

Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 19 April 2016 at 2.00 pm in the King Edmund Chamber, Endeavour House, Ipswich.

Present: Councillors Christopher Hudson (Vice Chairman) (Chairman for the meeting) James Finch, Tony Goldson, Matthew Hicks, Beccy Hopfensperger, Gordon Jones, Richard Smith MVO and Sarah Stamp

Also present: Councillors Peter Beer, Tony Brown, Terry Clements, James Crossley, John Field, Julian Flood, Michael Gower, Sandy Martin, Guy McGregor, Bill Mountford, Bert Poole and David Wood

Supporting officers present: Susan Cassedy (Democratic Services Officer)

100. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Colin Noble Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic Development.

101. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declarations of interests or dispensations reported.

102. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to Councillors Bill Mountford and Tony Brown being added to those listed as present.

103. Public Questions

There were no public questions received.

104. Standing Item – Update from the Scrutiny Chairman

At Agenda Item 5 the Vice Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee provided the Cabinet with an update on recent Scrutiny activity.

Decision: The Cabinet noted the Scrutiny Update.

Reason for decision: The Cabinet recognised the importance of the Scrutiny function.

Comments by other councillors: The Cabinet Member for Health fully endorsed the recommendations made by the Health Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 14 April 2016 when considering the current and future capacity in the residential and nursing care market in Suffolk. The Cabinet Member for Adult Care thanked the Health Scrutiny Committee for considering this really important subject and thanked the Committee for endorsing the joint working approach.

In respect of the Health Scrutiny Committee's forward work programme, a Councillor raised his concerns about the utilisation of Hartismere Hospital.

Alternative options: None considered.

Declarations of interest: None declared.

Dispensations: None reported.

105. East Anglia THREE offshore wind farm – Comments of Suffolk County Council on Section 56 Consultation

A report at Agenda Item 6 by the Director of Resource Management invited the Cabinet to consider the Council's statutory response to the consultation on the East Anglia THREE project.

Decision: The Cabinet:

- i) authorised the Director for Resource Management, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection, to submit a Local Impact Report and Statements of Common Ground to the Planning Inspectorate during the examination of East Anglia THREE, as informed by the key issues identified in the report and Appendix B; and
- ii) authorised the Director for Resource Management to submit the Council's response under Section 56 of the Planning Act 2008, to the proposed East Anglia Three Windfarm order, as set out in Appendix B of the report, to the Planning Inspectorate as the Council's statutory response to the current consultation on the East Anglia THREE project, as may be amended to elaborate or clarify on the points contained therein.

Reason for decision: To protect the natural and historic environment and the amenity of communities of east and mid Suffolk and to maximise the opportunities arising from the development.

Comments by other councillors: The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport welcomed the report particularly that all cabling would be underground. He described the project as an extremely good example for the National Grid to see how to manage a viable project in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The Cabinet Member for Finance advised that when East Anglia ONE was being considered he had been Cabinet Member with responsibility for that area. At that time, on the advice of officers, certain things had been insisted upon which now made this stage much easier.

A Councillor noted that the negotiation carried out by the consortium, with the cooperation of the local authority, with land owners on whose land the cables

would be situated under had resulted in a financial benefit to Suffolk with people being paid for the rights of way. This was unlike National Grid whose pylons were at a detriment of at least £1m and from which the people of Suffolk received no benefit. He noted that where National Grid was offering connectivity at Bramford there was no opportunity at Lowestoft or Great Yarmouth and considered the issues of connectivity for the National Grid were considerable. The Councillor congratulated the officers and councillors involved.

A local Councillor advised that he was pleased to see the report and the responsible attitude and the sound decisions made with the economy and environment having been taken into account. He expressed support for the officers who had been fighting for the residents of Suffolk. He did however, envisage some problems during the construction phase but recognised that this would be temporary.

The Chairman of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB appreciated the due diligence given to the fragile coastline and thanked officers. He considered the project to be leading the way and proved that such projects could be successful whilst maintaining the integrity of the coast.

Alternative options: None considered.

Declarations of interest: None declared.

Dispensations: None reported.

106. Appropriation of Land for Planning Purposes at Old School Drive and Wangford Road in Reydon, Southwold

A report at Agenda Item 7 by the Director of Resource Management invited the Cabinet to consider whether the site off Old School Drive and Wangford Road in Reydon, Southwold held by the Council should be appropriated from its current use of car park and community youth services to planning purposes, under Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Annex 1a, which included the location of the right of way in pink as described in the report, was tabled at the meeting after the Cabinet Member for Finance had sought legal advice that its late distribution would not affect the decision to be taken.

Decision: The Cabinet:

- i) agreed that the site off Old School Drive and Wangford Road in Reydon, Southwold (“the Land”) (shown for identification purposes only edged red on Annex 1a to the report) held by the Council be appropriated from its current use of car park and community youth services to planning purposes, under Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- ii) resolved that the land was no longer required for the purpose for which it was currently held.

Reason for decision: To enable the land to be sold for affordable housing to be occupied by older people in need of care and support and to provide improved community youth and childcare facilities on the adjoining land.

Comments by other councillors: The Cabinet Member for Adult Care welcomed the report and noted that it would provide the community with improved facilities including 6 shared ownership houses for older people.

The Cabinet Member for Health who was in support of the paper expressed concern with regard to there being very little affordable housing for younger people in the area.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection asked for assurance that every effort had been made to contact the owner of the property called 'Farthings'. The Cabinet Member for Finance confirmed that every effort had been made to contact the owner but no response had been received. The Cabinet Member for Finance also confirmed that there was vehicular access.

Alternative options: None considered.

Declarations of interest: None declared

Dispensations: None reported.

107. Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

The meeting closed at 2.37pm.

Chairman