

Minutes of the Simultaneous Waveney District Council Cabinet and Southwold Town Council Meeting held at the Stella Peskett Millennium Hall, Mights Road, Southwold on **Monday, 28 July 2014 at 7.00pm**

Cabinet Members present:

Councillors C Law (Chairman), S Allen, S Ardley, M Barnard, M Ladd, F Mortimer, B Provan and M Rudd

Southwold Town Councillors present:

Councillors E Betts (Mayor), S Allen, S Doy, K Flodin, M Ladd, R Temple, S Tobin, M Tucker, W Windell and J Winter

Also in attendance

Councillors S Barker, G Douce, L Jacklin and J Wheatley

Officers present

A Charvonia (Assistant Chief Executive), S Everett (Chief Executive for Sentinel Leisure), D Gallagher (Head of Commercial Partnerships & Strategic Commissioning), D Lee (Democratic Services Manager), L Beevor (Southwold Town Council Clerk) and N Wotton (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Mr Charvonia, Strategic Director and Monitoring Officer for Waveney District Council, welcomed Members from both authorities, other District Councillors and the public to the first Simultaneous Cabinet and Southwold Town Council meeting. It was reported that it was not a Joint meeting but two separate meetings which would take place at the same time, in the same place. The Councillors from the 2 authorities would therefore need to take a separate vote on any decisions and appoint a Chairman for the meeting.

Members were advised that in accordance with Waveney District Council's Constitution, any Member of the Council was allowed to ask questions at a Cabinet meeting, therefore Waveney District Councillors would be permitted to ask questions during the meeting. It was reported that although the public were able to attend the meeting, it was not a public meeting and therefore the public would not be able to participate or ask questions on this occasion.

Those present were then made aware of the Fire Evacuation Procedure in case of an emergency.

Mr Charvonia called for nominations for Chairman of the Simultaneous meeting. It was duly proposed, seconded and following a separate vote for Waveney District Council Cabinet Members and Southwold Town Councillors it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor W Windell be Chairman for this Simultaneous Waveney District Council Cabinet and Southwold Town Council meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

Waveney District Council

An apology for absence was received from Councillor D Ritchie.

Southwold Town Council

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T Baggott, I Bradbury and M Tucker.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor S Allen declared a Local Non Pecuniary Interest, as she was a Waveney District Councillor and a Southwold Town Councillor. After seeking advice from the Monitoring Officer, Councillor Allen confirmed that she would be able to vote twice at this meeting – once as a Waveney District Councillor and once as a Southwold Town Councillor.

Councillor M Ladd declared a Local Non Pecuniary Interest, as he was a Waveney District Councillor and a Southwold Town Councillor. After seeking advice from the Monitoring Officer, Councillor Ladd confirmed that he would be able to vote twice at this meeting – once as a Waveney District Councillor and once as a Southwold Town Councillor.

4 ADOPTION OF PROTOCOL FOR SIMULTANEOUS WAVENEY DISTRICT COUNCIL CABINET AND SOUTHWOLD TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Chairman called for a Mover and Seconder to agree the Protocol to be used for this and any subsequent Simultaneous Meeting, a copy of which was appended to the Agenda. It was duly proposed, seconded and following a separate vote for Waveney District Council Cabinet Members and Southwold Town Councillors it was

RESOLVED

That the Protocol for Simultaneous Meetings be adopted for this and any subsequent Simultaneous Meetings.

5 SOUTHWOLD HARBOUR LANDS – REVIEW OF CONSULTATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr Charvonia presented the report, which was based upon the results of the recent 6 week consultation and the resulting recommendations. It was noted that the Joint Working Group of Waveney District Council and Southwold Town Council had created a draft vision for the future of the Southwold Harbour Lands and this had formed the basis for the consultation. The detailed consultation had taken place between 2 June 2014 and 11 July 2014 and over 100 responses had been received.

Members received a summary of the different views expressed during the consultation. It was noted that there had been 8 recommendations created as a result of the responses received, which are shown below:

1. That the draft key principles and vision outlined in the consultation document (Appendix A) be adopted;
2. That a Joint Committee of Waveney District Council Cabinet and Southwold Town Council be established in place of the current joint working group; and that the Joint Committee adopts the terms of reference of the original joint working group.
3. That delegated authority be granted to the Joint Committee to act as the 'Initial Strategic Board' for the Southwold Harbour Lands as set out in the consultation document (Appendix A).

4. That Waveney District Council Cabinet and Southwold Town Council each appoint four of their Councillors to the Joint Committee, and each appoint two additional named substitutes.
5. That the governance arrangements set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report be adopted for the operation of the Joint Committee.
6. That investigations be made to identify the options for optimising investment in and delivery of the Caravan site in line with the vision set out in the consultation document (Appendix A).
7. That professional advisers be instructed on behalf of both Councils to develop the optimum options for the sustainable, long term, ownership, control and delivery of the Southwold Harbour Lands.
8. That a Community Engagement Strategy be developed and implemented to ensure the ongoing involvement of all relevant stakeholders as the vision continues to evolve and be delivered.

Members commended the work which had been undertaken to date by the Working Group and the recommendations were duly proposed and seconded.

Questions

Councillor Barker stated that the information contained within the report did not contain sufficient detail for any decisions to be made and that the issue of Southwold Harbour Lands should be referred to the Waveney District Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee for further consideration. There had been a general consensus from the consultation responses that work was needed to improve the Southwold Harbour Lands and it was considered at the meeting that a referral to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee would not add value on this occasion and could potentially delay any progress being made. Reassurance was provided that a Community Engagement Strategy would be specifically developed which would be suitable, appropriate and include all the relevant stakeholders. A variety of methods would be used to ensure that the views of the site users were captured.

Councillor Wheatley raised concerns that Recommendation 8 appeared rather vague and requested that assurances be put in place to ensure that there would be safeguards to stop any over-development of the caravan site. Clarification was provided that the consultation document had shown that there was a broad consensus that change was necessary and only the best options that enhanced the culture of Southwold would be pursued. Those present were assured that the Southwold Town Councillors had a strong sense of what would be appropriate for Southwold and it was in their interests to ensure that any changes would be in keeping with the local area.

Councillor Douce queried whether there had been any consideration given to making the Joint Committee cross-party, as this had been beneficial for the Lowestoft Shared Accommodation Joint Committee, which was overseeing the development of the new office accommodation in Lowestoft. He stated that as there were all-out elections in May 2015, it would be helpful if the Joint Committee was cross-party in case there was a change of Administration at Waveney District Council next year. Councillor Law reported that due consideration had been given to making the Joint Committee cross-party, however it was felt that cross-authority working would ensure that all interested parties were fully represented.

Councillor Jacklin reiterated that it would be helpful if there was cross-party representation from Waveney District Council, particularly as Councillor Wheatley was a Reydon resident and would therefore be able to contribute to the discussions because of her extensive local knowledge. It was reported that there had been extensive

consultation with the local community and it would not be helpful if the Southwold Harbour Lands became a party political issue. Councillor Law reported that he had decided that Cabinet Members were best placed to take the issue forward. If there was a change in Administration following the elections in 2015, new Councillors would need to be appointed, as appropriate. However it was hoped that significant progress could be made over the coming months with regard to the Southwold Harbour Lands.

There followed some discussion on the amount of work that lay ahead, including further consultation with local residents, exploring funding streams and the creation of a shared vision for Southwold Harbour Lands. Those present noted that this was a rare opportunity to make a difference for the area and to leave a lasting legacy.

The recommendations were proposed and seconded by Southwold Town Councillors and there followed a unanimous vote in favour of the recommendations.

The recommendations were then proposed and seconded by the Waveney District Council Cabinet Members and there followed a unanimous vote in favour of the recommendations.

It was therefore

RESOLVED

1. That the draft key principles and vision outlined in the consultation document (Appendix A) be adopted;
2. That a Joint Committee of Waveney District Council Cabinet and Southwold Town Council be established in place of the current joint working group; and that the Joint Committee adopts the terms of reference of the original joint working group.
3. That delegated authority be granted to the Joint Committee to act as the 'Initial Strategic Board' for the Southwold Harbour Lands as set out in the consultation document (Appendix A);
4. That Waveney District Council Cabinet and Southwold Town Council each appoint four of their Councillors to the Joint Committee, and each appoint two additional named substitutes;
5. That the governance arrangements set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report be adopted for the operation of the Joint Committee.
6. That investigations be made to identify the options for optimising investment in and delivery of the caravan site in line with the vision set out in the consultation document (Appendix A);
7. That professional advisers be instructed on behalf of both Councils to develop the optimum options for the sustainable, long term, ownership, control and delivery of the Southwold Harbour Lands;
8. That a Community Engagement Strategy be developed and implemented to ensure the ongoing involvement of all relevant stakeholders as the vision continues to evolve and be delivered.

The meeting concluded at 7.40 pm.

Chairman