



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 30 May
2019 at 6.00pm

P R E S E N T

Councillor Christine Ambrose Smith	Councillor Julia Huffer
Councillor David Ambrose Smith	Councillor Bill Hunt
Councillor Sue Austen	Councillor Mark Inskip
Councillor Anna Bailey	Councillor Alec Jones
Councillor Ian Bovingdon	Councillor Joshua Schumann
Councillor David Brown	Councillor Alan Sharp
Councillor Charlotte Cane	Councillor Lisa Stubbs
Councillor Victoria Charlesworth	Councillor Paola Trimarco
Councillor Matthew Downey	Councillor Jo Webber
Councillor Lorna Dupré	Councillor Alison Whelan
Councillor Lavinia Edwards	Councillor Christine Whelan
Councillor Simon Harries	Councillor Gareth Wilson

Approximately 6 members of the public/staff were in attendance at the meeting and the meeting was filmed by a member of the public.

Prior to the commencement of formal business, prayers were delivered by the Very Reverend Mark Bonney, Dean of Ely Cathedral.

1. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No public questions were submitted.

2. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2015/16**

It was resolved:

That Councillor Lis Every be elected to the office of Chairman of East Cambridgeshire District Council for the ensuing Municipal Year 2019/20.

3. **VOTE OF THANKS TO OUTGOING CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL AND PRESENTATION OF PAST CHAIRMAN'S MEDALLION AND SCROLL**

In the absence of the new Chairman of Council, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Anna Bailey, stated that it was her great pleasure to give the vote of thanks to the outgoing Chairman, Peter Cresswell, who had retired as a Councillor at the May District Council elections. She referred to the fact that Peter was the only Councillor to serve two terms as Chairman of Council, as evidenced by the Board in the Council Chamber. In this role, he had championed the link between the Council and local businesses by organising Councillor visits to a varied range of key businesses and industries within the District, from horse racing studs to local agri-tech companies. Peter and his wife and consort Roslyn, would fill a page of Civic engagements for each Council Agenda, regarding this as an important way to raise the profile of the District. Councillor Bailey had fond memories of his Chairman's

Receptions hosted in various parts of the District at which he always acted as the best of hosts, greatly assisted by his background in the entertainment industry.

Peter had represented the Cheveley Ward from 2003, with a brief sabbatical, serving the people of this community diligently and setting a high standard of both public and Civic service.

Councillor Bailey expressed the thanks of the Council and best wishes for the future to both Peter and Roslyn and this was followed by a round of applause by those present at the meeting.

The Leader presented Peter Cresswell with a framed scroll containing a resolution of thanks to the outgoing Chairman of the Council, a past Chairman's badge and an East Cambridgeshire District Council pill pot emblazoned with the Council's crest.

Peter Cresswell then addressed the Council and thanked Councillor Bailey for the scroll and medallion and her kind words. He stated that it had been a privilege and honour to serve as Council Chairman again for the past two years.

When he returned to the Council in 2015, he had no aspiration to hold Civic office again, but circumstances determined otherwise. We all know that life is full of surprises. He commented that he was a traditionalist believing that Civic life was important. Acting as ambassador for the Council had been a great pleasure and he had the opportunity to meet countless local residents, engage with local organisations and visit local businesses. East Cambridgeshire has a great deal to offer.

He conveyed his thanks to a number of people: Members of the previous Council for their support; the officer team at The Grange; and particularly the Chairman's PA, Lynne Smart, who it had been a pleasure to work with.

Finally he thanked two ladies who were unable to be with us this evening. His Vice-Chairman, Councillor Lis Every, now Chairman of Council, for her support and friendship. Then someone who had always been at his side throughout his four years in the role, his wife and consort Roslyn, whose support had been constant throughout. She currently was on holiday in Canada with their daughter. However, he would like to place his appreciation to her on public record.

Peter Cresswell wished the Council well for the coming four years and commented that serving as a District Councillor was a big commitment. Major challenges lie ahead and he wished the Council future success. This was followed by another round of applause by those present at the meeting.

4. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Every, Daniel Schumann, Starkey and Trapp.

5. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

11 – Councillor Bailey Prejudicial Interest as a Director of ECTC.

6. **MINUTES**

It was resolved:

That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 11 April 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN 2015/16**

Councillors Sue Austen and Alan Sharp were nominated for the office of Vice-Chairman. Following a secret ballot in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.2.1, Councillor Austen was duly elected.

It was resolved:

That Councillor Sue Austen be appointed as Vice-Chairman of East Cambridgeshire District Council for the municipal year 2019/20.

Vice-Chairman in the Chair

8. **ELECTION RESULTS**

The Council received a report, U1, detailing the East Cambridgeshire District Council election results and list of persons elected as District Councillors on 2 May 2019.

Councillor Hunt highlighted that he would like to be referred to as Councillor Bill Hunt rather than the more formal William Hunt.

It was resolved:

That the election results be noted and the newly elected Councillors congratulated.

9. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chief Executive read out the following announcements on behalf of the Chairman:

Clean Air Day - 20 June 2019

Clean Air Day is the UK's national air pollution campaign, engaging thousands of people at hundreds of events, and reaching millions more through the media. Clean Air Day is on 20 June 2019.

East Cambridgeshire will be encouraging staff and Members to contribute to Clean Air day by making a pledge and turning the pledge into action.

Examples:

- Give the car a day off
- Walk or cycle to work
- Not to idle the car engine

Environmental Health will be dropping off posters, leaflets and pledge bubbles to all the libraries in the district for them to display in the run-up to Clean Air Day on 20th June. Copies of the posters and pledge bubbles are

displayed in the Council Chamber tonight and a leaflet is tabled for all Councillors.

Co-ordinated by Global Action Plan, an environmental charity, Clean Air Day brings together communities, businesses, education and the health sector:

- To improve public understanding of air pollution, both indoors and outdoors.
- To build awareness of how air pollution affects our health.
- To explain some of the easy things we can all do to tackle air pollution, helping to protect the environment and our health too.

If you would like further information, please contact Liz Knox, Environmental Services Manager.

Committee Meetings following this Council meeting

Please can I remind Members to stay behind at the conclusion of this Council meeting, as there will be a series of 'mini' Committee meetings to elect the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, appoint Sub-Committees, etc.

10. **PETITIONS**

No petitions had been received.

11. **MOTIONS**

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor Dupré and seconded by Councillor Cane:

This Council:

1. welcomes the passage of Statutory Instrument 2019 No. 682 which came into force on 23 April 2019 and which permits accommodation provided by a private registered provider under an agreement with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to be let as social housing at an affordable rent;
2. acknowledges receipt of the letter dated 1 May 2019 from the Director of Housing & Development at the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority inviting the council to discuss schemes with the Combined Authority now that it is able to invest in new affordable homes across all tenures;
3. recognises the pressing need for affordable homes, including homes for rent, in East Cambridgeshire, and the fact that affordable house building completions in the district have fallen below 5 per cent in at least two recent years;
4. believes that in becoming a commercial property developer, the Council should aim to provide homes for those most in need even when the development is not new-build;

5. notes with concern the council's current proposals to provide only 15 affordable homes, none of them for rent, out of the 92 refurbished MOD homes in Ely;
6. resolves to revisit its proposals for the MOD scheme, and to put to the Combined Authority a scheme to increase the proportion of affordable homes on the site to at least 50 per cent, including a significant number of homes for affordable rent.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Dupré stated that this issue had been the subject of discussion in this Council Chamber for some time and a commitment had been given by the former Leader of the Council at the last Council meeting and recorded in Minute 90 attached in this Agenda, to re-visit the affordable rented Housing element in the MOD Scheme once Government Policy on the issue changed. Now this change had occurred and the Combined Authority had the power to fund affordable rented Housing from the £100M programme, there was the chance to do this. This Council recognised the fall in affordable Housing provision within the District to below 5% in recent years. There was a requirement for the Council to provide Housing to those in need as well as act as a developer, but the MOD scheme currently included only 15 affordable houses. Councillor Dupré emphasised that she did not want the Council to abandon the scheme but to re-visit the proposals to seek to create more affordable housing units for rent on the site. Councillor Dupré thanked officers for the explanatory Briefing Note circulated to them on this issue. In response to this she stated that no assumption was being made as to the number of affordable Housing units to be provided such as the figure of 31 stated in the Briefing Note and Members would be willing to consider a lower figure, provided that a 'significant' number of affordable Housing units could be provided as part of the scheme. Councillor Dupré expressed a willingness to discuss this further with Officers and the Administration.

Councillor Bailey exercised her public speaking right, stating that the Motion placed the Business Case for the project at serious risk and as such could be regarded as a 'wrecking' Motion. The scheme was not solely being undertaken to make money but to bring back into use houses that had been left empty for many years. The MOD required full market value for the site and if it was acquired by a private developer there would be no affordable Housing provision requirement at all for the refurbishment of the existing properties. The Council would provide 15 shared ownership Housing units in phase 1 and look to improve on affordable Housing provision in phase 2 of the development. However, the conditions on the loan funding from the Combined Authority limited the scope of the Council without jeopardising the viability of the overall scheme. The current scheme would deliver 15 affordable Housing units at no cost to the Council Tax Payer and still provide a modest profit to cushion for unforeseen circumstances and to assist in the delivery of Council services in the future. The Combined Authority was highly unlikely to approve a higher level of contribution per unit to facilitate more affordable Housing units in phase 1 of the development, but the Council may be able to consider this as part of phase 2 of the development. Whilst the aims of the Motion in looking to provide more affordable Housing may be laudable, this was not the way to achieve it. The deadline for drawdown of the funding from the Combined Authority was 30 June 2019 and any delay could mean the MOD offering the site to private developers with no obligation to provide any affordable Housing. In addition, the Council already had incurred significant costs if the project failed. Therefore, Councillor Bailey asked the Liberal Democrat Group not to risk the project and vote against the Motion or abstain.

Councillor Bailey left the meeting for the remainder of this item and took no further part in the discussion and voting thereon.

Councillor Harries stated that this was not a 'wrecking' Motion as indicated by Councillor Bailey and that Members could not just take it on trust that the provision of further affordable Housing would be considered in the future.

Councillor Hunt commented that whilst he also would like to see 50% affordable Housing provision in the scheme, Members had to consider the facts of the sale by the MOD and loan from the Combined Authority. A private developer of the site would have no obligation to provide any affordable Housing at all, so the public could have 15 homes or 50% of nothing. This did not have to be taken on trust, as an officer Briefing Note had been provided showing the facts and figures. Any deviation would finish the deal.

Councillor Inskip referred to the 'can do' attitude of the Council but this was not being demonstrated at present. He did not believe that 15 affordable Housing units was the best that could be managed. Local people needed affordable homes and this was a key message whilst he was 'door knocking' at election time. Therefore, this Council should be examining what can be done in the light of the Government policy change and not just stating that nothing was possible. This Council should be able to do better than 15 affordable Housing units from 92. The Council should focus less on acting as a property developer and more on providing something positive for the local community.

Councillor Downey stated that he was probably the youngest Councillor present and it was the first time he had spoken in the Council Chamber. He wanted to act on the views expressed by local people on the doorstep and deliver on affordable Housing provision.

Councillor Schumann emphasised that the Briefing Note was an impartial factual summary of the position on the scheme from officers. The Motion would result in the Council being unable to proceed with the scheme. Therefore, he urged Members to defer the Motion and work with senior officers to find a way forward. The project allowed for a very modest profit margin compared to private developers and set a realistic contingency provision for unforeseen circumstances. The Council could develop the site with 15 affordable Housing units or a private developer with none.

Councillor Sharp expressed surprise and disappointment at the Motion and stated that the Council had demonstrated a 'can do' attitude over the past 4 years, delivering many projects that benefitted local people. As a Member of the Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee, he was aware of the conditions and thresholds required by the Combined Authority for funding affordable Housing schemes and those required to achieve the Motion would not be approved by the Combined Authority.

Councillor Cane stated that the Liberal Democrat Group had considered the Motion and officer Briefing Note very seriously. Sanctuary Housing Association had 710 applicants in high need of housing within this District. This was not a wrecking Motion and the Council could still purchase the site and drawdown the funding from the Combined Authority, whilst discussions took place with the Combined Authority on the possible delivery of more affordable Housing units in the light of the Government policy change. Councillor Cane outlined a scenario whereby 36 shared ownership units and 10 affordable rent units could be delivered, meaning that 46 local people could be in affordable Housing by Christmas.

Councillor Brown stated that the risk was too great to proceed in accordance with the Motion and requested a recorded vote on the issue.

Councillor Huffer referred to the fact that figures of 50% affordable Housing and other combinations had been raised as part of the debate this evening. Therefore, she urged Members to defer the Motion to the July meeting to find the best way forward. She commented that the Motion was like changing solicitors just before completing a house purchase, such last minute measures seriously jeopardised the scheme. She reiterated the fact that any private developer of the site would not be obliged provide any affordable Housing.

The meeting was adjourned at 6.56pm for a comfort break and re-convened at 7.01pm.

In summing-up, Councillor Dupré stated that a number of unsubstantiated claims had been made during the debate of what might occur. On a point of order, Councillor Schumann stated that these had been substantiated and evidenced in the officer Briefing Note.

Councillor Dupré continued by reiterating that this was not intended as a wrecking Motion. 130 affordable Housing units should be constructed within the District each year and this target had not been reached since 2007/08. This was not good enough. Deferral would defeat the Motion as the deal would be done. Councillor Dupré again referred to the statement made at the last Council meeting by the then Leader of the Council regarding affordable Housing provision for the MOD scheme and emphasised that she was asking for this undertaking to be met to deliver the maximum number of affordable Housing units in the light of the change in Government policy.

Following a recorded vote, the Motion was declared to be carried, with members voting as follows:

FOR: (12) Councillors: Austen, Cane, Charlesworth, Downey, Dupré, Harries, Inskip, Jones, Trimarco, Alison Whelan, Christine Whelan, Wilson.

AGAINST: (11) Councillors: Christine Ambrose-Smith, David Ambrose-Smith, Bovingdon, Brown, Edwards, Huffer, Hunt, Joshua Schumann, Sharp, Stubbs, Webber.

ABSTENTIONS: (0)

Councillor Bailey returned to the meeting at 7.08pm

12. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

The following questions were received from Councillors and responded to as detailed:

Question from Councillor Charlotte Cane

Neighbourhood Plans

How many parishes in East Cambs have submitted the proposed neighbourhood areas to ECDC for designation? When were these designations agreed, and are there any submissions awaiting agreement?

Response from Director Commercial:

Eight Areas have been designated as 'Neighbourhood Areas'. The first was Sutton in January 2015, and the most recent was Isleham in February 2019. No submissions are currently under consideration. Full details of which areas are designated, and when, and whether a Neighbourhood Plan has subsequently been progressed are available on our website:

<https://www.eastcamb.gov.uk/local-development-framework/neighbourhood-planning>

However, a summary is given below:

Sutton Council	Parish	08 January 2015
Bottisham Council	Parish	12 February 2016
Witchford Council	Parish	26 August 2016; amended 06 February 2019
Fordham Council	Parish	21 December 2017
Cheveley Council	Parish	10 December 2018
Swaffham Parish Council	Bulbeck	07 January 2019
Reach Council	Parish	18 February 2019
Isleham Council	Parish	21 February 2019

Councillor Cane expressed her support for Neighbourhood Plans and asked how this Council was encouraging more Parish Councils to undertake these. Whilst not a point of clarification, the Chief Executive agreed to respond to this in writing and copy the response to all Councillors.

Question from Councillor Matthew Downey

Local Plan

What is the status of the current Local Plan? What plans are there for the development of a new up to date Local Plan?

Response from Director Commercial:

The current Local Plan for decision-making purposes is the April 2015 Local Plan. The previously emerging new Local Plan was withdrawn by Full Council in February 2019 and has no status. A decision to commence a new Local Plan is a matter for full Council to decide. A report setting out options on whether or not to commence a Local Plan will be submitted to full Council in due course and by no later than the April 2015 Local Plan becoming five years old, reflecting the Legal requirement for a review within 5 years.

Councillor Downey asked if there was any reason not to commence a new Local Plan, but this was ruled out of order as questions under Procedure Rule 13 had to be put and answered without discussion.

13. **LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF COUNCIL, GROUP LEADERS AND DEPUTY GROUP LEADERS**

The Council received a report, U2, regarding details of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, Political Groups, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders for the forthcoming municipal year.

It was resolved:

That the details of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council; Political Groups; Group Leaders and Deputies for the forthcoming municipal year, as set out below, be noted:

Conservative

Cllr Anna Bailey (Leader)
Cllr Joshua Schumann (Deputy)

Liberal Democrat

Cllr Lorna Dupré (Leader)
Cllr Charlotte Cane (Deputy)

In accordance with Article 2.03(b), the declared Leader of the Council is Cllr Anna Bailey as Leader of the Conservative Group. In accordance with Article 2.03(c), the declared Deputy Leader of the Council is Cllr Joshua Schumann as Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group.

14. **POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY**

The Council received a report, U3, which gave details of the political balance of the Council and the implications for the allocation of seats on Committees.

It was resolved:

That Council notes the details of the political balance of the Council as set out in Appendix 1 and approves the allocation of seats on Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member Bodies as set out in Appendix 2 to the submitted report.

15. **MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES (INCLUDING SUBSTITUTES) AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES 2015/16**

Council received a report, U4, for Members to consider the appointment of Members and Substitute Members to Committees, Sub-Committees and to other Member Bodies for 2019/20. An updated list of the Membership of the Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member bodies for 2019/20, Appendix 1 of the Officer's report, was tabled at the meeting.

Councillor Cane requested advice from the Monitoring Officer as to whether Councillor Bailey should be declaring an Interest in this item as a Director of the Council's Trading Companies. Councillor Bailey stated that she had taken advice from the Monitoring Officer on this issue and would be remaining and speaking on

the item. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that she had given advice to Councillor Bailey on the matter.

Councillor Brown moved the recommendations in the submitted report and this was seconded by Councillor J Schumann. Councillor Dupré then moved an amendment that was seconded by Councillor Cane, to delete recommendations 1, 2 and 3, as these issues had been agreed by Council only 1 month previously and did not need revisiting at this stage, but should be retained as agreed. Councillor Dupré believed that the new proposals would increase the potential for conflicts of interest for Councillor Directors of the Trading Companies.

Councillor Bailey expressed disappointment at the amendment, since she had discussed this matter with the Liberal Democrat Leader a week ago. She did not concur with Councillor Dupré'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.

Councillor J Schumann endorsed Councillor Bailey's views and expressed the view that the proposals would increase the level of scrutiny and transparency relating to the companies rather than making them more closed and opaque, which may be the result of the amendment. The position could be reviewed in 6 months time, if this was not found to be the case.

Councillor Harries emphasised that this was not intended as a 'wrecking' amendment.

Councillor Sharp commented that the Shareholder arrangements had been evolving over time but were still comparatively new and developing.

Councillor Cane expressed concern that, under the proposals, Operational Services Committee would be performing both client and shareholder responsibilities, which was not a good division of roles and responsibilities. Therefore, the original arrangements should be adhered to for the time being. Councillor Inskip commented that it was the responsibility of the Opposition Group to hold the Administration to account and raise concerns regarding potential conflicts of interest.

Councillor Bailey, on a point of personal explanation, stated that the potential for conflicts of interest would be lessened by the Chairs of the opposite Policy Committee being a Director of the relevant Trading Company. Councillor Dupré queried the necessity for changing the agreed arrangements after only 6 weeks and stated that time should be taken before any review.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was lost due to a parity of votes and then the original motion was carried 12:0 with 12 abstentions.

It was resolved:

That Council:

1. Authorise the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer to make amendments to the Shareholder Agreement and terms of reference of

the appropriate Committees to facilitate the following changes, specifically:-

- that the Finance and Assets Committee undertake the 'shareholder' function for East Cambs Trading Company (ECTC);
 - that the Operational Services Committee undertake the 'shareholder' function for East Cambs Street Scene (ECSS).
2. Approves the appointment of Leader of Council and Chairman, Operational Services Committee to the ECTC Board of Directors.
 3. Approves the appointment of Deputy Leader of Council and Chairman, Finance & Assets Committee to the ECSS Board of Directors.
 4. Approves the appointment of three substitutes from each of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups for the Licensing Committee.
 5. Approves the Membership of Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member Bodies for 2019/20 as set out in the revised Appendix 1 tabled at the meeting.

16. **CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY**

a. Appointments to Combined Authority

Council considered a report, U5, requesting the Council to make appointments to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for the municipal year 2019/20. The Democratic Services Manager advised Council of the nominations she had received from the two Group Leaders to the various positions in accordance with the Proportionality calculations from the Combined Authority.

It was resolved:

1. That the following appointments be made to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for the municipal year 2019/20:
 - (a) The Leader of Council Councillor Anna Bailey act as the Council's appointee to the Combined Authority and the Deputy Leader of the Council Councillor Joshua Schumann act as the substitute member;
 - (b) Councillor Alan Sharp with Councillor David Ambrose-Smith as substitute from the Conservative party and Councillor Lorna Dupré with Councillor Charlotte Cane as substitute from the Liberal Democrat Party be appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
 - (c) Councillor David Brown from the Conservative party with Councillor David Ambrose-Smith as substitute Member be appointed to the Audit and Governance Committee.
2. That the Chief Executive be authorised to make any amendments to the appointments to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Audit and

Governance Committee, if the political balance is amended by the Combined Authority between now and the next Council meeting.

b. Combined Authority Update Report

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

Councillor Hunt highlighted the investment and projects the Combined Authority was bringing to the area. This included £500K for the A10 Corridor, £400K from the Bus review and £100K for the Cambridge South Rail Station. This should be welcomed and applauded.

It was resolved:

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

17. **SUTTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ADOPTION**

Council considered a report, U6, requesting the formal adoption of the Sutton Neighbourhood Plan following the successful Referendum on 2 May 2019.

Councillor Stubbs as a local Ward Councillor congratulated Sutton PC on the significant amount of work they had undertaken to get the Plan to adoption stage. This required a great amount of time and effort by volunteers from the community to complete the lengthy process required. The Steering Group established to achieve this had been led by a team of people who truly wanted to have a say in the future of the village. All of the consultation events held in the local community had been well attended and the feedback obtained from all of the consultation processes had been used to develop the content of the Plan. This now will effectively define where future development would take place and the nature of this development and the corresponding infrastructure. The proportion of CIL received by the village also would increase from 15% to 25% as a result of the adoption of the Plan. The fact that the Council had 3 years of deliverable Housing sites also meant that the village was protected against unwelcome developments. Councillor Stubbs stated that she was honoured to have been a member of the Steering Group and wholeheartedly supported the recommendation for adoption.

Councillor Inskip also expressed his pleasure to be able to speak in support of this item. He stated that it had been a long but rewarding journey and, whilst Sutton had been the first Parish to seek designation, they had been 'pipped to the post' by Fordham in being the first Parish within the District to formally adopt a Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Inskip thanked all of the people involved in the development of the Plan and particularly the District Councillors who had contributed over the past 4 years. The Plan also had provided a valuable opportunity to find out what other improvements residents wanted within the village. These would be progressed further with the relevant authorities. Councillor Inskip encouraged other Parishes to undertake the Neighbourhood Planning process, and the District Council to provide as much support, guidance and advice as possible to promote this. The strategic Planning Officers were commended for their invaluable assistance. Councillor Inskip highlighted the 2/5ths turnout and 90.5% vote in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor Dupré also expressed her thanks for the Officer support provided and particularly to Ed Dade from the Strategic Planning Team. She acknowledged

the great community involvement in getting the Plan to this stage and encouraged other villages to do the same, highlighting the availability of support and funding to do so.

Councillor Huffer congratulated Sutton on completion of the process and encouraged the members of the Steering Group to share their knowledge and experience with other Parishes interested in or commencing the process, as Fordham had done.

It was resolved (unanimously):

That Council:

1. Congratulates Sutton Parish Council on its preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan and a successful referendum outcome, becoming the second parish council to do so in East Cambridgeshire.
2. Formally makes the Sutton Neighbourhood Plan (as attached at Appendix 1) part of the Development Plan for East Cambridgeshire with immediate effect.

The meeting concluded at 7.48pm.

Chairman.....

Date: 18 July 2019