

Minutes of a meeting of the **SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL** held in the Function Room, South Holland Centre, Market Place, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 1SS, on Wednesday, 19 January 2022 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

P A Redgate (Chairman)

B Alcock
J R Astill
J Avery
A C Beal
F Biggadike
H J W Bingham
M D Booth
C J T H Brewis
T A Carter
A Casson
P E Coupland

A C Cronin
R Gambba-Jones
R A Gibson
R Grocock
C J Lawton
J D McLean
A M Newton
N H Pepper
G A Porter
J L Reynolds
G T D Rudkin

G P Scalese
M D Seymour
S-A Slade
E J Sneath
G J Taylor
S C Walsh
D J Wilkinson
A R Woolf (Vice-
Chairman)
C N Worth

Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Councillors M Hasan, J L King, A C Tennant and J Tyrrell.

In Attendance: The Joint Chief Executive, the Interim Deputy Chief Executive - Communities, the Head of Environmental and Operational Services, the Democratic Services Manager and the Democratic Services Team Leader.

71. MINUTES

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 24 November 2021.

DECISION:

That the minutes be signed as a correct record.

72. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

There were none.

73. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Chairman made the following announcements:

Action By

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- The Chairman's Civic Service would be held on Sunday 27 February 2022 at 2.30pm at St Mary's Church in Whaplode – all members would have received an email regarding this;
- The Leader requested that all members remain behind following the Council meeting, for a short update.

74. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET.

The Leader had no announcements to make.

There were no announcements from the Cabinet.

75. QUESTIONS ASKED ON NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER 6

There were none.

76. QUESTIONS ASKED WITHOUT NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER 7

Question to: Councillor Coupland

Question From: Councillor Newton

Subject: Capital spend on leisure facilities

Councillor Newton congratulated the Council and the Cabinet on the way in which the budget had been presented. However, she commented that she was disappointed that there was no capital spend on leisure facilities, when interest rates were so low. Despite reports having been commissioned over the last few years, the situation had not moved forward, and there was no provision within the budget for this.

Councillor Coupland responded that the capital programme had been set but would be revised over the next few weeks, particularly with regard to acquisitions, and that all members would have sight of this before the final budget was agreed at Council in March. Although the Authority held reserves to undertake smaller work projects, the only way that it could proceed with any big leisure projects would be to commit to substantial borrowing. He acknowledged that the amounts spent over the years in maintaining existing facilities had accumulated. He could not confirm that the issue would be in this year's capital programme however, leisure was on the radar following this year's budget setting. There would come a time when the issue would have to be addressed – finances were the main consideration, and the pandemic had caused a delay in addressing the issue.

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Question to: Councillor Taylor
Question From: Councillor Gibson
Subject: Celebrations to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Councillor Gibson commented that 2022 was an important year for the monarch who would be celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of her accession to the throne. Some parishes were already planning celebrations – what was being planned at a district level?

Councillor Taylor advised that he had attended meetings earlier in the month with managers from the Communities department to discuss opportunities for events across the district. Arrangements had not been confirmed due to Covid-related uncertainty however, following the Government's announcements today to relax restrictions, it was hoped that progress could now be made and that further information would soon be provided.

Question to: Councillor Porter
Question From: Councillor Brewis
Subject: Internal Drainage Boards

Councillor Brewis asked whether any progress had been made in drawing the Government's attention to the issue of the increased cost of red diesel to the Internal Drainage Boards, which was in turn affecting all authorities in areas where drainage boards were a necessity.

The Leader responded that last week, a meeting had been held between officers of the Authority and representatives from the Government's Treasury and Communities Departments, to discuss issues around Internal Drainage Boards. He commented that it was the most productive meeting that had been held between the Authority and central government and that the issues had been thoroughly explained. The Leader commented that he had also raised the issue, both verbally and in writing, with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and that he was hopeful that progress was now being made. He stated that the charge should be removed from the Authority's precept and that Internal Drainage Boards should become precepting authorities in their own right. The most expensive drainage boards, in terms of Council Tax, were those that flowed around the Wash and all councils within the S&ELCP partnership were heavily affected, and other authorities locally and some nationally, who also relied heavily on the drainage boards were disproportionately disadvantaged. Internal Drainage Boards were good value for money, and extremely important in the area in ensuring drained

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land for its large amount of food production.

77. COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the following Committees and Panels were noted:

- Performance Monitoring Panel – 9 November 2021
- Governance and Audit Committee – 11 November 2021
- Policy Development Panel – 16 November 2021
- Special meeting of the Performance Monitoring Panel – 7 December 2021
- Special meeting of the Policy Development Panel – 14 December 2021

78. KEY DECISION PLAN

Consideration was given to the Key Decision Plan.

DECISION:

That the Key Decision Plan be noted.

79. REPORT FROM CABINET MEETING ON 14 DECEMBER 2021

Consideration was given to the report of Cabinet which sought approval for the Cabinet's recommendations:

a) Garden Waste Scheme Update

The report was presented to the Council by the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services.

- Members understood that the purple sack scheme was to be phased out – would those that had already bought some be able to continue to use them up?
 - The Portfolio Holder confirmed that if they had already been paid for, customers would be able to benefit from them until their supply was exhausted. However, people were being asked to take advantage of the service being provided now, and that the brown bins would be more convenient than the purple sacks.
- Members commented that not everybody who wanted to join the brown bin scheme would be able to. In rural communities, the scheme was not commercially viable – if currently using purple sacks, would people be able to continue to use them?
 - The Portfolio Holder responded that the purple

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sacks scheme had always been an anomaly, and in addition, it was becoming increasingly unacceptable to put green waste into the residual system. It would take some time to roll out the brown bin scheme and to look at individual cases however, it was acknowledged that some people would not be able to use the scheme they were currently using.

- The Head of Environmental and Operational Services reiterated that the report confirmed that as a result of the Environment Act 2021, garden waste had to be collected separately and composted. Those who had purchased purple sacks recently would be contacted and made aware of the change, and alternative options available to them.

DECISION:

- 1) That the current establishment is increased by 3 full time posts, a full-time supervisor, full-time garden waste HGV driver and full-time garden waste loader and that the costs for these posts be funded from the income generated by the scheme;
- 2) That, should the review of terms and conditions of the garden waste scheme prove it necessary, a consultation with staff commence to consider changing start times for garden waste crews to 6am; and
- 3) That delegated authority be given to the Head of Environmental and Operational Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder of Environmental Services, to implement the outcome of that consultation.

b) Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2022/23

The report was presented to the Council by the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercialisation and Partnerships.

DECISION:

- 1) The continuation of the current Local Council Tax Support scheme, including uprating in line with DWP's annual update of allowances and premiums for housing benefit for 2022/23;
- 2) The introduction of a provision in the scheme for discretion to disregard national schemes introduced during a financial year in the calculation of Council Tax Support; and

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- 3) Delegation to the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Development) and S151 Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Partnerships and Commercialisation, to approve the final 2022/23 scheme in line with this report, and any administrative and minor changes
- c) 2021/22 Financial Report Quarter 2

The report was presented to the Council by the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercialisation and Partnerships.

DECISION:

To approve adjustments to the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital programme as set in table 5 and 7 of Appendix A (to the original Cabinet report attached).

80. HRA RENT SETTING 2022-2023

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Director – Housing and the Portfolio Holder for HRA and Private Sector Housing, which sought Cabinet approval for the proposed applicable rent increase allowable under the Rent Standard 2020 for the HRA tenants and other housing tenures.

DECISION:

That the following rent increases be approved:

HRA tenants	CPI +1%
HRA guest rooms	CPI + 1%
HRA private hire fees for guest rooms and community centres	CPI + 1%
South Holland Homes	CPI + 1%
S106 managed units	CPI + 1%
Garage plots	CPI +1%
Homeless accommodation for individuals and families	CPI +1%
Shared ownership rents	RPI +1%

81. MID TERM TREASURY REPORT 2021/22

Consideration was given to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive – Corporate Development (S151) which provided an update of the treasury management position of the Council as at 30 September 2021.

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DECISION:

That the report, the treasury activity as detailed in Appendix A and the economic update from Link Asset Services at Appendix B be noted.

82. NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEES AND OTHER SEATS AND PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION.

There were none.

83. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were none.

(The meeting ended at 7.19 pm)

(End of minutes).