

COUNCIL MEETING held at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 12 APRIL 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillor S Harris – Chairman.
Councillors A Anjum, K Artus, G Barker, S Barker, R Chambers, J Davey, P Davies, P Fairhurst, T Farthing, M Felton, M Foley, J Freeman, R Freeman, T Goddard, N Hargreaves, E Hicks, S Howell, D Jones, T Knight, B Light, J Lodge, J Loughlin, A Mills, S Morris, E Oliver, V Ranger, J Redfern, H Rolfe, G Sell and L Wells.

Officers in attendance: D French (Chief Executive) M Cox (Democratic Services Officer), C Oliva (Solicitor) and A Webb (Director of Finance and Corporate Services).

C78 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Asker, Dean, Gleeson, Gordon, Lemon, Parr, Parry, and Ryles.

Councillors Anjum, Fairhurst, R Freeman and Morris each declared their membership of Saffron Walden Town Council.

C79 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meeting on 25 February 2016 and the extraordinary meeting on 21 March 2016 were received and signed as a correct record subject to an amendment to minute CM71 (25 February) for Councillor Hargreaves' comments to read 'Councillor Hargreaves asked why no specific sum had been earmarked to cover the **costs** associated with the Local Plan as listed in the risks section of the Robustness of Estimates report'. Councillor Hargreaves said the Director of Finance and Corporate Services had replied to this statement but this had not been included in the minutes.

C80 MATTERS ARISING

(i) Minute C66 (iii) Motion on Local Police Service

Councillor S Barker reported that ten PCSOs had been appointed for Braintree and Uttlesford, and a further two would be fully funded by UDC. Four of them would be based in Great Dunmow, moving to the Lodge at the council offices, Saffron Walden when it was opened.

C81 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported on her attendance at recent civic events. She had attended a number of civic dinners, the opening of the new museum store and the declaration ceremony for the new High Sherriff as well as a tour of the Houses of Parliament with Sir Alan Haselhurst MP.

C82 REPORTS FROM THE LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Leader said the Police would shortly be moving into the Lodge at the London Road Offices and the Police front desk was now open in the UDC reception area.

He reported progress with work on the Local Plan. The meeting of the Planning Policy Working Group on 23 March had considered the consultants' report on the Green Belt study, which had been recommended that it should largely be left in place. The group had supported the Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan and was encouraging other parish councils to develop their own plans. The meeting had also considered the second report of representations to the Issues and Options consultation. It might be necessary to arrange an additional Council meeting in June to agree the preferred development strategy.

The Chief Executive had given a useful presentation on the current situation regarding the devolution proposal prior to this meeting. He would be pleased to answer any member questions on this issue.

The Leader would be meeting with the Andrew Cowan, the new Chief Executive at Stansted Airport on 19th April.

The Leader reported on his attendance at a recent meeting of the West Essex Leaders and Chief Executives group. The group had considered how it could work better with the businesses community in West Essex and its relationship with the development of the London/Cambridge/ Stansted corridor. He said it was important that Uttlesford did not become a dormitory for this activity, but there was a balance to be struck between economic growth and maintaining the special character of the district.

The meeting also discussed Health and Wellbeing. This was now a priority in Uttlesford's corporate plan and engrained in the council's objectives. It was generally recognised that there were three key aspects: keeping people out of hospital (lifestyle, leisure, public health), the hospital itself and the post hospital activities eg social care. He said the first and third parts were certainly within the council's domain and were areas where it could make a difference.

C83 LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – HEALTH AND WELLBEING GROUP

Peter Fentem spoke about the work of the Health and Wellbeing LSP group. He introduced Sue Locke, the Senior Health Improvement Officer.

He said the group brought together service providers and persons from organisations in receipt of these services. It had been a difficult time with changes in the health service and social care and the new commissioning procedures by ECC. The group aimed to ensure that public, statutory bodies and voluntary groups were aware and understood these changes. He listed the group's many achievements over the last year, working in a number of different areas.

He said that health and wellbeing was now a higher priority within the council's agenda and explained how the group sat within the new arrangements, although he said there was no single point where the pieces of work were currently being examined. He explained areas where the group could make improvements and set out the future objectives of the group.

Councillor Knight made a comment about dementia care. In reply, Mr Fentem said that the new contract had shifted care from Uttlesford to a new organisation in Hertfordshire, and it was important to monitor the level of service provided.

The Chairman thanked Mr Fentem for his presentation.

C84 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER, MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Councillor Foley said a number of councils had made public their concerns about the economic implications of leaving the European Union. There had also been a letter to the Times signed by 60 council leaders. He asked whether the Administration was considering making its views known.

The Leader said he had already declared that he would vote to stay in, but felt it was not the role of the Leader or the Cabinet to speak on behalf of council members. It would be up to the Council, if it wished to debate this matter and take a view. He said this was a very important issue, which would be widely discussed in the next couple of months but as far as he was concerned it was an individual decision.

Councillor Sell asked about the process for considering material/non-material amendments to planning applications. This followed concern about a recent application at Castle Maltings, Stansted for a change to the windows, which had been approved by officers without consultation with ward members. Due to local concern, this application had been considered by the planning committee but by then the decision was retrospective. He asked for clarity on how these applications were dealt with. It was agreed to send a written response, which would be circulated to all councillors.

C85 MATTERS REFERRED FROM COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Community Engagement Group

Councillor Ranger apologised that the new arrangements for community forums had not yet been discussed, but it had been difficult to arrange a suitable date for the meeting. He was now putting forward the date of Tuesday 28 June for a meeting of the Constitution Working Group to consider this issue and formulate the new arrangements for public consultation.

The Constitution Working Group would meet after the Annual Council meeting, when the committee appointments were made. He urged members who were committed to moving this forward to ask their group leaders to nominate them to the working group.

Councillor Knight said that as the area forums hadn't worked previously, the council should avoid trying to do the same thing again. She suggested holding seminars with specialist speakers that would be of real interest to the public.

Councillor Light said she shared the frustration, as she was a member of the Constitution Working Group and had been pushing for a meeting for nearly a year. She would like to remain as a member of the group but rather than focus on a particular approach, it should look at alternative ways of engaging with the public.

C86 **NOMINATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHARMAN OF THE COUNCIL**

Councillor Rolfe proposed and Councillor Jones seconded that Councillor Davey be nominated for election as Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

Councillor Barker proposed and Councillor Davey seconded that Councillor Sell be nominated for election as Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

The nominations would now stand adjourned for adoption at the Annual Meeting of the Council.

The meeting ended at 8.40pm.