



EAST  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Agenda Item 4a

Minutes of a remote Extraordinary Meeting of East Cambridgeshire  
District on Friday 31 July 2020 at 6.00pm

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### **P R E S E N T**

Councillor Christine Ambrose-Smith	Councillor Bill Hunt
Councillor David Ambrose-Smith	Councillor Mark Inskip
Councillor Sue Austen	Councillor Alec Jones
Councillor Anna Bailey	Councillor Daniel Schumann
Councillor Ian Bovingdon	Councillor Joshua Schumann
Councillor David Brown	Councillor Alan Sharp (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Matthew Downey	Councillor Lisa Stubbs
Councillor Lorna Dupré	Councillor John Trapp
Councillor Lavinia Edwards	Councillor Paola Trimarco
Councillor Lis Every (Chairman)	Councillor Jo Webber
Councillor Simon Harries	Councillor Gareth Wilson
Councillor Julia Huffer	

#### 32. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No public questions were submitted.

#### 33. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Charlotte Cane, Victoria Charlesworth, Amy Starkey, Alison Whelan and Christine Whelan.

#### 34. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interests were made by Members.

#### 35. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcement:

The Chairman stated that she was delighted to announce the launch of the new 'Explore East Cambridgeshire' visitor website. This unified the entire East Cambridgeshire visitor package on a mobile phone friendly website, with the capability for tailored itineraries and advanced search tools to source attractions, accommodation, eateries, cafes, bars and public houses for the whole of the District. This could be found at [www.exploreeastcambs.co.uk](http://www.exploreeastcambs.co.uk)

36. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Prior to consideration of the exclusion of the Press and Public, Councillor Inskip proposed a Procedural Motion in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.13, to adjourn the meeting to another date to enable the separation of the elements of the report that could be considered in public from those that formed the Exempt business, in the interests of openness and transparency. This was seconded by Councillor Dupré. Speaking in support of his Motion, Councillor Inskip stated that debate on Council matters should be as open and transparent as possible and, whilst the law gave Councils the ability to exclude the Press and Public, this power should be used sparingly. Whilst he was excluded from disclosing details of the issue, it was a matter of great public interest and concern for local residents. Therefore, he felt unable to justify the exclusion of the entire report to his constituents.

In response, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Anna Bailey, stated that she could not accept this proposal for deferral and delay of consideration of the item, as it was impossible to separate the report into public and Exempt elements due to the highly commercially sensitive nature of the contents, which if disclosed would put the whole project at risk.

During debate on the Motion, some Members challenged the requirement for consideration of the report in Exempt session, whilst others expressed their support for the exclusion due to the highly commercially sensitive nature of the entire project.

Upon being put to the vote, the Motion for adjournment of the meeting to another date was declared to be lost.

Councillor Dupré then proposed a further Procedural Motion in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.12, to adjourn the debate for 1 hour to enable the separation of the elements of the report that could be considered in public from those that formed the Exempt business.

*The meeting was adjourned at 18.35pm due to technical issues with the livestreaming of the meeting and re-convened at 18.56pm.*

On re-convening, the Motion was seconded by Councillor Inskip. The Chairman referred to the fact that this Motion was very similar to the preceding one and that she would allow some latitude on this occasion, but Members should not repeat the same arguments in debate. A recorded vote was requested on the Motion, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: (7) – Cllrs Downey, Dupré, Harries, Inskip, Jones, Trapp, Wilson.

AGAINST: (15) – Cllrs C Ambrose Smith, D Ambrose Smith, Austen, Bailey, Bovington, Brown, Edwards, Every, Huffer, Hunt, D Schumann, J Schumann, Sharp, Stubbs and Webber.

ABSTENTIONS: (1) – Cllr Trimarco.

The Motion was declared to be lost.

A Motion to exclude the Press and Public as detailed on the Agenda then was proposed and seconded and a recorded vote again requested. The results of the vote were as follows:

FOR: (15) – Cllrs C Ambrose Smith, D Ambrose Smith, Austen, Bailey, Bovingdon, Brown, Edwards, Every, Huffer, Hunt, D Schumann, J Schumann, Sharp, Stubbs and Webber.

AGAINST: (8) – Cllrs Downey, Dupré, Harries, Inskip, Jones, Trapp, Trimarco, Wilson.

ABSTENTIONS: (0)

The Motion was declared to be carried.

It was resolved:

That the press and public be excluded during consideration of the remaining agenda item because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of public were present during the item(s) there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Category 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

37. **ASSET MANAGEMENT MATTER – PARISH OF MEPAL**

Council considered a report, previously circulated, to approve an Outline Business Case (OBC) and the submission of a Planning application for a crematorium with associated woodland burial and pet cemetery facilities on the former Mepal Outdoor Centre site.

Following detailed consideration and debate of the issues,

It was resolved:

That approval be given to the recommendations detailed in the submitted report.

The meeting concluded at 20.51pm.

Chairman.....

Date