



EAST
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of East Cambridgeshire District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely on Thursday 11 April 2019 at 6.00pm

PRESENT

Councillor Christine Ambrose-Smith	Councillor Richard Hobbs
Councillor David Ambrose-Smith	Councillor Julia Huffer
Councillor Sue Austen	Councillor Mark Hugo
Councillor Anna Bailey	Councillor Bill Hunt
Councillor Ian Bovingdon	Councillor Charles Roberts
Councillor Mike Bradley	Councillor Hamish Ross
Councillor David Chaplin	Councillor Mike Rouse
Councillor Steve Cheetham	Councillor Joshua Schumann
Councillor Peter Cresswell (Chairman)	Councillor Alan Sharp
Councillor Lorna Dupré	Councillor Mathew Shuter
Councillor Lis Every	Councillor Stuart Smith
Councillor Mark Goldsack	Councillor Lisa Stubbs
Councillor Coralie Green	Councillor Christine Whelan
Councillor Elaine Griffin-Singh	
Councillor Neil Hitchin	

79. **FORMER COUNCILLOR AND HONORARY ALDERMAN OF THE COUNCIL ANDREW WRIGHT**

The Chairman gave the following tribute to former Councillor and Honorary Alderman Andrew (Andy) Wright:

It was with much sadness that I learnt last month of the death of former Councillor Andrew Wright.

Andy served on the Council for an amazing 39 years from 1976 until 2015. He was Chairman of the Council from 1988 to 1990.

As an Independent Member for Littleport, he represented his local community with great distinction.

Here at East Cambridgeshire District Council he served as Chairman on a variety of Committees during his lengthy service.

Members will recall that last year he was bestowed with the title of Honorary Alderman; the first person to have that honour bestowed upon them. This was agreed unanimously by Council and was richly deserved.

Before I ask you to stand in silent tribute to Andy, are there any Members who wish to pay their own tribute?

Councillor Christine Ambrose-Smith then spoke as follows as a Littleport Ward Councillor:

Councillor Andy Wright has represented the community of Littleport for as long as I can remember and was always the person to go to for his exceptional memory and knowledge of all things to do with the area. He was still serving as a Parish Council Member until his death and could be regarded as a hereditary politician, as his father had been a Councillor before him. I know that he took great pleasure from being bestowed with the position of Honorary Alderman, which he truly deserved.

The Chairman then asked, as a token of respect, that Councillors stand for a minute in silent tribute to a truly outstanding former Councillor and Honorary Alderman, Andy Wright.

80. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions from members of the public.

81. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Alderson, Allan, Beckett, Brown, Cox, Edwards, Morris, Pearson, Dan Schumann, Sennitt and Webber.

82. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of Interests were made by the following Councillors as detailed in respect of Agenda Items:

10 – Councillors Bailey and Roberts Prejudicial Interests as Directors of ECTC and ECSS.

83. **MINUTES**

It was resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

84. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

As you are aware, this is the last meeting of the current Council's 4 year term.

A number of Councillors will not be seeking re-election next month and will be retiring from the Council. It is therefore appropriate that we place on record our appreciation to them for the service they have rendered. I know only too well how demanding the role can be. On your behalf I know you will wish to record our thanks to them for the contribution they have made.

On a personal note, I will be retiring from public life next month. Serving as Chairman of the Council again has been a great privilege. May I thank Members, past and present, for the friendship and courtesy they have shown me during my period of service on the Council.

Although I will no longer be a Councillor after the forthcoming elections, I will remain as Chairman of the Council until the Annual Meeting. I will undertake various civic engagements, on behalf of the Council, during that 3 week period.

85. **PETITIONS**

No Petitions had been received.

86. **MOTIONS**

No motions were received.

87. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

No questions from Members were received.

88. **MOTION TO COUNCIL 19 APRIL 2018 - PURGE ON PLASTICS ANNUAL STATEMENT**

Council received a report, T244 previously circulated, providing an annual statement on progress made against the Purge on Plastics Statement of Intent adopted by the Council on 19th April 2018. The Director Operations, Jo Brooks, presented the annual statement highlighting the wide range of actions taken by the Council and proposed for implementation in the near future.

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Anna Bailey, spoke as follows on the progress made detailed in the report:

In April last year, full Council unanimously supported the Purge on Plastics motion and the Statement of Intent and this is the first annual update of progress.

Since then, Service Leads and staff across the organisation have embraced the idea and have been getting on with making changes in their departments to reduce the our use of single use plastics, getting our own house in order. The Council has replaced, where practicable, all single use plastic products with biodegradable materials or recycled plastics – items such as disposable gloves, shoe covers, cups and cleaning products. Staff also have been looking for ways to reuse or recycle waste where possible, for example computer parts and toner cartridges. The Grange has reduced the use of single use plastic by around 50% to date and over the past 12 months has recycled approximately 18 tonnes of waste.

Ely Markets has always been ahead of the rest of us on this and has led the way with their Bring Your Own campaign. Around 45% of food and drink customers are now bringing their own re-usable cups with the remainder being served with biodegradable cups and there is a marked increase in shoppers bringing their own bags and reusable containers. New traders are required by Ely Markets to use non-plastic or no packaging, where appropriate. The Markets are about to embark on a new promotion to encourage shoppers and stall holders to take away and re-use veg boxes and crates.

As the waste and recycling collection authority, we clearly have a big part to play across the whole District. Bringing waste and recycling in-house into East Cambridgeshire Street Scene (ECSS) has made it easier to make service changes and the introduction of the second blue recycling bin for a one-off fee of £25 with no ongoing cost for it to be emptied, has been popular with residents – around 1,000 households have now taken up the offer. Our residents are doing a fantastic job at recycling – they hit our monthly recycling rate to date of 63% in December 2018, the best in Cambridgeshire, and against an England average of around 45%. It's a great start for the District that clearly has residents that want to do the right thing and play their part.

The average contamination rate of recycled material sits at 5.36% against our target of less than 5%. We are confident we will meet both our 60% average recycling rate and our less than 5% contamination rate. The black plastic waste sacks that were selected this year in themselves reduce the amount of plastic sent to landfill by 40 tonnes.

For difficult to process items that can't be accepted in kerbside collections, we have introduced collection points in The Grange Reception – crisp packets, batteries and, of this week, coffee/tea pods can all be dropped off for recycling. In one

month, 1,180 crisp packets were collected – these go through a process of separation of materials so they can be reused.

The Council's award winning 'Michael Recycle' social media campaign continues and has expanded to include a blog. Education campaigns have been carried out with community organisations and schools across the District and we have worked with partners such as Sanctuary Housing to educate their tenants.

A study has been carried out to identify low performing areas for recycling rates and a new focussed educational campaign is being developed. A further independent survey will be undertaken in 2019 to identify the types and quantity of waste being incorrectly sent to landfill, so that further focussed education campaigns can be developed.

The Council supports the Government's Waste and Resource Strategy, which has a number of strands, some of which will have direct implications for the District Council. The Strategy aims to move England to a circular economy.

Various elements are out to consultation and the District Council will be responding alongside our RECAP partners. Consultations include:

- Extended Producer Responsibility – uppermost in the hierarchy and places responsibilities and burdens on producers of packaging;
- Consistency – this is about consistency of materials and having a consistent kerbside service throughout England;
- Deposit Return Scheme – e.g. single use plastic drinks bottles;
- Plastics Tax – a new tax from 2022 to encourage more recycled plastic.

Goals include:

- Roll-out of Extended Producer Responsibility and Deposit Return Scheme by 2023 (jury's out on Deposit Return Scheme);
- 70% recycling rate by 2030;
- 75% recycling of packaging by 2030;
- 10% or less 'municipal' waste to landfill by 2035 (commercial waste that looks like household waste);
- More powers locally for environmental crime.

Consistency is the area that most directly affects us as a waste collection authority and could potentially mean the introduction

of a third wheeled bin for household (black sack) waste across England and possible weekly collection of food waste.

From our current understanding, we think we are actually in quite a good place with our current collection methods and frequencies, to meet the challenges of the proposed legislative changes to kerbside collections, but clearly we need to understand exactly what those implications are before making any investment in the future of the service. We will continue to work with RECAP to understand what is required.

I would like to thank Jo Brooks, Ely Markets and staff across the organisation for the way the Council has embraced the Purge on Plastics motion of last year. I would particularly like to thank our Officers and our Waste Champion, Councillor Huffer, for giving us such good advice and confidence to bring the Waste Service in-house and I would like to pay tribute to the huge performance improvements of our East Cambs Street Scene staff. Their role is so critical and it puts us in the best possible position to embrace the changes that will come and to make a difference to responsible waste management in East Cambridgeshire.

Councillor Hunt commended Jo Brooks on her report and stated that the comprehensive and dynamic approach detailed therein was a hallmark of her style of leadership and working. In the context of the report, Councillor Hunt made the suggestion that a water fountain be re-installed in the Market Place, as historically had been the case.

It was resolved:

That Council note and commend the progress made.

89. **RESTRUCTURING OF COMMITTEES 2019/20 – REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE POLICY COMMITTEES & SHAREHOLDER AGREEMENTS**

Councillors Bailey and Roberts left the meeting for the duration of this item.

Council received a report, T245 previously circulated, containing revised Terms of Reference for the two Policy Committees and amended Shareholder Agreements for the Council's Trading Companies arising from the restructuring of Committees to take effect from May 2019.

Councillor Dupré stated that she would be opposing the proposals in view of the recommendations she made at the previous Council meeting that were not supported, regarding the establishment of area-based Planning Committees and a Committee specifically to deal with the Local Plan; as well as the fact that there would no longer be a dedicated Shareholder Committee and that the Shareholder

function now would be discharged by the new Finance and Assets Committee 'predominantly' via two all Member Shareholder meetings each year. Councillor Dupré considered the latter to be an inadequate manner in which to effectively scrutinise and monitor the Council's Trading Companies.

Councillors Bradley and Chaplin, as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the current Shareholder Committee, stated that Councillor Dupré's comments had been noted at the previous Council meeting but not supported. The agreed arrangements appeared satisfactory and adequate, but could be re-considered by the new Council, if it desired to do so.

It was resolved:

1. That approval be given to the implementation from Annual Council in May 2019 of:
 - (i) the draft Terms of Reference as detailed in Appendix A to the submitted report;
 - (ii) the draft Shareholder Agreements for ECTC and ECSS attached at Appendix B to the submitted report.
2. That the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution arising from these changes.

Councillors Bailey and Roberts returned to the meeting.

90. **COMBINED AUTHORITY UPDATE REPORTS:**

- a. **February 2019**
- b. **March 2019**

Council received reports on the activities of the Combined Authority from the Council's appointees.

The following question was asked by Councillor Lorna Dupré in relation to the report of the Combined Authority Board for 27th February 2019:

With regard to the £100M Affordable Housing Programme to deliver 2,000 affordable homes across the County, referred to in paragraph 3.1 of the report, can the Council's representative to the Combined Authority advise how many affordable housing units and particularly affordable rented housing units he is going to secure on the former MOD Site at Ely, bearing in mind there is currently a bar by Central Government for using the £100M for affordable rented housing?

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Charles Roberts, reported that the Council still was in the early preparation stages for the former

MOD Site at Ely, but it was hoped that it would be possible to secure an affordable rented housing element due to an anticipated change in Government policy on the £100M Affordable Housing Programme. Councillor Roberts stated that every effort would be made to deliver the maximum affordable housing units possible.

In connection with the report of the Combined Authority Board for 27th March 2019, Councillor Bradley highlighted the item on the A10 Corridor - Strategic Outline Case and Next Steps included on the Agenda for that meeting.

It was resolved:

That the reports on the activities of the Combined Authority from the Council's appointees be noted.

The meeting concluded at 6.31pm.

Chairman.....

Date May 2019