



EAST  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Agenda Item

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

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

Councillor Christine Ambrose-Smith	Councillor Bill Hunt
Councillor David Ambrose-Smith	Councillor Mark Inskip
Councillor Anna Bailey	Councillor Alec Jones
Councillor Ian Bovingdon	Councillor Daniel Schumann
Councillor David Brown	Councillor Joshua Schumann
Councillor Charlotte Cane	Councillor Alan Sharp
Councillor Victoria Charlesworth	Councillor Amy Starkey
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 Alison Whelan
Councillor Julia Huffer	Councillor Christine Whelan
	Councillor Gareth Wilson

### 35. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A statement was read out by Mr Rod Hart:

“The science is clear and incontrovertible. We have entered the six mass extinction event in our planet Earth’s 4.5 billion year history, one of those extinction events, the one that killed the dinosaurs, is likely to have been caused by an asteroid strike but the other four were caused by excessively high levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, today levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide are far higher than they were in any of the four previous extinction events.

Carbon dioxide is one of the main greenhouse gases released by burning of fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and gas, and has increased from 280ppm to 415ppm (almost 70%) since the start of the Industrial Revolution.

The increase in atmospheric greenhouse gas makes the planet overheat, we are already at 1.1°C above pre-industrial temperatures and this is what’s causing the current Climate Collapse and Ecosystem Destruction that we are all witnessing daily. The United Nations scientific body called Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC for short, in its 2018 Special Report SR15 very clearly stated that unless we limit global temperature increase to below 1.5°C it is likely that Planetary feedback loops will take over and we humans will then be unable to prevent runaway Climate Collapse and Ecosystem Destruction, with subsequent societal breakdown and human extinction.

The IPCC was also very clear on how long we have left to take the radical and urgent action required to prevent Runaway Climate Collapse – 10 to 12 years – that was 2018 so we now have only 9 to 11 years remaining.

We are all culpable in this wholesale planetary destruction so we all have immense life-altering changes to make. We citizens look to government at all levels to lead on this and to give us clear and immediate guidance and direction, the first part of this is

to Tell the Truth about how desperate the situation really is by Declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency the second part is to Act as if The Truth is real by taking swift and radical action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2030, preferably sooner.

I'm not here talking to you tonight just because I understand climate science or because I know what needs to be done about it, but because I'm a grandparent and I don't want my grandchildren to grow up hating me and because I know with absolute certainty that unless we change course, my grandchildren will not die of natural causes and may well not live to be my age.

You councillors have the opportunity tonight to be brave and bold, to take on an immensely difficult challenge but to do the only thing that is right, support the motion to declare a Climate and Ecological Emergency."

The Director Operations reminded Members that there were two motions on the agenda relating to the subject referred to by Mr Hart and his comments could be considered during the discussions on those motions.

Mrs Susan Bussell was invited to speak and made the following points:

- She grew up with nature and considered the ocean and trees as friends, so nature was part of her childhood.
- People needed to look to the future for the children.
- She was standing up and speaking up for those children.
- She had attended an event at St Johns College and could not believe what the experts revealed was happening.
- Another event in Ely Cathedral had given a chilling future prospect if carbon emissions were not reduced.
- The science was now on the public record.
- Everyone had to change their way of life for everybody's future.
- People are already seeing and feeling the effects of climate change with higher temperatures, dry meadows, rain downpours and droughts.
- The Council was urged to agree to declare a climate emergency to help reduce carbon dioxide emissions.
- Making that declaration would be the building block to starting the urgent measures needed.
- The Council was therefore urged to vote for the declaration and taking urgent measures.

The Chairman reiterated the previous reply made by the Director Operations.

36. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sue Austen.

37. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interests were received.

38. **MINUTES**

The following amendment was proposed and accepted relating to page 6 of the minutes in that the reference to Councillor Christine Whelan should be amended to read Councillor Alison Whelan.

It was resolved:

That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 July 2019, as amended, be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

### 39. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- Since receiving the honour to be elected as Chair in May, I have been undertaking research and training on its role and responsibilities. As you are aware, the Chair represents the Council as a whole in all civic and ceremonial matters and presides over meetings of the Council so that its business can be carried out efficiently and with regard to the rights of Councillors and the interests of the community.
- As you may be aware, the Chair and Deputy Chair receive many invitations from within the District but also outside. We have decided that we will attend civic and ceremonial functions primarily within the District to support the activities of parishes and the community. We will, of course, attend the out of District functions which we determine are appropriate and which link to our Corporate Objectives and promote the Council and the District. I would welcome the opportunity to receive invitations to visit the Parishes for events should they wish me to do so.
- To support the latter, I will be compiling with the Communications team a newsletter which will go to Parishes and community organisations every 2 months not only to provide a showcase of the work of the Council but also to promote our excellent staff who undertake service on behalf of residents. We want to actively promote a greater collaboration with our parishes and will also be delighted to showcase their successes. I am sure Councillors will be delighted to make contributions for the Ward areas that can be considered for inclusion. We will keep you informed of dates.

*Councillor Dan Schumann joined the meeting at this point.*

### 40. **PETITIONS**

Mr Kim Ashton presented a petition that:

Called on East Cambridgeshire District Council to:

1. Declare a Climate Emergency;
2. Pledge to make ECDC together with its wholly-owned companies and contractors carbon neutral by 2030 and pledge to divest Council investments, including pensions, from fossil fuels;
3. Call on the Government to provide powers, resources and technical support to make the 2030 target possible;
4. Work with local stakeholders to deliver a strategy in line with the target of net zero emissions by 2030, via a Council Working Group and a Citizen's Assembly. These should involve participation from as wide a range of residents, young people, businesses and other relevant parties as possible and should report within 6 months, or at least in time for their recommendations to be funded in the next Budget cycle.

#### **Why is this Important?**

We are facing an unprecedented climate and ecological catastrophe. Leading scientists from the IPCC have warned that if we carry on our business as usual and don't take emergency action on Climate Change, we face the gravest threats to our global environment. This includes worsening risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty

for hundreds of millions of people. Extreme weather events are already being seen, even in East Cambs which experienced severe drought last year. More recently, during a heatwave in July 2019 which saw temperatures across Europe, the highest temperature ever recorded in the UK was reached in Cambridge.

In the light of this urgent situation, at least 230 Councils in the UK have already declared a Climate Emergency, while cities including Exeter, Bristol and Edinburgh have set themselves ambitious targets of carbon neutrality by 2030.

Mr Kim Ashton then made the following points:

- The world was facing an emergency.
- The scientific evidence was clear.
- All over the world people were asking their governments to tackle climate change and over half of local authorities had declared an emergency.
- Climate change was happening.
- East Anglia was on the frontline with low lying land, high rainfall and much of the fens would be under water due to rising sea levels.
- Much more action was needed as a matter of urgency.
- This was a critical moment and it offered enormous opportunities to mitigate the effects of climate change.
- If nothing was done there would be major problems such as food shortages and mass migration with civilisation at stake.
- Action was needed at all levels so the Council should seize this opportunity to act accordingly.

#### 41. **MOTIONS**

##### Encouraging Inclusivity

This Motion was withdrawn by the mover of the motion with the consent of her seconder in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.7.

##### Climate Emergency

Councillor Mark Inskip proposed, seconded by Councillor Charlotte Cane, the following Motion:

##### **Council notes:**

that the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing serious damage around the world.

that the 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C', published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018, (a) describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise, and (b) confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector;

that East Cambridgeshire is at significant risk from climate change by both drought from reduced rainfall and flooding from rising sea levels, with the Environment Agency reporting that the river flow on the Ely Ouse is 'notably low', and reports suggesting that a 1.5° rise in temperature would see most of East Cambs under salt water with Ely becoming an island and the fen edge villages becoming coastal villages;

that East Cambridgeshire is a major contributor to Greenhouse gas emissions from allowing our peat to dry out releasing CO2 into the atmosphere, burning oil and bottled gas for heating and frequently using cars due to inadequate public transport or provision for cyclists and pedestrians;

that all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies;

that strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits;

and that, recognising this, a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions.

Council therefore commits to:

- Declare a 'Climate Emergency' that requires urgent action.
- Make the Council, and its trading subsidiaries' activities net-zero carbon by 2030
- Achieve 100% clean energy across the Council and its trading subsidiaries' full range of functions by 2030
- Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030.
- Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the entire area zero carbon within the same timescale;
- Ensure that political and chief officer leadership teams and trading subsidiaries' Directors embed this work in all areas and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities, ensuring that any recommendations are fully costed and that committees and full Council review council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and set up a joint members and officers working group to produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline;
- Ensure that Council considers the impact of climate change and the environment when reviewing Council policies and strategies;
- Work with, influence and inspire partners across the district, county and region to help deliver this goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources;
- Council to take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future;
- Establish an East Cambridgeshire Climate Change Partnership, involving councillors, residents, young people below voting age, academics and other relevant parties, to prioritise carbon reduction measures, identify related benefits to employment, health, agricultural and transport sectors and develop a strategy in line with the 'net-zero carbon by 2030' target;
- Require East Cambs Trading Limited to investigate ways to build zero carbon homes in East Cambridgeshire and report to Council within 12 months on the proposed ways forward with a view to building zero carbon homes by 2022 at the latest;
- Require East Cambs Street Scene Limited to work with Council officers to develop a capital assets replacement and refurbishment programme and review work processes to report to Council within 12 months on proposed ways forward to become a zero-carbon operation;

- Ensure that all reports in preparation for the 2020/21 and future budget cycles and investment strategies will take into account the actions the council will take to address this emergency;
- Ask officers to investigate the most appropriate training for members and officers about how to promote carbon neutral policies for future consideration by Council;
- Write to the Secretary of State to request that Government provides the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and ask local MPs to do likewise;
- Consider other actions that could be implemented, including (but not restricted to): renewable energy generation and storage, providing electric vehicle infrastructure and encouraging alternatives to private car use, increasing the efficiency of buildings, in particular to address fuel poverty; proactively using local planning powers to accelerate the delivery of net carbon new developments and communities, coordinating a series of information and training events to raise awareness and share good practice.

It was stated that the world would be in a very sorry state in about 200 years' time if nothing was done about climate change, which endangered the very survival of life. A document from 1990 had highlighted the issues, so this issue was not new, but that document had been neglected. People had since undertaken recycling and other like measures but these would not address the problems.

Decades of small steps had been taken but a recent shocking statement indicated that even a small 1.5° increase in global temperatures would lead to increasing risks, including food shortages and lessening of water supplies. Crop yields would fall, livestock put at risk and diseases would increase. A 2° increase would result in 1.7 million people suffering extreme temperatures, sea levels would rise and millions of people would be adversely impacted. 90% of coral reefs had been lost, fisheries were down and ecosystems were facing life threatening problems. East Cambridgeshire itself would be under salt water but conversely draughts would increase as weather patterns changed. These problems had to be taken seriously and rapid changes had to be made.

A climate emergency had to be declared and serious action had to be undertaken by 2030 to tackle the problems.

In support of the motion, some Members acknowledged that it would not be easy and be challenging to achieve the targets set. Although the Council only covered a small part of the county the targets could be achieved. It was now time to start doing things to tackle the problems. There may be some failure in some details but an effort had to be made. A consensus could be reached to save the district from disaster. So the motion was worth supporting.

Warm words meant nothing if there was a refusal to do anything to deal with the relevant matters. It would not be too expensive to save the district and other local authorities across the country were taking action, so it was possible to cut carbon emissions.

The Council needed to continue to recycle as much as it could but much more was needed, as shown by the ambition within the motion. For example, the proposal relating to bin lorries asked for a review of the work processes, to be reported back, to see if improvements could be made. The Council had to take some responsibility for our generation and the generations that followed, as this was critical. The Council had to talk to its communities and work in partnership on the problems, supported by Government funding.

The motion before the Council suggested things that could be difficult to achieve and could fail but the Council had to aim high for the best target. Responsibility had to be accepted to try harder which would lead to success in some things.

Wicken Fen had developed knowledge and techniques on how peat fens could be restored, so their knowledge should be spread around the district to increase that restoration. The creation of a partnership to bring ideas in was needed, as everybody had to be involved. If these actions were not got right then the planet would very quickly change and cause issues for people and biodiversity. The Government should be asked to deliver on its commitments and should spend its money on climate change measures. The motion was full of sensible plans and should be supported.

The crucial point was to declare an emergency and then take appropriate action. The Council prided itself on a 'can do' attitude so should agree to the motion. Complains about technology being currently unavailable would be addressed as, if there was a demand for it, it would be developed. The Council was not currently doing enough and setting a target of 2030, which was not radical, would help achieve significant progress.

In opposing the motion, it was countered that the motion was short on action and so would be undeliverable. The motion was only to make headlines and was set up for failure. Instead, other agencies should be supported to make them zero carbon, for example the County Council had obtained support for its woodland and peat restoration project. Zero carbon emissions were needed by 2050, which would be hugely challenging. A suggested 2030 target would be impossible to achieve and would undermine the credibility and commitments that could be made on the climate agenda.

The Government's forthcoming Environmental Bill would bolster local leadership, by giving new powers and provide Government funding to make climate change actions a reality. All parties cared about this issue and it was hoped cross-party agreement could help take this forward.

The Council was reminded that three years previously, enquiries had been made about battery operated refuse lorries, as some trials had been held in some cities. The cost of such vehicles was prohibitive and a staggering amount could be spent on refurbishing the fleet. Until the Council could guarantee a suitable price, it should not make empty promises.

There should be no playing down of the small measures already being taken, as everybody had a duty to everything they could to help tackle the issue. Any agreed action had to be properly thought through by asking what could be done and whether it was realistically achievable. One of the proposals in the motion could not be achieved, as the technology for it was not in place. It was also unfair to suggest that the Council was not doing anything, but workable schemes were needed to make progress.

Whilst acknowledging that all the Council cared about the environment and how urgent the issue was, there was a worry that the motion was being unrealistic. The Council had to agree with actions that were workable and effective, which this motion was not.

A recorded vote was requested and voting was as follows:

For [12] – Councillors Charlotte Cane, Victoria Charlesworth, Matthew Downey, Lorna Dupre, Simon Harries, Mark Inskip, Alec Jones, John Trapp, Paola Trimarco, Alison Whelan, Christine Whelan, Gareth Wilson

Against [15] – Councillors Christine Ambrose Smith, David Ambrose Smith, Anna Bailey, Ian Bovingdon, David Brown, Lavinia Edwards, Lis Every, Julia Huffer, Bill Hunt, Dan Schumann, Joshua Schumann, Alan Sharp, Amy Starkey, Lisa Stubbs, Jo Webber.

The motion was therefore declared to be lost.

### Climate Change

Councillor Anna Bailey acknowledged, in recognition of the public support, that a Climate Emergency should be declared and therefore proposed, seconded by Councillor Josh Schumann, the following:

The current generation has a duty to protect and improve the health of our planet for those that follow.

The world is facing unprecedented challenges in population growth, climate change, pollution and ever increasing and competing demands on its land and natural resources. By 2050 the world population is expected to rise from its current level of 7.7 billion to 9.2 billion. There is global consensus that climate change poses significant risk to the health of the planet and its ability to sustain life.

Local Authorities have a responsibility, both in their own activities and those undertaken with partners, as well as in the influence they can bring to bear to reduce the adverse effects of their populations on the planet.

Cambridgeshire and East Cambridgeshire are growing areas; increasing populations result in increasing need for businesses, houses, health, retail and leisure outlets, transport and other supporting infrastructure, all of which lead to adverse impacts on the environment. With growth comes a responsibility to balance competing demands and mitigate the negative impacts of that growth as far as is reasonably possible.

This Council thanks residents for calling for action and acknowledges that it has a significant role to play in protecting and improving the environment for future generations.

Council notes the positive actions it is already undertaking:

- A District wide review of bus services to inform a detailed plan, which aims to increase the number and frequency of services, to be presented to the Combined Authority in its county wide bus review
- Development of an East Cambs Strategic Cycle/Footpath Network, identifying gaps in the current network, and seeking funding opportunities to improve the network over time
- Thanks to our residents, achievement of one of the highest recycling rates in the country, leading to a new target of 65%; we stand ready to make further improvements in line with the Government's emerging Resources and Waste Strategy
- Through planning policy we favour sustainable development, we secure energy and sustainability measures on all developments of 5 dwellings or more and we seek BREEAM 'very good' build standard on non-domestic developments greater than 1000m<sup>2</sup>
- We seek to secure landscaping and tree planting in new developments



- Our Tree Strategy and Conservation Area policies are helping to protect and improve the tree stock across the District
- We work with wildlife groups to increase habitat and biodiversity
- We have established wildflower habitats on some of our own open spaces
- Our Purge on Plastics campaign and action plan is helping to reduce the Council's use of single use plastics and to encourage others across the district to do the same
- Ely Markets' Bring your Own Campaign is helping to raise awareness and reduce the use of single use plastic by market traders and customers
- We are signed up to and supporting the Doubling Nature campaign and the Local Nature Partnership
- Our free energy advice service helps residents improve the energy efficiency of their homes
- Participation in the Energy Company Obligation Flexible Eligibility Scheme is helping to reduce carbon emissions and tackle fuel poverty
- Together with Cambridgeshire County Council we are developing an Innovate UK bid to design an energy system to deliver net zero carbon emissions from energy use in East Cambridgeshire by 2050; the project focuses on shifting transport, gas and oil use to electricity and to grow the electricity network to cater for the change
- We are working with Swaffham Prior Community Land Trust and Cambridgeshire County Council to secure funding for the low carbon Swaffham Prior Community Heat Scheme
- Kennett Community Land Trust has been designed using Garden Village principles
- We are building new homes at Haddenham Community Land Trust to high energy efficient standards
- 2 rapid electric vehicle charging points were installed at The Hive car park
- At end of life all lightbulbs on Council premises are replaced with LED lightbulbs
- Grant applications to the Council are asked to explain what steps are being taken to make a project environmentally sustainable

Council recognises the need to build on this positive work, to further embed positive environmental thinking, behaviours, and action throughout our organisation and to seek to influence partners and others to do the same.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Note the positive actions and work that have already been completed or begun
- Declare a Climate Emergency that needs urgent action.
- Commit to the following actions, to begin immediately:
  - Launch and publicise an online 'Ideas Forum' for residents to submit their ideas for consideration on how the Council can tackle climate change
  - Develop a Supplementary Planning Document for the Natural Environment
  - Conduct a review of the management, use of pesticides and the grass cutting schedule of our own open spaces and develop a Parks and Open Spaces Eco Plan to reduce adverse environmental impacts and increase biodiversity
  - Request East Cambs Trading Company to consider if and how the Parks and Open Spaces Eco Plan can be applied to customers of the Company
  - Promote tree schemes by the Woodland Trust and other organisations to encourage tree planting throughout the District
- Assess the feasibility and capability of new carbon emission free vehicles available on the market when any Council owned vehicle comes to the end of its life,

- alongside consideration of the required investment in infrastructure to charge and maintain a carbon emission free fleet
- Task the Operational Services Committee to develop a costed Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, including targets and timescales to reduce carbon emissions and pollution and protect and enhance biodiversity and present to Committee within 6 months; as part of this work, Committee will explore and consider the following, which is not an exhaustive list:
    - Measures in conjunction with the Combined Authority
    - Measures in conjunction with Cambridgeshire County Council
    - Measures in conjunction with other organisations and customers
    - Measures required and feasibility of reaching net zero carbon emissions by the Council by 2050
    - Pre-application Planning fee incentives/discounts for schemes using eco-friendly building methods and heating and cooling systems and green energy schemes
    - Incentives/discounts on taxi license fees for ultra-low and zero emission vehicles at renewal
    - Installing more electric charging points in Council owned car parks
    - Installing additional water refill stations on Council premises
    - Communications Plan, including:
      - Changing the culture of the Council to one of 'Think Zero'
      - Promotion of the online 'Ideas Forum'
      - Michael Recycle 'Zero Hero' cut the carbon campaign
      - Schools engagement
      - Measures in the emerging Youth Strategy

In support of this motion, it was stated that there would be no refusal for the Council to take action and the motion was about the action that would be taken. The Council was already in the process of taking action and other plans were in place. The current generation had a duty to take steps and the Council had a responsibility to undertake those steps and acknowledge the requests made in the public petition. All relevant issues mattered and, although efforts were already being made, further action was needed. The motion set out a net zero-carbon target by 2050, which was realistic. Detailed actions had been thought about but more could be done. The motion was not an attempt to include everything but would get the ball rolling. Increasing action would be taken in certain areas, such as a commitment to replace bin vehicles appropriately. An Ideas Forum would be established immediately with consideration being given to putting in suitable ideas into Council plans. The Environment Bill would provide funding where increased costs would be incurred to instigate new plans. A lot of time had been spent speaking to officers and looking at everything that the Council should be doing to improve its processes. Passing this motion would include a clear delivery of objectives which would be measurable. It was packed with things that could be done, and the Council would be implementing these. This motion should be taken forward, hopefully with cross-party support.

**Amendment 1 to declare a climate change emergency already had been incorporated into the motion by the proposer with the agreement of the seconder, as detailed above.**

#### **Amendment 2**

Councillor Victoria Charlesworth proposed, seconded by Councillor Mark Inskip, the following amendment:

To replace the 2050 deadline with 2030 in the following points that begin:

- “Together with Cambridgeshire County Council .....to deliver net zero carbon emissions from energy use in East Cambridgeshire by 2030.
- “Measures required and feasibility of reaching net zero carbon emissions by the Council by 2030.

To have an overall goal of 2030 for all current and upcoming actions.

It was questioned how ambitious the Council was, as if it did not get fully on board it would be left behind. A 2030 target date instead of 2050 would be better and potentially more successful, as climate change was happening now and the Council had to act now. Everyone has to face this threat and take it seriously.

Members had to consider whether aiming for 2030 was the right thing to do, as a target of 2030 added nothing, as missing it would be contrary to current legislation. Realistic targets were needed and plenty of other Councils had set similar timetables.

In speaking against the motion, it was suggested that making policy ‘on-the-hoof’ like this was dangerous, as there was no opportunity to consider it properly. Whereas going forward with the proposals made by the County Council, to totally refurbish the energy infrastructure in the area, was the way to move forward.

A recorded vote was requested and voting was as follows:

For [12] – Councillors Charlotte Cane, Victoria Charlesworth, Matthew Downey, Lorna Dupre, Simon Harries, Mark Inskip, Alec Jones, John Trapp, Paola Trimarco, Alison Whelan, Christine Whelan, Gareth Wilson

Against [15] – Councillors Christine Ambrose Smith, David Ambrose Smith, Anna Bailey, Ian Bovingdon, David Brown, Lavinia Edwards, Lis Every, Julia Huffer, Bill Hunt, Dan Schumann, Joshua Schumann, Alan Sharp, Amy Starkey, Lisa Stubbs, Jo Webber.

The amendment was therefore declared to be lost.

### **Amendment 3**

Councillor Charlotte Cane proposed, seconded by Councillor Gareth Wilson, the following amendment:

After ‘Commit to the following actions, to begin immediately:’ add new bullet point

–

Form a Climate Change Partnership to develop the Council’s Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan to consider for adoption at Full Council in January 2020. To ensure that the funding for the Action Plan is built into the budget for the year 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 and built into financial planning for subsequent years. To require an assessment for every item included in budgets going forward of its impact on the Council’s Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

As no clear action was set out, the amendment tried to address that forming a Climate Change Partnership would get it involved in developing and delivering a Strategy and Action Plan in time to be adopted by full Council at its January meeting. This would then enable the costs of any actions to be built into the Council Budget. The amendment would ensure some form of action would be taken and would allow every budget item to be assessed on environmental or climate change grounds against the agreed Strategy.

The amendment enabled faster action to be instigated. It would be simple to form the Partnership so that action could be started straight away. To get the finances required into the budget, the timescales had to be appropriate. This would mean that action would be budgeted for within next year's budget. The Council was already proceeding with relevant work, so 13 weeks should be enough time to organise the work needed.

The motion proposed working together on this issue, as everybody was trying to protect the district. Getting the relevant parties and experts together seemed like a sensible idea and any ideas would require money allocated within the budget. The budget would then reflect the requirements of an agreed plan, so the amendment should be approved.

In applauding the ambition of the amendment, it was accepted that there would be a need to consult other parties, but this should be through the committee structure to produce a fully costed plan. So the amendment could not be supported.

A recorded vote was requested and voting was as follows:

For [12] – Councillors Charlotte Cane, Victoria Charlesworth, Matthew Downey, Lorna Dupre, Simon Harries, Mark Inskip, Alec Jones, John Trapp, Paola Trimarco, Alison Whelan, Christine Whelan, Gareth Wilson

Against [15] – Councillors Christine Ambrose Smith, David Ambrose Smith, Anna Bailey, Ian Bovingdon, David Brown, Lavinia Edwards, Lis Every, Julia Huffer, Bill Hunt, Dan Schumann, Joshua Schumann, Alan Sharp, Amy Starkey, Lisa Stubbs, Jo Webber.

The amendment was therefore declared to be lost.

#### **Amendment 4**

Councillor Victoria Charlesworth proposed, seconded by Councillor Simon Harries, the following amendment:

To insert immediately after "Through planning policy we favour sustainable development, we secure energy and sustainability measures on all developments of 5 dwellings or more and we seek BREEAM 'very good' build standard on non-domestic developments greater than 1000m<sup>2</sup>"

- We seek to follow the example set by Goldsmith St. in Norwich, to build to the most exacting of environmental standards using Passivhaus specification for residential developments.
- To clarify the BREEAM standard as BREEAM 2018

Norwich Council had built high specification housing designed that so the sun warmed the houses, reduced energy consumption and reduced costs. This Council should also aim for higher specifications on housing, particularly as it had limited land on which such housing could be built. The Council should seek to follow the example given, as Norwich was not the only council taking this view. The Council should show ambition to build to the Passivhaus specifications and its 'green' standards.

However, it was contended that the amendment would require the policy in the Local Plan and planning policies to be amended. This would have to be accomplished through planning policy and doing so would result in the Local Plan failing at appeal. So the consequences of this amendment had not been thought through, and could not be agreed.

A recorded vote was requested and voting was as follows:

For [12] – Councillors Charlotte Cane, Victoria Charlesworth, Matthew Downey, Lorna Dupre, Simon Harries, Mark Inskip, Alec Jones, John Trapp, Paola Trimarco, Alison Whelan, Christine Whelan, Gareth Wilson

Against [15] – Councillors Christine Ambrose Smith, David Ambrose Smith, Anna Bailey, Ian Bovingdon, David Brown, Lavinia Edwards, Lis Every, Julia Huffer, Bill Hunt, Dan Schumann, Joshua Schumann, Alan Sharp, Amy Starkey, Lisa Stubbs, Jo Webber.

The amendment was therefore declared to be lost.

#### **Amendment 4a**

Councillor Simon Harries proposed, seconded by Councillor John Trapp, that the wording “Kennett Community Land Trust has been designed using Garden Village principles” be struck out.

Associating the Kennett development with the garden Village principles suggested that the development would be environmentally friendly, which would not be the case. Householders would leave every day by car, which would have a negative environmental effect. The scheme itself was deeply controversial and was not environmentally sustainable, therefore this statement should be deleted.

Speaking against this amendment, it was stated that the Council was proud of the Kennett development, as it would be low density and had been designed to Garden Village principles. The list of activities on the agenda were simply to inform residents of what the Council was doing.

A recorded vote was requested and voting was as follows:

For [12] – Councillors Charlotte Cane, Victoria Charlesworth, Matthew Downey, Lorna Dupre, Simon Harries, Mark Inskip, Alec Jones, John Trapp, Paola Trimarco, Alison Whelan, Christine Whelan, Gareth Wilson

Against [15] – Councillors Christine Ambrose Smith, David Ambrose Smith, Anna Bailey, Ian Bovingdon, David Brown, Lavinia Edwards, Lis Every, Julia Huffer, Bill Hunt, Dan Schumann, Joshua Schumann, Alan Sharp, Amy Starkey, Lisa Stubbs, Jo Webber.

The amendment was therefore declared to be lost.

#### **Amendment 5**

Councillor Charlotte Cane proposed, seconded by Councillor Mark Inskip, the following amendment:

After ‘Conduct a review.... And increase biodiversity’ add new bullet point – Require East Cambs Trading Company Limited to develop and Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan and imbed that into its Business Plan for 2020/21 and subsequent years.

The Council via the Trading Company was developing houses, looking at the ex-Ministry of Defence site and dealing with parks and open spaces, so it had a huge impact on the environmental plan. Therefore, it should be asked to produce a Strategy and Action Plan.

The amendment asked for a decision in principle with the details worked out in committee. This was extremely important, as the companies were set up by Council and carried high risks. So a statement of intent should be given to show how the Council was accepting its responsibilities.

The amendment was not asking for a great deal, just a Strategy and Plan, which other councils had, as it was well worth having. This could incorporate historic standards and building environmental resilience.

This would form part of the work by relevant committees, and many companies were already doing this. There was no reason why this should not be agreed, as it could deliver real change.

The implication was to build houses to the Passivhaus standard, but there was no consideration of how this would be paid for. That issue should form part of work by the committees, as specified in the original motion. This issue was already embedded in the Business Plan, as covered by the original motion, so there was no need for this amendment.

A recorded vote was requested and voting was as follows:

For [12] – Councillors Charlotte Cane, Victoria Charlesworth, Matthew Downey, Lorna Dupre, Simon Harries, Mark Inskip, Alec Jones, John Trapp, Paola Trimarco, Alison Whelan, Christine Whelan, Gareth Wilson

Against [15] – Councillors Christine Ambrose Smith, David Ambrose Smith, Anna Bailey, Ian Bovingdon, David Brown, Lavinia Edwards, Lis Every, Julia Huffer, Bill Hunt, Dan Schumann, Joshua Schumann, Alan Sharp, Amy Starkey, Lisa Stubbs, Jo Webber.

The amendment was therefore declared to be lost.

### **Amendment 6**

Councillor Charlotte Cane proposed, seconded by Councillor Mark Inskip, the following amendment:

After 'Request East Cambs..... customers of the Company' add new bullet point –  
Require East Cambs Street Scene to develop and Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan and imbed that into its Business Plan for 2020/21 and subsequent years.

Street Scene was wholly owned by the Council and was Teckal compliant. It also had a key role in delivering a climate change strategy. So it should also have a Strategy and Action Plan embedded in the 2020/21 Plan. The amendment suggested that the Council take action that could be measured and this did not appear in the original motion.

It was questioned whether the Council would be ambitious and get its company to be environmentally sustainable. This needed to be embedded in the Business Plan. There was nothing controversial in the amendment and, as the companies activities were very focused on environmental matters. So the Council should get at least one of its companies to produce a Strategy and Action Plan.

The Council was reminded that there were plans for a massive change to the entire infrastructure to help tackle climate change. This amendment was not the normal way

to deal with business, gave no specific proposals and did not have any measurable outcomes.

A recorded vote was requested and voting was as follows:

For [12] – Councillors Charlotte Cane, Victoria Charlesworth, Matthew Downey, Lorna Dupre, Simon Harries, Mark Inskip, Alec Jones, John Trapp, Paola Trimarco, Alison Whelan, Christine Whelan, Gareth Wilson

Against [15] – Councillors Christine Ambrose Smith, David Ambrose Smith, Anna Bailey, Ian Bovingdon, David Brown, Lavinia Edwards, Lis Every, Julia Huffer, Bill Hunt, Dan Schumann, Joshua Schumann, Alan Sharp, Amy Starkey, Lisa Stubbs, Jo Webber.

The amendment was therefore declared to be lost.

Returning to the original motion, in opposing the motion, it was stated that the motion had no substance and with a target date of 2050 it should not be accepted. People had taken the trouble to bring their concerns to the Council via the petition, with a 2030 target, but this had not been accepted in the motion. The target date of 2030 would be challenging but was necessary.

With regard to the 2030 target date, it was contended that it was a massive target to develop a Strategy within 6 months and was not realistic. The motion had been amended to include the declaration of a climate emergency and the parties should work together to take action. The motion set high targets but was intended to be realistic in its aims. It was to be hoped that people would contribute their ideas to the Forum so that sustainable actions could be undertaken.

*Councillor Matthew Downey left the meeting by this point.*

A recorded vote was requested and voting was as follows:

For [15] – Councillors Christine Ambrose Smith, David Ambrose Smith, Anna Bailey, Ian Bovingdon, David Brown, Lavinia Edwards, Lis Every, Julia Huffer, Bill Hunt, Dan Schumann, Joshua Schumann, Alan Sharp, Amy Starkey, Lisa Stubbs, Jo Webber.

Against [11] – Councillors Charlotte Cane, Victoria Charlesworth, Lorna Dupre, Simon Harries, Mark Inskip, Alec Jones, John Trapp, Paola Trimarco, Alison Whelan, Christine Whelan, Gareth Wilson

The substantive motion was therefore declared to be carried.

It was resolved:

- (i) That the positive actions and work that have already been completed or begun be noted;
- (ii) That a 'Climate Emergency' be declared that required urgent action;
- (iii) That Council be committed to the following actions, to begin immediately:
  - Launch and publicise an online 'Ideas Forum' for residents to submit their ideas for consideration on how the Council can tackle climate change

- Develop a Supplementary Planning Document for the Natural Environment
  - Conduct a review of the management, use of pesticides and the grass cutting schedule of our own open spaces and develop a Parks and Open Spaces Eco Plan to reduce adverse environmental impacts and increase biodiversity
  - Request East Cambs Trading Company to consider if and how the Parks and Open Spaces Eco Plan can be applied to customers of the Company
  - Promote tree schemes by the Woodland Trust and other organisations to encourage tree planting throughout the District
- (iv) The Council assess the feasibility and capability of new carbon emission free vehicles available on the market when any Council owned vehicle comes to the end of its life, alongside consideration of the required investment in infrastructure to charge and maintain a carbon emission free fleet
- (v) That the Operational Services Committee be tasked to develop a costed Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, including targets and timescales to reduce carbon emissions and pollution and protect and enhance biodiversity and present to Committee within 6 months; as part of this work, Committee will explore and consider the following, which is not an exhaustive list:
- Measures in conjunction with the Combined Authority
  - Measures in conjunction with Cambridgeshire County Council
  - Measures in conjunction with other organisations and customers
  - Measures required and feasibility of reaching net zero carbon emissions by the Council by 2050
  - Pre-application Planning fee incentives/discounts for schemes using eco-friendly building methods and heating and cooling systems and green energy schemes
  - Incentives/discounts on taxi license fees for ultra-low and zero emission vehicles at renewal
  - Installing more electric charging points in Council owned car parks
  - Installing additional water refill stations on Council premises
  - Communications Plan, including:
    - Changing the culture of the Council to one of 'Think Zero'
    - Promotion of the online 'Ideas Forum'
    - Michael Recycle 'Zero Hero' cut the carbon campaign
    - Schools engagement
    - Measures in the emerging Youth Strategy

*The meeting was adjourned for a comfort break at 9:05pm.*

*Councillors Alison Whelan and Christine Whelan left the meeting at this point and did not return.*

*The meeting reconvened at 9:17pm.*

#### 42. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

The following question, to the Leader of the Council Councillor Anna Bailey, was read out by Councillor Charlotte Cane:

On 30 May 2019 Councillor Dupre moved an amendment to delete the proposals to appoint the Leader of Council and Chair of Operational Services as Directors of



ECTC Limited and the Deputy Leader of Council and Chair of Finance and Assets as Directors of ECSS Limited. Councillor Bailey opposed this amendment, stating that “She did not concur with Councillor Dupre’s view regarding increasing the potential for conflicts of interest, but thought that the proposed revised arrangements would lessen this. The two companies had their own identities, delivery programmes and challenges and the proposals would better align the responsibilities of the Trading Companies to the relevant policy Committees. In addition, it would also complement the existing Shareholder arrangements and widen the knowledge of the Companies’ structure and operations to more Members to promote a greater level of expertise.”

On 8 October 2019 Councillor Bailey informed members that she and the other 3 Councillors had resigned as Directors noting that as Directors they ‘cannot take part in important debates and motions arising from the new political makeup of the Council’ and that officers would be proposing changes to the composition of the two companies’ Boards.

What has changed since 30 May 2019, when Councillor Bailey gave support to the arrangements which she has now resigned from and is now seeking to change?

What was so urgent that she, and the three other Directors felt they had to resign on 8 October 2019?

In reply, Councillor Anna Bailey stated<sup>1</sup> that the resignations had been a pragmatic response to the change in the Council’s composition. All four ex-Board Members could now play a full part in Council debates when considering the companies’ matters and ensure that the companies could deliver their aims. The main focus of concern regarding the governance of the two companies should be that it was correct and legal.

#### 43. **CORPORATE PLAN 2019-2023**

Council considered a report U89, previously circulated, that gave details of the new Corporate Plan 2019-2023 for East Cambridgeshire District Council.

Councillor Anna Bailey proposed that the new Corporate Plan with the subsequent Constitution changes be approved, seconded by Councillor Joshua Schumann.

The Corporate Plan was a co-operation between the Council Administration and the public, as a public survey had helped form the Plan. It set out the Council’s priorities for the next four years with some already having been delivered. The Plan included funding Viva in Soham, managing Community Infrastructure Levy so no money had been borrowed for the delivery of The Hive, helping deliver the new railway station in Soham, supporting the schools recycling campaign and approving the Littleport Vision. This would be done within a well-managed budget.

The Council had been very successful with its Corporate Plan over the last four years and the new one listed the ambitions of the Council to tackle environmental issues, produce a communication plan, deal with fly tipping, have a purge on plastics and extend public car parking provision. Residents would be consulted about the Transport Plan and this would be included within a wider strategy.

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<sup>1</sup> Councillor Charlotte Cane requested that Councillor Anna Bailey’s name be recorded in the minutes against her response.

The Corporate Plan had intent, implementation and impact. It been developed by a fantastic team of Council Officers and all Members had been invited to offer ideas to help produce the Plan. Legal advice had been sought about the governance of the trading companies to ensure it was correct and legal. The trading companies would aid the medium term financial strategy of the Council. The priorities were to improve Council services but keep council tax levels low. A public survey had indicated support for the new Plan, so it should be approved.

In opposing the Plan, it was stated that although some things within the Corporate Plan could be worked on together, such as bus transport, cycleways and potholes, some other matters were disappointing. For example, the proposals for the roundabout on the A142 appeared to be about speeding up traffic which would disincentivise pedestrians and isolate communities. The previous Plan had included tackling heavy goods vehicles travelling through villages but this was now not mentioned. Community Land Trusts were promoted but the model was distorted as many were driven by the Council for its own purposes and were thrust upon communities. The Trading Companies had the same people making decisions as the Combined Authority, which was a failure of governance. The Council was financially dependent on income from the Kennett project. The Local Plan would not deliver on environmental issues. With no overwhelming mandate for this Corporate Plan could not be supported.

Good governance of the trading companies was crucial, as the Council was dependent on their income. Sound financial management was needed and also an understanding of any conflicts of interest, so integrity of the planning process was not undermined. More details in the Plan would have been useful and there was no confidence in the Plan until the activities of the trading companies was known.

*Councillor Gareth Wilson declared a personal interest in this item, as he was a Trustee on the Haddenham Community Land Trust.*

The Transport Plan made no reference to pedestrians, who suffer due to lack of footpaths in some villages, and seemed to focus on allowing cars to go faster. More consideration should be given to pedestrians, although undertaking a Bus Review was commendable.

There was not a list of priorities in the Plan so how could the Council agree the proposal to amend the Constitution accordingly. To clarify the position, Councillor Anna Bailey proposed, with the support of her seconder, that the word "priorities" be removed from 2.1 (ii) of the recommendations, and when put to the vote:

It was resolved:

- (i) That the new Corporate Plan set out in Appendix 1 be approved:
- (ii) That the Monitoring Officer be instructed to amend the Constitution (ref: Article 1 paragraph 1.05) to make the necessary amendments to reflect the new Corporate Plan.

#### 44. **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES**

Council considered a report U90, previously circulated, that gave details of recommendations from the Council's Committees.

## **FINANCE & ASSETS COMMITTEE – 26 SEPTEMBER 2019**

### Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy

The recommendation was proposed by Councillor David Brown, and seconded by Councillor Ian Bovingdon, and agreed unanimously.

### ECTC Business Plan

The recommendation was proposed by Councillor David Brown and seconded by Councillor Ian Bovingdon

### **Amendment**

Councillor Charlotte Cane proposed, seconded by Councillor Lorna Dupre, that the Business Plan be deferred to the next Council meeting, as a number queries had been raised with the Auditors and no resolution had yet been received. The recent Shareholder meeting did not supply those answers and did not give any re-assurance. There was a serious worry about the governance of the East Cambs Trading Company and it was already six months into the financial year without the previous year's accounts being confirmed. There had been discrepancies in the figures and inconsistencies that needed resolving before the new Business Plan should be agreed.

It was revealed that re-assurances had been given at the Trading Company Board meeting, as some doubts had been raised at the Finance & Assets Committee meeting.

A recorded vote was requested and voting was as follows:

For [9] – Councillors Charlotte Cane, Victoria Charlesworth, Lorna Dupre, Simon Harries, Mark Inskip, Alec Jones, John Trapp, Paola Trimarco, Gareth Wilson.

Against [15] – Councillors Christine Ambrose Smith, David Ambrose Smith, Anna Bailey, Ian Bovingdon, David Brown, Lavinia Edwards, Lis Every, Julia Huffer, Bill Hunt, Dan Schumann, Joshua Schumann, Alan Sharp, Amy Starkey, Lisa Stubbs, Jo Webber.

The amendment was therefore declared to be lost.

In support of the recommendation, the Council was reminded that the Trading Company existed for the benefit of the district's residents. It was not failing but was exceeding its expectations. It was handling a high number of activities such as the markets, parks and open spaces, car parks and building schemes. This included the Kennett project, which had received planning permission, and purchasing of the former Ministry of Defence houses. The Business Plan evidenced the benefit of £1.6million to the Council, to help the Council deliver a balanced budget, which had been achieved for the last six years. The Trading Company income formed part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and it had been audited properly. Governance of the Trading Company had been found to be sound by external legal advice, so there were no conflicts of interests. The staff should be appreciated for delivering community benefits.

A recorded vote was requested and voting was as follows:

For [15] – Councillors Christine Ambrose Smith, David Ambrose Smith, Anna Bailey, Ian Bovingdon, David Brown, Lavinia Edwards, Lis Every, Julia Huffer, Bill Hunt, Dan Schumann, Joshua Schumann, Alan Sharp, Amy Starkey, Lisa Stubbs, Jo Webber.

Against [9] – Councillors Charlotte Cane, Victoria Charlesworth, Lorna Dupre, Simon Harries, Mark Inskip, Alec Jones, John Trapp, Paola Trimarco, Gareth Wilson.

The motion was therefore declared to be carried.

It was resolved:

- (i) That the updated Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be adopted.
- (ii) That the ECTC Business Plan be approved.

45. **POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS REVIEW**

Council considered a report, U91 previously circulated, detailing the outcome of the review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations.

The Electoral Services Team Leader advised Council that permission was being sought from Members to accept the final recommendations of the Polling District Review. Two existing halls would not be able to be used, due to refurbishment work, but alternative venues had already been sourced.

Councillor Lis Every proposed the recommendations, seconded by Councillor Alan Sharp, and these were unanimously agreed. Thanks were offered to the Electoral Services team for their work on this issue.

It was resolved:

- (i) That the outcome of the review of Polling Districts, Polling Place and Polling Stations as detailed in Appendix A be noted;
- (ii) That the proposed changes in the Returning Officer's Proposals as detailed in Appendix A be agreed.

46. **REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES – REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

Council considered a report, U92 previously circulated, detailing the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) relating to Members' Allowances.

The Democratic Services Manager stated that the IRP had undertaken a very thorough process to form its recommendations and the Councillors who contributed to the review were thanked.

It was suggested that the Council could not afford the recommended increases, and the money could be better spent elsewhere.

The Council was reminded that the Review had been completed independently and the IRP had put a huge amount of hours into the work. It had gathered detailed evidence in drawing up its conclusions, so the recommendations should be accepted.

The Democratic Services Officer sought clarity on the proposals and it was confirmed that the words "or approve an alternative scheme of Members' Allowances, and consider whether to backdate these" be deleted from recommendation 2.1 and that

recommendation 2.2 be for noting only. The revised recommendations were therefore proposed by Councillor Lis Every, seconded by Councillor David Ambrose Smith, and upon being put to the vote were agreed.

It was resolved:

- (i) That the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) as set out in Appendix A be approved;
- (ii) That the IRP comments in paragraph 6.3 of their report be noted.

#### 47. **REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION**

Councillor Lis Every proposed the recommendations in the report, seconded by Councillor David Brown.

##### **Amendment**

Councillor Lorna Dupre proposed, seconded by Councillor Charlotte Cane, the following amendments:

Add:

- At the end of 2.1 'with the following exceptions/additions:
  - The exception of the changes proposed to 3A (Full Council) – *see 2.2 below*;
  - Amend Part 4 Rules of Procedure new 10.6 to add at end 'and circulated to all councillors prior to the start of the meeting';
  - Amend Part 4 Rules of Procedure 13.3 to add at end 'All answers will be answered by the person to whom the question is addressed'
  - 2.2 That Council establish a Strategic Planning Committee of seven members to determine any strategic planning matters delegated from Full Council which shall include the SCI and SPDs
- and renumber accordingly.

Concern had already been expressed about the lack of notice given for amendments and one proposed change appeared to enable future amendments to be given to officers but with no opportunity for Members to see it before the meeting. Any future amendments should be circulated to members.

Any questions addressed to a specific person should be answered by that person, rather than officers answering on their behalf.

A proposal had been brought back about establishing a new Committee to consider strategic planning matters, as expertise would be required to ensure the relevant policies were right. Clarity was also needed about planning in the district and to tackle the review of the Local Plan. The Council had a four-year old Local Plan, so the new Committee would be needed to handle this important issue which involved a huge amount of work.

It was stated that the Finance and Assets Committee had the ability and capacity to consider Strategic Planning matters, so there was no convincing argument to create another Committee. If the Finance and Assets Committee could not handle the issue in the future then this could be re-considered.

When put to the vote the amendment was declared to be lost.

Councillor Joshua Schumann proposed an amendment to the recommendations in the submitted report, seconded by Councillor Anna Bailey, that the words “with the consent of the Council (without debate)” be deleted under paragraph 12.6 of the Council Procedure Rules. It was acknowledged that Members of all parties who had proposed a motion sometimes made minor amendments to motions given under notice, so this altered wording would facilitate cross-party working as suggested amendments could be agreed. If the wording was left unaltered, this could preclude the opposition from amending any of their future motions.

It was suggested that amending this would permit anyone giving notice of a motion to amend it substantially during the meeting without notice and that would be truly unacceptable. This proposed clause would be ambiguous and Members should not be allowed to amend such motions at will. The clause did not need tidying up as any error in a motion that was spotted only needed Council to correct it.

The Democratic Services Manager explained that any motion with notice had to be submitted eight days before a Council meeting under Council Procedure Rules. The current wording could result in a potentially inflexible and contradictory situations whereby motions could not be amended by the proposer in the light of changed circumstances or cross-party agreement, without the consent of Council.

When put to the vote the recommendations, with the proposed amendment, were declared to be carried.

It was resolved:

- (i) That the proposed amendments to the Constitution, detailed at Appendix 1 be approved, with the following amendment:
  - the words “with the consent of the Council (without debate)” be deleted from Paragraph 12.6 of the Council Procedure Rules;
- (ii) That the Legal Services Manager and Democratic Services Manager be authorised to make any consequential changes to the Constitution arising from the agreed amendments.

48. **EAST CAMBS TRADING COMPANY SHAREHOLDER AGREEMENT AND ARRANGEMENTS**

Council considered a report, U94 previously circulated, on changes to the membership of East Cambs Trading Company (ECTC) and the terms of reference for the Finance & Assets Committee in its capacity as Shareholder Committee.

Councillor Joshua Schumann proposed, seconded by Councillor David Ambrose Smith, that the recommendations be agreed.

**Amendment 1**

Councillor Charlotte Cane proposed, seconded by Councillor Lorna Dupre, the following amendment:

2.1 add new point (i) and re-number thereafter –

Express concern that the Annual Report and Accounts for the Year ended 31 March 2019 have not been circulated to members, despite being expected to be provided for the Finance & Assets Committee meeting on 26 September and

despite the Chair noting at that meeting that they would be circulated as soon as possible.

Concerns were raised by the Finance & Assets Committee when the Chairman of the Committee explained that the annual accounts had not been ready for the Committee meeting but would be circulated later. These should have included with the Annual Report but this had not been done. This showed disrespect for the Committee and did not allow it to scrutinise matters at the right time. Discrepancies had been noted in the draft accounts and Members could not simply accept assurances that everything was satisfactory. This was not good enough and the Council had to be concerned about this, as millions of pounds had been borrowed by the Company, but the final accounts had not been presented as promised.

It was disclosed that the Annual Report had been approved in July by the Company's Board and the delay in the Accounts was due to the appointed auditors not having completed the audit. This now had been done and nothing had changed from the draft set of reports that Members had already seen.

When put to the vote the amendment was declared to be lost.

### **Amendment 2**

Councillor Charlotte Cane proposed, seconded by Councillor Lorna Dupre, the following amendment:

Amend the composition of the Board to:  
Chairman, ECTC Ltd (Independent)  
Managing Director  
Director

The proposed recommendation gave the person the same title held within the Council as that on the Company's Board. There was already confusion over officers' roles, so this would add further confusion. Therefore, the Company title should be changed. Clarity needed to be preserved and this change would make things clearer and would demonstrate which role the officer was undertaking at any particular time.

When put to the vote the amendment was declared to be lost.

### **Amendment 3**

Councillor Charlotte Cane proposed, seconded by Councillor Lorna Dupre, the following amendment:

2.1 delete point (ii) and re-number thereafter

The structure recommended would not work effectively and it was not considered a good idea to have Members as 'Observers', as it would be unclear what role they were undertaking and would place them in an invidious position. They would in fact be quasi-directors but with no protection and they could be seen to unduly influence members of the Company's Board. There would be a risk of misconception about their role and would cause confusion over the governance of the Company.

When put to the vote the amendment was declared to be lost.

*Councillor Paola Trimarco left the meeting at this point, 11:29pm.*

#### **Amendment 4**

Councillor Charlotte Cane proposed, seconded by Councillor Lorna Dupre, the following amendment:

2.1 delete point (iv)

The recommendation to authorise a Council officer to take action relating to the Company was not something the Council had a right to do, so this recommendation should be deleted.

The Legal Services Manager advised the Council that these matters were reserved for Council, so it did have the authority to authorise the Company Secretary to make amendments.

When put to the vote the amendment was declared to be lost.

The original motion was then put to the vote and declared to be carried.

It was resolved:

- (i) That the changes to the Board membership as detailed in paragraph 4.0 be approved;
- (ii) That the Leader of Council and Chairman of Finance & Assets Committee be appointed to ECTC as Board Observers;
- (iii) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make consequential amendments to the Shareholder Agreement and Finance & Assets Committee Terms of Reference to implement the decisions of Council as detailed above;
- (iv) That the Company Secretary be authorised to make changes to the ECTC Articles of Association to implement the decision of Council as detailed above.

#### 49. **EAST CAMBS STREET SCENE SHAREHOLDER AGREEMENT AND ARRANGEMENTS**

Council considered a report, U95 previously circulated, on changes to the membership of East Cambs Trading Company (ECTC) and the terms of reference for the Finance & Assets Committee in its capacity as Shareholder Committee.

Councillor Anna Bailey proposed, seconded by Councillor David Brown, that the recommendations be approved.

#### **Amendments**

Councillor Charlotte Cane proposed, seconded by Councillor Lorna Dupre, the following amendments:

Amend the composition of the Board to:  
Chairman, ECTC Ltd (Independent)  
Managing Director  
Director



- 2.1 delete point (ii) and re-number thereafter
- 2.1 delete point (iv)

When put to the vote, the amendment was declared to be lost.

The original motion was then put to the vote and declared to be carried.

It was resolved:

- (i) That the changes to the Board membership as detailed in paragraph 4.0 be approved;
- (ii) That the Leader of Council and Chairman of Operational Services Committee be appointed to ECSS as Board Observers;
- (iii) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make consequential amendments to the Shareholder Agreement and Operational Services Committee Terms of Reference to implement the decisions of Council as detailed above;
- (iv) That the Company Secretary be authorised to make changes to the ECSS Articles of Association to implement the decision of Council as detailed above.

50. **REVIEW OF THE LOCAL PLAN 2015 AND WIDER PLANNING POLICY MATTERS**

Council considered a report, U96 previously circulated, that sought a way forward regarding the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan.

Councillor Anna Bailey proposed, seconded by Councillor Joshua Schumann, that the recommendations in the report be approved.

The Director Commercial advised the Council that officers had reviewed the relevant legislation and the Council did not have to commence work on a new Local Plan. The Council would, however, continue to work with its parish councils on their Neighbourhood Plans, on supplementary planning guidance and design guides.

Thanks were offered to the Strategic Planning Manager on a clear and well-written report. Work on a new Local Plan would cost the Council between £500-700K and this had not been included in the Council's budget. Although the 2015 Local Plan did not quite conform to national planning policy, national affordable housing rules were being implemented and the targets were similar. National emphasis on better design could be overcome locally using supplementary planning documents. There was no substantive change in housing need within the district and the Council could not be held at fault for the lack of housing being built, as plenty of planning permissions had been granted but developers had let the Council down. The five-year housing supply was down but the backlog of unbuilt homes would be removed in 2020, whereas adopting a new Local Plan now could be detrimental to the Council and district. The Government had also indicated that it would be making changes to the planning system so it made sense to hold off on producing a new Plan at this point. The Council had to ensure that it protected against speculative planning applications to safeguard its communities.

## **Amendment**

Councillor Charlotte Cane proposed, seconded by Councillor Alec Jones, to defer consideration of this item until the parish councils had been consulted on whether to proceed or not with preparing a new Local Plan.

Planning in this area was a challenge for parish councils as there were a lot of speculative applications being made. So they were expending more time providing reasons why those applications did not merit consent. The Council should be trying to ensure proper development and should hear what the parish councils thought about not proceeding with a new Local Plan. Neighbourhood Plans were useful but needed a Local Plan to refer to. Only some parishes had the protection of a Neighbourhood Plan, so the rest of the district was not protected. Planning was a complicated process, so seeking the views of the parishes was important. Delaying the start of a new Local Plan would have a real impact on the parishes. Therefore this issue should be deferred to allow consultation and give proper weight to the decision.

An alternative view stated was that deferring this issue would affect the development of supplemental planning documents and the environmental action plan. There was only one policy currently out-of-date and that related to the five-year land supply, but it was highly likely that the Council would regain control of this in 2020. This could be jeopardised by deferring the matter. The parish councils had not been chasing the Council, as the planning authority, about any issues but there was no reason why Members could not continue to consult them. Big changes in the planning system were on the way and these needed to be kept under review.

When put to the vote the amendment was declared to be lost.

It was noted that in the officer report it stated that there had been a failure with the Planning Inspector, but using that to have no Plan would have a knock-on effect. Parish councils were struggling under the burden due to no up-to-date Plan, meaning they had to develop their own Neighbourhood Plans for self-protection. The Inspector had put arbitrary numbers of housing needed because the Council had dithered.

An alternative view was that it was right not to go ahead with a new Local Plan following the Inspector's recommendations, as the Inspector had failed to follow the Inspectorate's own processes. There had been fundamental issues with those recommendations, such as including an additional 1500 houses which would significantly affect local communities. Village characteristics would have been erased, no infrastructure had been considered and Community Land Trusts would have been deleted. Not proceeding with a new Local Plan would result in the Council regaining an effective Local Plan by April 2020.

When put to the vote the original motion was declared to be carried.

It was resolved:

- (i) That the formal Review of the Local Plan be endorsed and consequently preparation of a new Local Plan is not commenced at this stage;
- (ii) That a further Review be undertaken within 18 months, or earlier if evidence suggests it was prudent to do so;
- (iii) That the updated Local Development Scheme as presented at Appendix 3 be approved;

- (iv) That the work programme for the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents over the coming 1-2 years be endorsed;
- (v) That the continued progress with Neighbourhood Plans across the district be welcomed and their production where reasonable and practical to do so be continued.

51. **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY UPDATE AND PROPOSED CHANGES**

Council considered a report, U97 previously circulated, that detailed changes to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulations, new governance arrangements and amendments to the Infrastructure List.

Councillor Ian Bovingdon proposed, seconded by Councillor Bill Hunt, that the recommendations in the report be approved.

The Council should approve the projects listed as it was a fantastic way for communities to benefit. Parish Councils should be encouraged to put forward projects within their own parishes.

**Amendment**

Councillor Lorna Dupre proposed, seconded by Councillor Charlotte Cane, that this item should be deferred to allow for a review of the CIL list, as the time was appropriate. The current list was dominated by road schemes but that took money away from potential environmental projects. CIL should be about improving the area, so the opportunity to discuss the list and its costs should be taken. The list was also not aligned with the climate emergency and the possible measures that could be funded via CIL. Therefore this issue should be deferred to consider those matters.

When put to the vote the amendment was declared to be lost.

The current update was about governance and how funds were allocated, rather than considering individual projects. Potential projects for adding to the list could be discussed at a future Council meeting. This would be aided by the Government changes, which would give more flexibility, and any environmental improvement suggestions would be given extra weight due to the decisions on climate change made at this meeting.

In answer to Members questions, the Director Commercial reminded the Council that there was an application process for potential projects to go on the list. Applications were accepted all year round, but it was being recommended that the current list be approved.

When put to the vote the original motion was declared agreed.

It was resolved:

- (i) That the update provided on the changes to the Community Infrastructure Levy regulations which came into force on 1 September 2019 be noted;
- (ii) That the Infrastructure List as set out in Appendix 1 be approved;

- (iii) That the draft Governance Arrangements as set out in Appendix 2 be approved;
- (iv) That the Deputy Monitoring Officer be authorised to make the necessary changes to the Council's Constitution.

*Councillor Julia Huffer left the meeting at this point, 12:07.*

52. **COMBINED AUTHORITY UPDATE REPORTS**

Council considered a revised set of reports, as tabled, from the Combined Authority on its activities.

It was resolved:

That the revised tabled report on the activities of the Combined Authority be noted.

53. **ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ON THE GROUNDS OF URGENCY**

Council considered a report, U98 previously circulated, outlining the action taken by the Chief Executive on the grounds of urgency.

It was resolved:

That the action taken by the Chief Executive on grounds of urgency be noted.

54. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS & PUBLIC**

It was resolved:

That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of the remaining item no. 20 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 the public were present during the items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Category 3 of Part I Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

55. **ASSET MANAGEMENT MATTER**

Council considered an Exempt report, U99 previously circulated, concerning an asset management matter.

Councillor David Brown proposed, seconded by Councillor Ian Bovingdon, that the recommendations in the report be approved.

The Director Commercial outlined the matter and clarified the process following Members' questions.

It was resolved:

That the recommendation in the report be agreed.

The meeting concluded at 12:25am.

Chairman.....

Date: