notes:

1. That under section 91A of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council may remove the Leader of the Council by resolution of Full Council;
2. That the Leader of the Council holds responsibility for the discharge of executive functions and political leadership of the authority;
3. That it is the responsibility of Full Council to ensure that the authority continues to operate with effective leadership, accountability and confidence.

This Council therefore resolves:

1. To remove Councillor Philip Jackson from the position of Leader of North East Lincolnshire Council with immediate effect pursuant to section 91A of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Council's Constitution;
2. To appoint Councillor Oliver Freeston as Leader of North East Lincolnshire Council with immediate effect, to hold office in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Council's Constitution.

Following a debate, the Mayor put the motion to a recorded vote in accordance with the Constitution. The votes cast were recorded as follows:

For the motion

Councillors K. Batson, P. Batson, Bonner, Brasted, Bright, Callison, Charlesworth, Downes, Freeston, Grice, Henderson, Mayne, I. Oliver, N. Oliver, Russell, Sawkins and Taylor (17 votes).

Against the Motion

Councillor Boyd, Crofts, Dawkins, Hudson, Jackson, Lindley, Parkinson, Shreeve and Swinburn (9 votes).

Abstained

Councillors Aisthorpe, Augusta, Beasant, Clough, Emmerson, Goodwin, Haggis, Humphrey, Kaczmarek, Mill, Morland, Patrick and Wilson (13 votes).

RESOLVED –

1. That Councillor Jackson be removed from the position of Leader of North East Lincolnshire Council with immediate effect pursuant to section 91A of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Council's Constitution;
2. That Councillor Freeston be appointed as Leader of North East Lincolnshire Council with immediate effect, for a four-year term of office, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Council's Constitution.

NEL.8 DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERSHIP

Council noted the Leader's choice of Deputy Leader and the Cabinet for the 2026/27 Municipal Year. He confirmed his appointments as follows:

- Cllr Freeston - Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Renewal, Delivery and Place Leadership
- Cllr Grice - Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Children and Education
- Cllr N Oliver - Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care
- Cllr Taylor - Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets
- Cllr Callison - Portfolio Holder for Environment and Energy Security
- Cllr P Batson - Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport
- Cllr Sawkins - Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities
- Cllr Brasted - Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and the Visitor Economy

The Leader noted that he would be Portfolio Holder for Strategic Renewal, Delivery and Place Leadership.

NEL.9 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Council considered a report from the Monitoring Officer, setting out proposed amendments and modifications to the Council's constitutional and governance arrangements for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Scheme of Delegation, as currently set out in the Constitution, be approved for the Municipal Year 2026/27 subject to any changes required by (i) operation of law or (ii) owing to the direct effect of Cabinet or Committee decisions, in which case authority is delegated to the Monitoring Officer to make such changes, in consultation with the Leader of the Council (in respect of executive arrangements) and the Chair of any relevant Committee or Panel (non-executive arrangements) as the case may be.

2. That the recommendations from the Constitution Working Group, as set out in paragraphs 3.1.1 to 3.1.2 of the report now submitted, be approved and the Constitution updated accordingly.
3. That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Group Leaders, to make any amendments of a minor nature to the Constitution from time to time.

NEL.10 ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT

The Council received a report from the Statutory Scrutiny Officer on the review of work undertaken by Scrutiny in 2025/2026 and the planned work programme for 2026/2027.

RESOLVED – That the Annual Scrutiny Report be noted.

NEL.11 MEETINGS TIMETABLE 2026/2027

The Council considered the schedule of dates for the Council and its Committee and Panel meetings for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

Councillor Wilson proposed an amendment to the timetable that meetings of the Communities Scrutiny Panel commence at 5pm rather than 2pm, as a means of improving accessibility and engagement with scrutiny for Elected Members and the public. This was seconded by Councillor Humphrey.

Following a debate, a vote was taken and, upon a show of hands, the amendment failed.

RESOLVED – That the schedule of dates for the Council and its Committee and Panel meetings for the Municipal Year 2026/27 be approved.

NEL.12 COMMITTEE AND PANEL MEMBERSHIP

The Council considered recommendations as to the appointment of the Committees and Panels of the Council together with the Chairs of those Committees and Panels for the Municipal Year 2026/2027.

It was proposed by Councillor Freeston, seconded by Councillor Grice that the nominations for committee membership be agreed, including the Leader's appointments to the Health and Wellbeing Board (being Councillor Freeston, Councillor Grice and Councillor N. Oliver). This included a proposal from the Reform UK Group to gift one of its seats on the Communities Scrutiny Panel to the Independents for North East Lincolnshire Group for the 2026/27 Municipal Year. This proposal required no dissent from Council and, upon a show of hands, there were four members who voted against. Therefore, the gifting of the seat could not proceed.

On that basis, Councillor Freeston proposed that Councillor Russell be appointed to the Communities Scrutiny Panel as a Reform UK representative with Councillor I. Oliver appointed as a substitute member. This was seconded by Councillor Grice and carried by a show of hands.

RESOLVED - That appointments to seats on the Committees and Panels of the Council be agreed as set out in the schedule now submitted, including the appointment of voting and non-voting co-optees and independent members on Committees as listed and Leader of the Council's appointments to the Health and Wellbeing Board, and subject to Councillor Russell being appointed to the Communities Scrutiny Panel with Councillor I. Oliver as a substitute member.

The Mayor invited nominations for the Chair and Deputy Chair for each of the Committees and Panels as follows:

Voting by a show of hands took place on each Committee and Panel in turn.

Communities Scrutiny Panel

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Humphrey, that Councillor Clough be appointed Chair of the Communities Scrutiny Panel.

It was proposed by Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Shreeve, that Councillor Hudson be appointed Chair of the Communities Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Clough be appointed Chair of the Communities Scrutiny Panel for the Municipal Year 2026-2027.

It was proposed by Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Shreeve, that Councillor Swinburn be appointed Deputy Chair of the Communities Scrutiny Panel.

It was proposed by Councillor Clough, seconded by Councillor Humphrey, that Councillor Wilson be appointed Deputy Chair of the Communities Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Wilson be appointed Deputy Chair of the Communities Scrutiny Panel for the Municipal Year 2026-2027.

Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

It was proposed by Councillor Henderson, seconded by Councillor Bright, that Councillor Downes be appointed Chair of the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel.

It was proposed by Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Shreeve, that Councillor Shreeve be appointed Chair of the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Downes be appointed Chair of the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel for the Municipal Year 2026-2027.

It was proposed by Councillor Clough, seconded by Councillor Wilson, that Councillor Goodwin be appointed Deputy Chair of the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel.

It was proposed by Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Shreeve, that Councillor Lindley be appointed Deputy Chair of the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Goodwin be appointed Deputy Chair of the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel for the Municipal Year 2026-2027.

Economy. Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel

It was proposed by Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Shreeve, that Councillor Dawkins be appointed Chair of the Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel.

It was proposed by Councillor Clough, seconded by Councillor Wilson, that Councillor Morland be appointed Chair of the Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Morland be appointed Chair of the Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel for the Municipal Year 2026-2027.

It was proposed by Councillor Downes, seconded by Councillor Bonner, that Councillor Henderson be appointed Deputy Chair of the Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel.

It was proposed by Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Shreeve, that Councillor Parkinson be appointed Deputy Chair of the Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Henderson be appointed Deputy Chair of the Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel for the Municipal Year 2026-2027.

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel

It was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Bonner that Councillor Henderson be appointed Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel.

It was proposed by Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Shreeve, that Councillor Lindley be appointed Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel.

It was proposed by Councillor Clough, seconded by Councillor Humphrey, that Councillor Wilson be appointed Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Wilson be appointed Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel for the Municipal Year 2026-2027.

It was proposed by Councillor Downes, seconded by Councillor Bonner, that Councillor Henderson be appointed Deputy Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel.

It was proposed by Councillor Clough, seconded by Councillor Wilson, that Councillor Kaczmarek be appointed Deputy Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel.

It was proposed by Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Hudson, that Councillor Shreeve be appointed Deputy Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Henderson be appointed Deputy Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel for the Municipal Year 2026-2027.

Note - Councillor Callison requested that his abstention from the vote be recorded in the minutes.

Transport, Infrastructure and Housing Scrutiny Panel

It was proposed by Councillor Shreeve, seconded by Councillor Lindley, that Councillor Jackson be appointed Chair of the Transport, Infrastructure and Housing Scrutiny Panel.

It was proposed by Councillor Clough, seconded by Councillor Wilson, that Councillor Mill be appointed Chair of the Transport, Infrastructure and Housing Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Mill be appointed Chair of the Transport, Infrastructure and Housing Scrutiny Panel for the Municipal Year 2026-2027.

It was proposed by Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Shreeve, that Councillor Crofts be appointed Deputy Chair of the Transport, Infrastructure and Housing Scrutiny Panel.

Councillor Wilson withdrew his nomination for this position.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Crofts be appointed Deputy Chair of the Transport, Infrastructure and Housing Scrutiny Panel for the Municipal Year 2026-2027.

Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Shreeve, that Councillor Lindley be appointed Chair of the Planning Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Clough, seconded by Councillor Wilson, that Councillor Patrick be appointed Chair of the Planning Committee.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Patrick be appointed Chair of the Planning Committee for the Municipal Year 2026-2027.

Note - Councillor Emmerson requested that his abstention from the vote be recorded in the minutes.

It was proposed by Councillor Clough, seconded by Councillor Wilson, that Councillor Goodwin be appointed Deputy Chair of the Planning Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Shreeve, that Councillor Hudson be appointed Deputy Chair of the Planning Committee.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Goodwin be appointed Deputy Chair of the Planning Committee for the Municipal Year 2026-2027.

Standards and Adjudication Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Clough, seconded by Councillor Wilson, that Councillor Humphrey be appointed Chair of the Standards and Adjudication Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Shreeve, that Councillor Swinburn be appointed Chair of the Standards and Adjudication Committee.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Humphrey be appointed Chair of the Standards and Adjudication Committee for the Municipal Year 2026-2027.

It was proposed by Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Shreeve, that Councillor Crofts be appointed Deputy Chair of the Standards and Adjudication Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Clough, seconded by Councillor Wilson, that Councillor Goodwin be appointed Deputy Chair of the Standards and Adjudication Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Freeston, seconded by Councillor Grice, that Councillor Russell be appointed Deputy Chair of the Standards and Adjudication Committee.

There being a tied vote between Councillor Goodwin and Councillor Russell, the Mayor exercised her casting vote and it was

RESOLVED – That Councillor Goodwin be appointed Deputy Chair of the Standards and Adjudication Committee for the Municipal Year 2026-2027.

Appointments Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Grice, seconded by Councillor Callison, that Councillor Freeston be appointed Chair of the Appointments Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Shreeve, seconded by Councillor Lindley, that Councillor Jackson be appointed Chair of the Appointments Committee.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Freeston be appointed Chair of the Appointments Committee for the Municipal Year 2026-2027.

It was proposed by Councillor Freeston, seconded by Councillor Callison, that Councillor Grice be appointed Deputy Chair of the Appointments Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Hudson, that Councillor Shreeve be appointed Deputy Chair of the Appointments Committee.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Grice be appointed Deputy Chair of the Appointments Committee for the Municipal Year 2026-2027.

Audit and Governance Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Boyd, seconded by Councillor Augusta, that Mr Paul Stone be appointed as the independent Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee.

RESOLVED – That Mr Paul Stone be appointed as the independent Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee for the Municipal Year 2026-2027.

It was proposed by Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Shreeve, that Councillor Boyd be appointed as Deputy Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Clough, seconded by Councillor Wilson, that Councillor Kaczmarek be appointed Deputy Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Kaczmarek be appointed Deputy Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee for the Municipal Year 2026-2027.

Licensing and Community Protection Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Clough, seconded by Councillor Wilson, that Councillor Augusta be appointed Chair of the Licensing and Community Protection Committee.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Augusta be appointed Chair of the Licensing and Community Protection Committee for the Municipal Year 2026-2027.

It was proposed by Councillor Clough, seconded by Councillor Wilson, that Councillor Haggis be appointed Deputy Chair of the Licensing and Community Protection Committee.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Haggis be appointed Deputy Chair of the Licensing and Community Protection Committee for the Municipal Year 2026-2027.

NEL.13 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Council considered recommendations regarding representation on Outside Bodies for the Municipal Year 2026/2027.

Where nominations were unopposed, these were moved for approval en bloc.

The Mayor advised on the voting procedure to be followed for those Bodies where there were contested nominations. Those nominations were voted upon on an individual basis.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Schedule of Representation on Outside Bodies for 2026-27 now submitted, be approved.
2. That the following bodies be removed from the schedule:
 - Equans Partnership Board
 - Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
 - Local Government Association Special Interest (Coastal) Group.
3. That, on the Mayor's casting vote, Councillor Dawkins be appointed to Age UK North East Lincolnshire.
4. That Councillor Morland be appointed to the Beacon Academy.
5. That Councillor Swinburn be appointed to the Local Authority Governor Oasis Academy Immingham.
6. That Councillor N. Oliver be appointed to the NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors.
7. That Councillor Patrick be appointed to the North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority.

8. That, following the withdrawal of Councillors Crofts and Sawkins, Councillors Dawkins, Humphrey, Jackson, Mayne, Russell and Taylor be appointed to the Town and Parish Councils Liaison Committee.

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.27 p.m.