

Minutes of the Meeting of East Cambridgeshire  
District Council held in the Council Chamber,  
The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely on Tuesday  
19 July 2011 at 6.30pm

---

**P R E S E N T**

Councillor Allen Alderson	Councillor Bill Hunt
Councillor Ian Allen	Councillor Tom Hunt
Councillor Christine Ambrose Smith	Councillor Tom Kerby
Councillor David Ambrose Smith	Councillor Peter Moakes
Councillor Sue Austen	Councillor Chris Morris
Councillor Derrick Beckett	Councillor Neil Morrison
Councillor David Brown	Councillor James Palmer
Councillor Will Burton	Councillor John Palmer
Councillor Tony Cornell	Councillor Tony Parramint (Chairman)
Councillor Lavinia Edwards	Councillor Philip Read
Councillor Colin Fordham	Councillor Charles Roberts
Councillor Jeremy Friend-Smith	Councillor Mike Rouse
Councillor Sheila Friend-Smith	Councillor Joshua Schumann
Councillor Tony Goodge	Councillor Robert Stevens
Councillor Elaine Griffin-Singh	Councillor Hazel Williams MBE
Councillor Lindsey Harris	Councillor Sue Willows
Councillor Richard Hobbs (Vice-Chairman)	Councillor Gareth Wilson
	Councillor Andy Wright

3 members of the public attended the meeting.

20. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

21. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Allan, Bailey, Ellis and P Wilson.

An apology for absence was also received from the Chief Executive.

22. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A personal interest was declared by Cllr Brown in respect of agenda item no. 10 – Schedule of Items Recommended from Committees and other Member Bodies, as he was a County Council Representative on the Community Safety Partnership.

Cllrs B Hunt, Brown, Read, Austen and James Palmer also declared personal interests in respect of agenda item no. 12 – Scrutiny Committee Report, as they were all Cambridgeshire County Councillors.

23. **MINUTES**

At the last meeting of Council a question was submitted by a member of the public, the response for which was attached to the minutes. As indicated within the response, the Chairman explained that the Chief Executive would be sending a further response regarding how public questions received during Public Question Time would be responded to in the future and that this would be appended to these minutes.

Referring to Minute No. 8 – Election Results - Page 5 of the minutes, Cllr Rouse noted a typographical error, that the word ‘verity’ should be ‘verdict’.

It was resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendment to:

Minute No. 8 – Election Results - Page 5 of the minutes:

*‘Cllr F Brown – The former Leader who knew only too well the ups and downs of being a Councillor and who had experienced the ~~verity~~ **verdict** of the electorate. More recently as Leader, Cllr F Brown had endured difficult times and had helped to shape the future of the Council. Cllr F Brown was still active in local government as a local Parish Councillor and as a Cambridgeshire County Councillor.’*

24. **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made no announcements.

25. **PETITIONS**

No petitions were received.

26. **MOTIONS**

No motions were received.

27. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

The following question was received from Cllr Wright and the answer was tabled at the meeting:

*'One of the cornerstones of representing our communities is the right of elected Members to 'call in' planning applications so Planning Committee can make a decision rather than officers under delegated powers.*

*The Council currently does not allow elected Members to 'call in' householder applications. In my experience, these are the very applications where concerns are most felt and our need to represent our local community most needed.*

*Can I therefore ask the Chairman of Planning Committee to consider re-instating the right of Members to request that all applications (including householders) be referred to full Planning Committee?*

*In addition, will he ensure that this matter is dealt with in time so full Council in October 2011 can fully debate this issue?'*

**Response from Cllr Read, Chairman of Planning Committee:**

*'Thank you for your question. I have today requested that the Head of Planning and Sustainable Development bring a report to the September Planning Committee on the implications of amending the Members 'call-in' procedure to include householder applications.*

*Any recommendations arising from this Committee on this issue will be considered by Full Council on 11 October 2011.'*

28. **PRESENTATION OF SCROLL AND PAST CHAIRMAN'S BADGE**

The Chairman made the following statement regarding the previous Chairman of Council, former Cllr Anthea Davidson, and immediately after presented a past Chairman's badge, a bouquet and an illuminated scroll detailing a resolution of thanks to her as the previous Chairman of the Council.

*'It gives me much pleasure in welcoming back to East Cambridgeshire District Council Chamber Mrs Anthea Davidson and her husband and consort Mr Ian Davidson.*

*Anthea recently retired as a District Councillor for the Dullingham Ward and was the past Chairman of Council for 2010/2011.*

*I am very pleased to have had my statement confirmed in the minutes of the last Annual Council meeting as to the contribution that Anthea had made to this Council whilst in office.*

*I am happy to continue with the recognition that Anthea deserves. A very well respected member of her community, an excellent Councillor, outstanding Chairman, but most of all a very nice person and a good friend.*

*I am continually asked as I visit the many civic functions "How's Anthea?" and I am very pleased to report "Enjoying her new life now, away from the Council duties". Anthea most certainly made an impact for East Cambridgeshire.*

*Mrs Anthea Davidson, I am very pleased to present this Scroll and your past Chairman's Badge on behalf of East Cambridgeshire District Council in recognition of your outstanding involvement as Chairman of this Council 2010/2011.'*

In response, former Cllr Anthea Davidson made the following statement:

*'Thanks to Tony for his kind words.*

*Being a Councillor for the last eight years has been truly rewarding. It afforded me many opportunities and experiences; to make new friends and acquaintances; learn additional skills and to see the other side to the workings of local government, so I have a lot to look back on.*

*It was a great honour to have represented the District, first as a Vice-Chairman and then as Chairman of the Council. Ian and I always put on our best outfits and wore our Chains of Office with great civic pride to many wonderful occasions. We set out to use the honour bestowed upon us to promote East Cambridgeshire with commitment and enthusiasm and hopefully we achieved this during our time.*

*During the last eight years I think that I sat on most committees at some time or another, Policy and Resources and Community Services being the exceptions, and so I was able to get to know most of the officers of this Council really quite well.*

*I would like to say how much respect I have always had for the professional way all officers and members of staff help Councillors to run this Council. In particular my thanks to John Hill and Andrew Killington, but also huge thanks to Giles Hughes and Alan Dover who were terrific to work with on planning matters, as was Chairman of Planning, Cllr Phil Read – thanks Phil I think that we made a good team!*

*I would also like to acknowledge and thank Jeannette Thompson and Amanda Apcar for the good advice they gave to all Members of this Council but also for the help and support they gave me too. Much appreciated Jeanette, you have a tough job to do, so thank you.*

*Although no longer a Councillor, my interest in certain areas will continue as a lay Member on Sanctuary Hereward Regional Committee and as a Trustee of Cambridgeshire ACRE. I also intend to carry on as one of the Council's Volunteer Tree Wardens and so I am sure that our paths will cross again in the future.*

*To round up, my final thanks to all Members. I have enjoyed working with so many of you over the last eight years. To my chums in the Conservative Group, and on this side of the Chamber in particular Ian Allen, Gareth and Pauline*

*Wilson and Jeremy and Sheila Friend-Smith, and also Derrick Beckett, for providing healthy opposition, some lively debates and generally making political life more interesting. Keep up the good work!*

*Finally my best wishes to you Tony – enjoy your time as Chairman.*

*Thank you for inviting me back this evening. Good luck to you all and I look forward to hearing how you all move this new Council forward.'*

The Chairman also presented the previous Chairman of the Council's consort, Mr Ian Davidson, with a selection of wines as a token of the Council's appreciation for his duties during former Cllr Anthea Davidson's term in office. The Chairman stated that without the devotion and support of a Chairman's Consort the work of a Chairman of Council would not be easy. The Chairman thanked Mr Davidson for the manner in which he had undertaken his duties as Consort.

29. **SCHEDULE OF ITEMS RECOMMENDED FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES**

Council considered a report, L62, previously circulated, detailing a recommendation from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 27 June 2011 regarding adoption of the East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Strategy 2011 – 2014.

It was resolved:

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee – 27 June 2011**  
**Community Safety Strategy 2011 - 2014**

That the East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Strategy 2011 – 2014 be adopted.

30. **REQUEST FOR AMENDMENTS TO AUDIT AND BUDGET MONITORING SUB-COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Council received a report, L63, previously circulated, from which Members were requested to consider recommendations from Audit and Budget Monitoring Sub-Committee to amend their terms of reference.

It was resolved:

- (i) That the Audit and Budget Monitoring Sub-Committee Terms of Reference be amended to:
  - include a power to investigate any financial matters pertaining to the Council and make any recommendations to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee; and

- remove the power to approve the Annual Governance Statement and that this be delegated to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
- (ii) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be instructed to make the appropriate amendments to the Council's Constitution.

### 31. **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Council received a report, L64, previously circulated, that provided a summary of the items considered by the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 20 June 2011.

The Chairman noted a typographical error within the officer's report relating to the third bullet point of Minute No. 34, as follows:

'Identify funds **for** major capital expenditure, e.g. for car park surfacing and Leaseline, over a period of time, for the e-space business centres.'

One of the items that the Scrutiny Committee had considered at its meeting on 20 June 2011 was the viability of re-instating the former railway station in Soham. Cllr B Hunt assumed that there would be unanimous and cross party support for the venture. However, he urged caution to not assume that the public were aware of the service that would be available from the station or that re-instating the railway station would 'open up Soham to the world'.

Cllr Hunt stated that the main aim should go beyond re-instating of the former railway station in Soham, but also include the generation of a business hub as well as the linkage of the Newmarket curve, which consisted of half a mile of track, to enable a rail service via Dullingham and Newmarket. Cllr Hunt stated that it was essential that there was linkage to Cambridge, particularly considering the number of children that travelled to Long Road College and Hills Road College in Cambridge via the train. Cllr Hunt explained that re-instating the former railway station would provide an opportunity for Soham, which Soham deserved. However, it was not the 'panacea to all ills' and required the complete works which, if successful, could even lead to the re-opening of Fulbourn station.

Cllr Hunt hoped that all political parties could work together to successfully achieve re-instating the former railway station in Soham. Cllr Hunt, in his capacity as a County Councillor, pledged to encourage the County Council to support re-instating the former railway station in Soham.

Cllr Williams MBE explained that she had been requested, in her capacity as the Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, to present the Scrutiny Committee report to Members. At the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 20 June 2011 Cllr Williams MBE stated that she was very pleased to see scrutiny working in the way that it was intended to.

Cllr John Palmer stated that he fully supported the re-instating of the former railway station in Soham, especially as Soham was the second largest centre in the district, and he hoped that the station would be more than a glorified bus stop.

Cllr James Palmer agreed that the aspiration should be to aim as high as possible and was very pleased to see that re-instating the former railway station in Soham was now on the agenda. Cllr James Palmer stated that it would be preferable if the service from Soham was direct to Cambridge and London. Cllr James Palmer looked forward to attending the opening of Soham railway station.

Cllr Allen noted that one problem associated with re-instating the former railway station in Soham was that it could affect the volume of trade at Ely railway station and therefore it was important that a railway station in Soham could generate additional customers. Cllr Allen agreed that the addition of the Newmarket curve would make Soham Station more viable. However, he noted that the railway providers were not interested in losing custom from Ely Railway Station. Cllr James Palmer stated that it was therefore important to emphasise to the railway providers that Soham Station would generate additional trade not lose trade. Cllr Alderson also noted that Ely was going to continue to expand with housing development.

Cllr Beckett stated that re-instating the former railway station in Soham concurred with the aspiration of the Soham Masterplan and would provide an opportunity for Soham to grow and become a place where people wanted to reside. Cllr Beckett supported the inclusion of the Newmarket curve and stated that it should be included within any proposals.

It was resolved:

That the report be noted.

The meeting concluded at 6.58pm.



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE  
ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 4EE  
Telephone: Ely (01353) 665555  
DX41001 ELY Fax: (01353) 665240  
www.eastcambs.gov.uk

Mr Michael Shaw  
Address Redacted

My Ref: PM/Is/Ldr/Council-Shaw(1)

19<sup>th</sup> July 2011

Dear Mr Shaw

**ANNUAL COUNCIL 24 MAY 2011 – PUBLIC QUESTIONS (FOLLOW UP)**

Further to my reply dated 9 June 2011, I can now update you on my discussions with Group Leaders.

I can confirm that there will be changes made to the operation of Public Question Time.

Each public question will be verbally acknowledged by the relevant Chairman or the Vice Chairman, in his or her absence. The relevant Chairman reserves the right to answer in part or full verbally and/or provide a written response. The letter will be published in the subsequent minutes.

All written replies will now be made by the relevant Chairman rather than officers.

These revised arrangements will be implemented forthwith. Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Peter Moakes  
**Leader of the Council**

cc Melanie Sage, Democratic Services Officer