

Minutes of a meeting of Beccles Town Council held on Tuesday 4 December 2018 In the Council Chamber of Beccles Town Hall at 7.00pm

PRESENT

**E Brambley-Crawshaw, Mayor, In the chair
R Stubbings, Deputy Mayor**

G Birrell	G Elliott (part)
N Brooks	N Elliott
Mrs S A Bubb	R Kathuria
G Catchpole	A Lever
A Downes	Mrs C A Topping
J D Harris	J B Walmsley

IN ATTENDANCE

**Penny Simmons, Beccles Quakers
Claire Boyne, Town Clerk**

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC 2

130. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Janney and Haynes.

131. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR ANY REQUESTS FOR THE GRANTING OF DISPENSATIONS IN RELATION TO ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor Catchpole declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7 regarding Planning Application DC/18/4312/FUL as he is a trustee of a Housing Association.

132. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2018

RESOLVED To accept for accuracy and adoption the minutes of the town council meeting held on Tuesday 6 November 2018

133. REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were none.

134. TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AND RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING, AND TO ALLOW COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:-

Reports are attached.

135. TO RECONVENE THE MEETING AND RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING:-

Council's Representatives on Outside Bodies

No reports.

Working Party Reports

No reports.

136. Draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 7 November 2018

RESOLVED To receive the draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 7 November 2018

Councillor N Elliott, Chair of the Planning Committee, reported that herself and the Deputy Chair of the Committee, Councillor Birrell, had review the complex application for the development of land to the West Side of London Road and had produced a two page summary. Based on this summary and on responses received from residents, the Planning Committee was proposing refusal. The committee had felt that the application had been submitted too soon and further detail was required.

There was a question as to why the council was being asked to agree this application, when the Planning Committee had analysed all of the complex information and had delegated power to make decisions on behalf of the council. The Chair of the Planning Committee explained that it was a significant development for Beccles and the committee agreed that it was important to give the full council an opportunity to comment.

RESOLVED To refuse Planning Application DC/18/4312/FUL – Part Land West Side of London Road

137. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ASSETS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2018

RESOLVED To receive the draft minutes of the Assets & Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 12 November 2018

138. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2018

PROPOSAL

To receive the draft minutes of the above meeting and consider the following recommendation:-

- (i) To continue engaging the services of the Suffolk Association of Local Councils for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 Internal Audit**
- (ii) To agree the final budget for 2019/20 to 2021/22 and increase the precept for 2019/20 by 1% from £113,427 to £114,561**

RESOLVED To receive the draft minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 14 November 2018

- (i) The chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, Councillor Stubbings, reported that the internal audit service offered by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils was efficient and effective.

RESOLVED To continue engaging the services of the Suffolk Association of Local Councils for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 Internal Audit

- (ii) Councillor Stubbings reported that the Finance Committee was proposing a 1% increase in the precept, which would result in a £0.14 per annum decrease in a Band D Council bill.

RESOLVED To agree the final budget for 2019/20 to 2021/22 and increase the precept for 2019/20 by 1% from £113,427 to £114,561

139. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION ON THE PRIDE IN BECCLES SUB-COMMITTEE

There was discussion regarding the merits of having district councillor representation on the Pride in Beccles sub-committee. Waveney Norse had a presence on the sub-committee and it was generally agreed that having a district councillor presence on the sub-committee was beneficial given the district council's close working relationship with Waveney Norse. It was agreed that it would be preferable for the district council representative to be a councillor that was local to Beccles.

Councillor Brambley-Crawshaw therefore proposed that the council continues having District Councillor representation on the Pride in Beccles Sub-Committee and that it would be preferable for this councillor to be local to Beccles. This was seconded by Councillor N Elliott, a vote was taken and it was

RESOLVED To continue having District Councillor representation on the Pride in Beccles Sub-Committee and specify that a councillor that is local to Beccles would be preferred.

140. BUDGET BRIEFING FROM SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL, INCLUDING THE CUT IN CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU FUNDING

The mayor reported that the council could choose to respond to the budget briefing from Suffolk County Council (SCC) but she believed that the deadline for responses had now passed.

Deep concern was expressed by councillors regarding the cutting of funding in respect of the Citizens Advice Bureau, and the knock-on effect that this would have on some of the most vulnerable members of the community. Concern was also expressed regarding the proposed cuts to funding for Housing Related Support, Hostel beds, the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and the Educational Psychology Service.

It was pointed out that the SCC Officers had a very difficult task trying to set a balanced budget, and ultimately difficult decisions had to be made due to the

council's central government grant being cut.

It was generally agreed that Suffolk County Council should have sent the budget consultation directly to all parish councils, giving time for councils to respond.

It was proposed by Councillor Walmsley and seconded by Councillor Topping that a letter is sent to Councillor Rout (SCC Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection) objecting to the proposed cut in funding for the CAB and requesting better communication in the future with parish councils. A vote was taken and it was

RESOLVED That council sends a letter to Councillor Rout (SCC Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection) objecting to the proposed cut in funding for the Citizen's Advice Bureau and requesting better communication in the future with parish councils

141. REQUEST FROM COUNCILLOR BUBB TO CONSIDER COMPLAINTS RECEIVED REGARDING SPEEDING ON BALLYGATE AND ILLEGAL PARKING ON THE WEST SIDE OF NEW MARKET

Councillor Bubb reported that she had received 14 complaints regarding speeding on Ballygate. Two years previously a speed cable had been laid but the results did not reach the criteria to qualify for a 20mph speed limit. She was requesting that either the council requests a further cable test or alternatively installs a Vehicle Activate Speed Sign (VAS).

It was reported that the council had reached the limit on the number of speed sign posts it was allowed. However, it was suggested that there was one post on Coney Hill that had been installed in error, so this could possibly be moved to Ballygate.

Councillor Bubb proposed and Councillor Topping seconded that the Assets and Environment Committee investigates the moving of a VAS post from Coney Hill to Ballygate. A vote was taken and it was

RESOLVED That the Assets & Environment Committee investigates the moving of a Vehicle Activated Sign post from Coney Hill to Ballygate in order to address speeding issues in Ballygate

(Councillor G Elliott arrived)

Councillor Bubb reported that she had received 11 complaints regarding cars parking outside Hughes on double yellow lines on the west side of New Market. It was agreed that the lack of parking enforcement in the town was a serious issue, with cars now parked in the town centre spaces all day. With the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement being delayed and tied up in legislation, Councillor Catchpole proposed that the Locality Inspector is contacted and asked to send a police officer once per week at random times and carries out parking enforcement for four hours per visit. This was

seconded by Councillor Stubbings, a vote was taken and it was

RESOLVED That council writes to Suffolk Police's Locality Inspector requesting that a police officer carries out parking enforcement in Beccles once a week (at random times) for four hours at a time in order to address the serious issue of illegal parking in the town

142. REQUEST FROM THE MAYOR FOR THE TOWN TO HAVE A PHYSICAL REMINDER TO MARK THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR I

The mayor reported that the town had no physical reminder to mark the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I. It was generally agreed that a simple, sympathetic and discrete memorial could be installed near to the war memorial. Councillor Topping therefore proposed that the Assets & Environment Committee is asked to investigate a suitable location in the vicinity of the War Memorial for a simple and sympathetic memorial to be installed to mark the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I. This was seconded by Councillor Catchpole, a vote was taken and it was

RESOLVED That the Assets & Environment Committee investigates a suitable location in the vicinity of the War Memorial for a simple and sympathetic memorial to be installed to mark the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I

143. REQUEST FROM COUNCILLOR TOPPING FOR A GRANT TO BE MADE TO THE ST LUKE'S CHRISTMAS DINNER VOLUNTEERS IN RESPECT OF THE CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

Councillor Topping reported that after a couple of years' break, volunteers were intending to offer a Christmas Day Lunch for those in need, catering for between 50 and 80 people at St Luke's Church. Transport was provided and people were also given a small gift to take away.

The clerk reported that the group did not have accounts as such and so it would not be appropriate for this request to be considered by the Grants Committee. There was a Beccles Projects budget for £4,500 which council could agree to allocate funds from.

Councillor Bubb proposed that a £200 grant is awarded to the St Luke's Christmas Dinner volunteers. This was seconded by Councillor Topping, a vote was taken and it was

RESOLVED To agree the request for a £200 grant to be made to the St Luke's Christmas Dinner volunteers in respect of providing a Christmas Day Dinner for those in need

144. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2018

RESOLVED To receive the draft minutes of the above meeting.

145. REQUEST FROM THE MAYOR FOR THE COUNCIL TO NOMINATE DOROTHY HODGKIN TO FEATURE ON THE NEW £50 NOTE

The mayor reported that the Bank of England was currently asking for scientists to be nominated to appear on the new £50 note. She was asking the council to nominate Dorothy Hodgkin, but asked all councillors to also respond individually.

Councillor Bubb proposed and Councillor Topping seconded that council writes to the Bank of England nominating Dorothy Hodgkin to appear on the new £50 note. A vote was taken and it was

RESOLVED That council nominates Dorothy Hodgkin to feature on the new £50 note

146. REQUEST FROM COUNCILLOR DOWNES FOR THE COUNCIL TO BECOME A 'MEMBER CHAMPION' FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Councillor Downes reported that by becoming a 'member champion' for mental health, the council would receive support and resources to help make positive changes. 102 councils had already signed up to be 'member champions' and given that the Mental Health Trust had recently been placed in special measures for a third time, it was important for the council to continue to try and make a difference to people suffering from mental health problems.

Councillor Downes proposed and Councillor Bubb seconded that the council becomes a 'member champion' for mental health. A vote was taken and it was

RESOLVED That council becomes a 'member champion' for mental health

147. SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS TO DATE

RESOLVED To receive the summary of receipts and payments to date

148. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS FOR DECEMBER 2018

RESOLVED To approve the Schedule of Payments for December 2018

149. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The mayor reported that there were a lot of Christmas events coming up that councillors had been invited to, including the Sir John Leman Christmas Concert and the council's own Christmas meal

150. TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AS TUESDAY 8 JANUARY 2019

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 8 January 2019.

151. ADMISSION TO MEETINGS - PURSUANT TO SECTION 1(2) OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 IT IS PROPOSED THAT, BECAUSE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED, THE PUBLIC AND PRESS LEAVE THE MEETING DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE REMAINING MATTERS

**BECCLES TOWN COUNCIL
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SUMMARY - JANUARY 2019**

Payments		Chq No.	Total (exc VAT)	Total (inc VAT)	Unrecoverable VAT
Retrospective					
Beccles Town Council	- Monthly salaries	bacs	£ 7,273.45	£ 7,273.45	
	- Quarterly salary	100704	£ 195.00	£ 195.00	
Google	Email Accounts - November	dd	£ 11.00	£ 11.00	
Waveney District Council	Business Rates - Hungate Store (Dec)	dd	£ 65.00	£ 65.00	
	Business Rates - Market (Dec)	dd	£ 53.00	£ 53.00	
	Business Rates - Blyburgate Hall (Dec)	dd	£ 223.00	£ 223.00	
	Business Rates - Ambulance Station (Dec)	dd	£ 196.00	£ 196.00	
Anglia Farmers	- Telephone Charges	dd	£ 67.16	£ 80.59	
	- Electricity-Town Hall	dd	£ 150.78	£ 180.94	
	- Posts for Blyburgate Hall	dd	£ 29.59	£ 35.51	
	- Training Course	dd	£ 60.00	£ 60.00	
	- Cups	dd	£ 13.32	£ 15.98	
	- Weatherproof Box	dd	£ 15.42	£ 18.50	
Your Property Solutions	Blyburgate Cottage - Property Management Fee	bacs	£ 45.00	£ 54.00	
Neil Goward	Compost for Planter	bacs	£ 9.14	£ 10.97	
Churches Fire	Service of Emergency Lighting at Bell Tower	103846	£ 143.85	£ 172.62	
Parish of Beccles	- Christmas Lunch Club - Grant	103848	£ 200.00	£ 200.00	
	- Contribution from Santa's Grotto	103855	£ 69.00	£ 69.00	
Carters	Blyburgate Hall - Works to Disabled Toilet	103847	£ 120.00	£ 120.00	
Southern Electric	- Ambulance Station	103852	£ 64.61	£ 67.84	
	- Blyburgate Hall	103852	£ 392.85	£ 412.49	
C Boyne	- Buffet and Drinks for Awards Evening	103863	£ 80.80	£ 85.55	
	- Engraving of Plates for Awards Evening	103849	£ 941.42	£ 109.70	
Candice Turner	Equipment	bacs	£ 14.71	£ 17.43	
Beccles Town Council	Petty Cash	103851	£ 50.00	£ 50.00	
Helping Hands	Contribution from Santa's Grotto	103854	£ 69.00	£ 69.00	
Current					
IRS Recruitment	Staff and Mileage	103856	£ 1,372.22	£ 1,646.67	
Coopers	Equipment Supplies	103857	£ 36.28	£ 43.54	
Micropress	Distribution of Charter	103858	£ 128.80	£ 154.56	
EBS Ltd	Photocopying Charges	103859	£ 209.38	£ 251.26	
Waveney Fencing	Fencing to front of Blyburgate Cottage	103860	£ 805.00	£ 966.00	
Society of Local Council Clerks	Clerk's Subscription	103861	£ 299.00	£ 299.00	
Talk Talk	Broadband Charges	103862	£ 159.37	£ 191.24	

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Janey Gandy	Swift Boxes	103863	£	34.00	£	34.00
Cube Connections	IT Issues and Equipment Replacement	103864	£	1,234.86	£	1,481.83
Micropress	Printing of the Charter	103858	£	305.42	£	305.42
D Spink	Christmas Lights for Santa's Grotto	103865	£	26.06	£	31.26
East Anglian Computer Supp	Stationery	103866	£	36.05	£	43.26
Polycastle	Double Glazing at Blyburgate Cottage	103867	£	5,600.00	£	6,720.00
	Total expenditure		£	20,799.54	£	22,014.61
						£ -

Receipts

Rents	Land rents	£	-
Rents	Unit rents	£	4,787.92
Rents	Property rents	£	900.00
Hall Hire	Blyburgate Hall	£	1,544.32
Friday Market	Market rents	£	381.75
Waveney District Council		£	267.43
Your Property Solutions	Rent for Blyburgate Cottage	£	363.00
Members of Public	Santa's Grotto	£	351.00
Bell Tower	Donations	£	96.08
Aspire Sport Ltd	Committee Room Hire	£	900.00
CCLA Deposit Fund	Interest	£	44.68
	Total income	£	9,636.18
Bank balances at 8 January 2019			
Barclays Current account		£	34,770.91
Barclays Imprest account		£	2,677.79
Barclays Active Saver		£	-
CCLA Deposit Fund		£	75,000.00
Nationwide Business Bond		£	77,537.79
LLoyds Bank 12 Month Bond		£	77,368.00
Co-Op Current Account		£	5,729.93

Signed: *E. Blyburgate*

Chair of meeting

Responsible Financial Officer

**** Items in bold and italics have been added or amended since the draft version**

08-Jan-19

Reports to Beccles Town Council on 4 December 2018

Suffolk Police

No report had been received. It was reported that there had been some disturbances at the Christmas Lights Switch-On but no further information had been received. Two Police Officers were on duty for the first two hours, and after that the Police Officers left and four Special Officers were on duty. There was also an issue with the police not dealing effectively with a broken down car in Old Market.

Suffolk County Council

Councillor Brambley-Crawshaw gave her report (*attached*)

Waveney District Council

Councillor N Elliott gave a report on behalf of Councillor G Elliott (*attached*)

Councillor Topping reported that she had resigned from the Conservative Party and had joined the Green Party.

Councillor Catchpole reported that in approximately five months' time, Waveney District Council would become East Suffolk District Council. Final alignment of policies was currently taking place. Negotiations were continuing with Suffolk County Council regarding Civil Parking Enforcement and would not be implemented before October 2019. Councillor Catchpole was also working on other initiatives that he would be able to reveal at a later date.

Parish Report December 2018

Councillor

Elfrede Brambley-Crawshaw (Beccles)

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Proposed budget cuts for 2019/20

On 22 November, the Scrutiny Committee discussed proposals for the 2019/20 budget. These will be finalised and presented to the Cabinet in January, before being debated by the full Council in February.

Council tax will increase by a total of 3.99% in 2019/20 – this will be made up of a 2.99% increase in general council tax and a final 1% increase for the Social Care Precept.

The proposed “tactical savings” total £11.2m. These are spread across the Council’s directorates (as shown in the table below), with Growth, Highways and Infrastructure, Adult and Community Services, and Health, Wellbeing and Children’s Services seeing the greatest cuts.

Table 8: Summary of Savings Proposals

	Adult & Community Services (ACS) £'m	Health, Wellbeing & Children's Services (HWSCS) £'m	Fire & Rescue Service and Public Safety £'m	Growth, Highways and Infrastructure £'m	Corporate Services & Central Resources £'m	TOTAL £'m
Cost reduction	1.0	0.2	0.0	2.0	0.1	3.3
Grant reduction			0.4			0.4
Maximise income		1.4	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.7
Service reduction	1.0	0.1		1.7	0.0	2.8
Staffing reduction	0.1	0.9	0.3	0.5	1.2	3.0
TOTAL	2.1	2.6	0.7	4.2	1.6	11.2

The proposals for tactical savings include:

- Remove the full Citizens Advice Grant – however the Council have since announced that this will be phased in rather than immediate, with 50% of the grant being cut this year and the remaining 50% being cut in the 2020/21 budget
- Staffing reduction (totalling £3m) across all directorates
- Reduce Housing Related Support and the provision of hostel beds
- Negotiate care pricing
- Stop displaying bus timetables at the roadside
- Reduce spend on sponsored bus services
- Reduce out-of-hours stand-by service and winter support fleet for Suffolk Highways
- Stop road sign cleaning and only maintain mandatory road markings
- Turn more streetlights off overnight
- Cease accreditation of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme (the scheme will continue, however organisations will license themselves directly with the charity rather than through SCC)

Unfortunately, I have not been informed of the savings associated with each of the above proposals, and instead have only been told how much each directorate is expected to save in total. The final proposals, along with the savings associated with each of them, will not be made available until January.

U-turn on support for period poverty

In October, a motion asking for a commitment of £15,000 in the budget to help tackle “period poverty” was unfortunately rejected by the Council.

However, the administration have since announced that they will be undertaking an audit of the services in Suffolk that are aimed at tackling period poverty, to identify gaps and assess how provision can be improved.

I am cautiously hopeful that this review will result in proper support and funding for those amazing voluntary organisations that are currently providing free sanitary products. They cannot provide that service all on their own, and a commitment of funding from Suffolk County Council will be vital to ensure we eradicate period poverty across the whole county.

SORO Scrutiny meeting

On the 29th of December I sat on the Extraordinary Scrutiny committee to discuss the decision-making process between 2015 and Jan 2018.

Evidence was heard from members of the public, District Councillors and Various officers.

It was agreed that in the 2015 cabinet meeting that approved the business case for the Hold that cabinet had been told that Lowestoft Record Office would not be impacted by the Hold project.

At some point in 2017 a decision was made by one officer and one councillor which U-turned on this statement in the business case. No one was alerted, and no consultation was done with depositors.

In Jan 2018 a press release from SCC went to the local papers, this was the first that stakeholders knew about the decision.

Scrutiny agreed that this whole process has been disgraceful and made recommendations to try and ensure it can not happen again. To safeguard against this SCC will need to change its constitution, as the monitoring officer does not believe that the councillor and officer went against SCC constitution when they unilaterally made a decision which went against what was approved in cabinet in 2015.