

Minutes of a meeting of the **SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL** held in the Marquee Suite, Springfields Events & Conference Centre, Camelgate, Spalding, PE12 6ET, on Wednesday, 19 May 2021 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

F Biggadike (Chairman)
P A Redgate (Vice-Chairman)

B Alcock	R A Gibson	G P Scalese
J R Astill	R Grocock	M D Seymour
J Avery	M Hasan	E J Sneath
A C Beal	J L King	G J Taylor
H J W Bingham	C J Lawton	A C Tennant
M D Booth	J D McLean	J Tyrrell
C J T H Brewis	A M Newton	S C Walsh
P E Coupland	N H Pepper	D J Wilkinson
A C Cronin	G A Porter	A R Woolf
T A Carter	J L Reynolds	C N Worth
A Casson	G T D Rudkin	

Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Councillors H Drury, R Gambba-Jones and S-A Slade,

In Attendance: The Executive Director (Strategy and Resources) (S151), the Assistant Director - Governance (Monitoring Officer), the Assistant Director - Communities and Operations, the Head of Delivery, the Democratic Services Manager, the Democratic Services Team Leader and the Democratic Services Trainee.

1. MINUTE'S SILENCE

Prior to the formal business of the agenda, the outgoing Chairman called on all present to observe a minute's silence in remembrance of all those who had lost their lives to, or who had been affected by Covid-19.

2. ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN

The outgoing Chairman thanked Councillors for their support during his Chairmanship. He invited nominations for the election of Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year. Councillor P Redgate was nominated and seconded.

DECISION:

That Councillor P Redgate be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.

Action By

FW

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL -
19 May 2021

(Councillor Redgate thereupon took the Chair and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.)

3. ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Chairman invited nominations for the appointment of a Vice Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year. Councillor A Woolf was nominated and seconded.

DECISION:

That Councillor A Woolf be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

FW

4. MINUTES

Consideration was given to the following minutes:

- Special Council – 24 February 2021
- Council – 3 March 2021
- Special Council – 28 April 2021

DECISION:

That the minutes of the following meetings be signed by the Chairman as a correct record:

- Special Council – 24 February 2021
- Council – 3 March 2021
- Special Council – 28 April 2021

5. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

The Leader of the Council declared an interest in relation to agenda items 12a, b and c, as they related to the purchase of new properties, and he had the potential to know the parties involved. He would take no part in the discussion, and would leave the meeting for consideration of these items.

Councillors Alcock, Booth, Coupland, Seymour, Sneath and Tyrrell did not have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, but in the interests of transparency declared that, in relation to agenda item 12c, that they were on the Board of Directors of Welland Homes Ltd.

Councillor Grocock did not have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, but in the interests of transparency declared that, in relation to

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL -
19 May 2021

agenda item 12c, he was a Shareholder Representative for Welland Homes Ltd.

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Chairman thanked everybody for their attendance and stated that, after a year of virtual meetings necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic, it was good to see all members and officers together in a physical meeting.

The Chairman wished to thank the previous Chairman, Councillor Biggadike, for his service to the Council, and for his guidance whilst he had undertaken the role of Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Woolf as Vice-Chairman, and stated that they would work hard together for the Council and the communities they represented.

The Chairman announced that his Chairman's charity was Mind, a charity of real significance, particularly over the last year as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. He also stated that he wished to recognise local charities and would consider ways in which to assist them. He asked to be advised of any projects that would benefit from the Chairman's or the Vice-Chairman's assistance.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET.

Councillor Porter congratulated Councillor Redgate on his appointment as Chairman, and also thanked the outgoing Chairman, Councillor Biggadike, and his wife, for their service.

There were no Cabinet announcements.

8. QUESTIONS ASKED ON NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER 6

There were none.

9. QUESTIONS ASKED WITHOUT NOTICE UNDER STANDING ORDER 7

Question to: Councillor Coupland

Question From: Councillor Newton

Subject: Delivery of Welland Homes Business Plan

Councillor Newton asked whether delivery of the Welland Homes

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL -
19 May 2021

Business Plan was on track and if not, what was being done to address this. Councillor Coupland responded that as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Business Plan was slightly behind where it should be however, this was being addressed and in the last six to eight weeks, another 10 properties had been secured. The target within the Business Plan was 60 properties and at the present time, 45 had been acquired. New schemes were being considered, and it took time to find properties that were value for money. However, it was stated that more properties would be considered over the next few months.

Question to: Councillor Lawton

Question From: Councillor Booth

Subject: Funding to provide energy efficient homes

Referring to the forthcoming decision on the Key Decision Planner – ‘Energy efficiency works to council properties’ Councillor Booth asked whether funding was available to residents of South Holland to make their homes more energy efficient? Would there be assistance for people on benefits, and would assistance be provided as a loan or a grant? Councillor Lawton advised that she did not have the information available but would liaise with the Assistant Director - Housing and provide members with information in due course.

Question to: Councillor Lawton

Question From: Councillor Brewis

Subject: Registered Social Landlords – compliance with good practice

Councillor Brewis commented that although some Housing Associations (Registered Social Landlords/RSLs) operated well, others did not, and during the Covid-19 pandemic, members had received many queries from tenants. He asked whether the Authority had the power to require compliance with good practice, and where there were nomination rights, were these exercised and a level of competence and compliance used to ensure good practice was followed? Councillor Lawton was not able to confirm if the Authority had powers but advised that it did have influence. There were some RSLs that were not providing the level of service required, and this was being pursued. The Authority did have nomination rights and influence.

10. COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the following Committees and Panels were noted:

- Policy Development Panel – 2 March 2021

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL -
19 May 2021

- Planning Committee – 10 March 2021
- Governance and Audit Committee – 11 March 2021
- Performance Monitoring Panel – 18 March 2021
- Planning Committee – 14 April 2021
- Planning Committee – 29 April 2021

11. KEY DECISION PLAN

Consideration was given to the Key Decision Plan.

DECISION:

That the Key Decision Plan be received.

12. REPORT FROM CABINET MEETING HELD ON 27 APRIL 2021

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

- a) Acquisition of S106 affordable housing for the Housing Revenue Account

The report was presented to the Council by the Portfolio Holder for Assets and Planning who commented that this item and the other two items for agreement at this point were positive news stories for the Authority.

DECISION:

To amend the Capital Programme to identify the project as an approved scheme in the 2021/22 Budget.

- b) Acquisition of housing for the Housing Revenue Account

The report was presented to the Council by the Portfolio Holder for Assets and Planning.

DECISION:

To amend the Capital Programme to identify the project as an approved scheme in the 2021/22 Budget.

- c) Welland Homes Business Plan Update incorporating Holbeach Road, Spalding

The report was presented to the Council by the Portfolio Holder for Assets and Planning.

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL -
19 May 2021

DECISION:

1. That the updated Welland Homes Business Plan be approved, and included as an amendment in the next SHDC Quarterly report to members; and
2. That the delegated authority, granted by Council on 25th March 2015, to the Executive Director – Commercialisation (the S151 Officer), to approve the final mix of use of reserves and borrowing in line with the business plan and Council Treasury Management Strategy, be reaffirmed.

(The Leader left the meeting at the start of consideration of this item, and re-joined the meeting following consideration of all the items on the report).

13. POLITICAL GROUP REGULATIONS AND COMMITTEE/OUTSIDE BODY MEMBERSHIP REVIEW

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Director – Governance (Monitoring Officer), the purpose of which was to confirm, in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, appointments to committees and outside bodies and review of membership.

FW

DECISION:

- a) That the following Committees be appointed in accordance with political group regulations:
 - Planning Committee;
 - Governance and Audit Committee;
 - Appointments and Disciplinary Committee;
 - Appointments and Disciplinary Appeal Committee;
 - Policy Development Panel;
 - Performance Monitoring Panel;
 - Licensing Committee;
 - Committee of the Licensing Authority;
 - Shared Memorandum of Agreement Committee
- b) That the following Committees be appointed without being politically balanced:
 - Standards Panel;
 - Appeals Panel;
 - Settlements Agreements Sub-Committee

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL -
19 May 2021

- c) That changes to the Committee and Panel membership, as set out in Appendix A, be agreed, subject to the following changes:

Licensing Committee and Committee of the Licensing Authority

- Councillor McLean to be appointed to both committees
- Councillor Worth to replace Councillor Seymour on both committees

Performance Monitoring Panel and Policy Development Panel

- Councillor McLean to remain on both committees (seats on both committees were allocated as conservative under the Political Group Regulations. However, the Conservative Group chose not to nominate anyone to take the seat on either of the committees).

Planning Committee

- Councillor Redgate to replace Councillor Drury

Shared Memorandum of Agreement Committee

- Councillors Worth, Coupland and Gibson were appointed to this new committee.

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

There were no further nominations, and there were no proposed changes to the Constitution.

15. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were none.

(The meeting ended at 7.07 pm)

(End of minutes)

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