

South Northamptonshire Council

Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester, Northants NN12 6AD on Wednesday 24 July 2019 at 6.00 pm.

Present Councillor Rosie Herring (Chairman)
 Councillor Anthony S. Bagot-Webb (Vice-Chairman)
 Councillor Ann Addison
 Councillor Robert G. Atkinson
 Councillor Fiona Baker
 Councillor Dermot Bambridge
 Councillor Sandra Barnes MBE
 Councillor Phil Bignell
 Councillor Caryl Billingham MBE
 Councillor Rebecca Breese
 Councillor John Budden
 Councillor Roger Clarke
 Councillor Stephen Clarke
 Councillor Karen Cooper
 Councillor Richard Dallyn
 Councillor Hywel Davies
 Councillor Valerie Furniss
 Councillor Andrew Grant
 Councillor David Harries BEM
 Councillor Steven Hollowell
 Councillor Gregor Hopkins
 Councillor Martin Johns
 Councillor Chris Lofts
 Councillor Dennis Loveland
 Councillor Charles Manners
 Councillor Ian McCord
 Councillor Abigail Medina
 Councillor Alice Kim Ord
 Councillor Ken Pritchard
 Councillor Peter Rawlinson
 Councillor Adil Sadygov
 Councillor Mary-Anne Sergison-Brooke
 Councillor Catharine Tarbun
 Councillor John Townsend
 Councillor Elaine Wiltshire
 Councillor Paul Wiltshire

Apologies Councillor Carole Clarke
for Councillor Peter Davies
Absence: Councillor Lisa Samiotis
 Councillor Sandi Smallman
 Councillor Allen Walker

Officers: Richard Ellis, Chief Executive
Jane Carr, Executive Director: Operations
Peter Holt, Assistant Director: Communications, Engagement and Transformation (Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Paul Hymers, Head of Finance (Deputy Section 151 Officer)
Natasha Clark, Governance and Elections Manager

20 **Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed Paul Hymers, Head of Finance & Deputy Section 151 Officer to his first meeting of Council and Peter Holt who was attending in his new capacity as Deputy Monitoring Officer.

21 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

22 **Minutes of Council**

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 15 May 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

23 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

General Housekeeping

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public in attendance at the Council meeting and reminded attendees that members of the public were permitted to film, broadcast and report on the meeting, subject to the efficient running of the meeting not being affected.

There were no planned fire drills so if the alarm did sound, the evacuation instructions given by officers should be followed.

The Chairman reminded all meeting attendees to switch mobile phones to silent

Chairman's Engagements

The Chairman advised that a copy of the events she had attended was included in the agenda pack adding that she had spent some of the afternoon with Customer Services department and CSN Resources and it has been very interesting to meet the staff and learn more about the important work they do for the council.

Lady Boswell

The Chairman referred to the sad passing of Lady Helen Boswell on 17 July and advised Council she would write to Lord Boswell of Aynho on behalf of the council to express condolences.

Post

The Chairman reminded Members to collect any post from pigeon holes.

24 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

25 Written Questions

The Chairman advised Council that two written questions had been received and were published with the agenda. The questions would be dealt with in the order submitted.

The first question was from Councillor Medina to the Leader of the Council, Councillor McCord relating to the Towcester relief road.

“I represent Potterspury and Whittlebury communities and am aware that the completion of the Towcester Relief Road is an issue that concerns not only Towcester but the area surrounding it. I regularly attend Parish Council meetings when the relief road is often raised.

Can the Leader advise if he agrees that regular written updates on progress on the relief road should be provided by officers to members who request them?”

In response to the question, the Leader advised that he had agreed, and already did, give information to Members who requested.

By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Medina asked to receive regular updates explaining that she had asked officers but been advised updates were given to Cabinet.

In response to the supplementary question, the Leader explained that the start date would be March 2020 as it had been confirmed this week that Persimmon would fill the funding gap and he would circulate this information to Members. Going forward, the Chief Executive would include in his monthly update to Members.

The second question was from Councillor Medina and addressed to the Leader, Councillor McCord relating to electric vehicle charge points.

“Building on the electric vehicle charging facilities that were successfully installed in the Northampton Short Stay car park, can the Leader advise Council what plans exist to implement similar facilities in all Council controlled car parks across the District.

Can he also advise what steps are being taken to persuade privately owned car parks that are open to the public to also install similar facilities.”

In response to the question, the Leader explained that current charge points were running at 10% capacity, however he acknowledged that the cycle whereby electric charge points were needed so people would be encouraged to buy electric cars. The options needed to be looked at, including the possibility of bringing through the Budget and Financial Strategy Committee as a capital bid.

As Councillor Samiotis had submitted apologies for the meeting there was not a supplementary question.

26 **Motions**

The Chairman advised Council that two motions had been submitted and were published with the agenda. The motions would be dealt with in the order submitted.

Climate Change

It was proposed by Councillor Lofts and seconded by Councillor Johns that the following motion be adopted:

“South Northamptonshire Council has a good record of tackling environmental issues and as the new Unitary Council approaches, it is important that we continue to champion our approach. There have been several national and local expressions of the strength of public opinion in London and Northamptonshire on the issue of climate change and the need to address carbon reduction to protect the health and wellbeing of future generations. It should be noted that in response to these concerns, the UK parliament has declared a Climate Emergency.

Action on Climate Change must be shared across all levels of government and we have a duty to limit the impacts of Climate Breakdown. It is proposed, therefore:

- *That this Council confirms the national Climate Emergency as it applies in West Northamptonshire and commits to a target of making West Northamptonshire carbon neutral by 2030.*
- *This Council further commits to work with partners to deliver that goal. Where appropriate, this Council will place climate change on the agenda of meetings with partners and will encourage joint working across all sectors of local governance.*
- *Council also calls upon its successor West Northamptonshire Unitary Council to continue this work once it comes into existence.*
- *This Council requests a report to be submitted to a meeting of full council before the end of March 2020 detailing the actions that have been taken to address this motion.*

- *Council also requests an updated report to a meeting of full council not more than 12 months thereafter setting out the further actions that have been taken and detailing how progressing this target has been communicated to and integrated within the start up plans of its successor council.*

Members should note that Daventry, Northampton and Northamptonshire Councils have all supported a similar approach.”

Councillor Bambridge proposed the following amendment to insert the underlined text and delete the crossed through text, which was seconded by Councillor Bignell. “*South Northamptonshire Council has a good record of tackling environmental issues and as the new Unitary Council approaches, it is important that we continue to champion our approach. There have been several national and local expressions of the strength of public opinion in London and Northamptonshire on the issue of climate change and the need to address carbon reduction to protect the health and wellbeing of future generations. It should be noted that in response to these concerns, the UK parliament has declared a Climate Emergency—and set a new target in law to be net carbon zero by 2050.*

Action on Climate Change must be shared across all levels of government and we have a duty to limit the impacts of Climate Breakdown. It is proposed, therefore:

- *~~That this Council confirms the national Climate Emergency as it applies in West Northamptonshire and commits to a target of making West Northamptonshire carbon neutral by 2030.~~*
- *~~This Council further commits to work with partners to deliver that goal. Where appropriate, this Council will place climate change on the agenda of meetings with partners and will encourage joint working across all sectors of local governance.~~*
- *This Council notes that the impacts of climate change are already causing serious damage around the world*
- *This Council will establish a Working Group under the auspices of the Scrutiny Committee to assess the existing carbon footprint of the district and review potential actions and associated cost estimates this Council could take to limit the effects of Climate Change in South Northamptonshire*
 - *The Working Group (of up to 10 members) will be cross party, not politically balanced and not limited to current members of the Scrutiny Committee*
 - *A budget of £25,000 will be made available from reserves for any expenses related to the investigation*
- *This Council requests the Scrutiny Committee to report back to Council before the end of December 2019, with their findings along with recommendations for actions and budgets.*
- *Council also calls upon its successor West Northamptonshire Unitary Council to continue this work once it comes into existence.*
- *~~This Council requests a report to be submitted to a meeting of full council before the end of March 2020 detailing the actions that have been taken to address this motion.~~*
- *~~Council also requests an updated report to a meeting of full council not more than 12 months thereafter setting out the further actions that have been taken and detailing how progressing this target has been communicated to and integrated within the start up plans of its successor council.”~~*

On being put to the vote, the amendment was approved. The motion as amended was debated and on being put to the vote, was supported.

'Refill'

It was proposed by Councillor Tarbun and seconded by Councillor Lofts that the following motion be adopted:

"South Northamptonshire Council has a good record on environmental issues including recycling and as we move forward into our new Unitary Council, it is important we continue this approach.

In the UK we have some of the highest quality drinking water in the world – from our taps. Despite this the consumption of bottled water has doubled over the last 15 years, an estimated 7 billion plastic water bottles are used in the UK each year. Millions of bottles are estimated to be littered, landfilled or incinerated every day producing dangerous levels of CO2 emissions every year. Once plastics enter our oceans they break into micro-plastics, and these are found throughout our oceans and the impact on our wildlife has become catastrophic.

So how can our council help in reducing this?

By Introducing 'Refill' - a free tap water initiative. It is designed to reduce plastic pollution, making refilling your water bottle easy, attractive and rewarding. If all the refill stations are used just TWICE a week we would save more than 14 million bottles a year, making carrying a refillable bottle a social norm. 340 million plastic bottles would be saved every year if just one in 10 Brits refilled every week.

I propose that our council head a campaign in our towns of Brackley and Towcester to encourage local businesses to register as a refill station, they will also have a sticker in the window to alert passers by that they are welcome to go in and fill up their bottle for FREE."

Councillor Bambridge proposed the following amendment to insert the underlined text and delete the crossed through text, which was seconded by Councillor Bignell:

"South Northamptonshire Council has a good record on environmental issues including recycling and as we move forward into our new Unitary Council, it is important we continue this approach.

In the UK we have some of the highest quality drinking water in the world – from our taps. Despite this the consumption of bottled water has doubled over the last 15 years, an estimated 7 billion plastic water bottles are used in the UK each year. Millions of bottles are estimated to be littered, landfilled or incinerated every day producing dangerous levels of CO2 emissions every year. Once plastics enter our oceans they break into micro-plastics, and these are found throughout our oceans and the impact on our wildlife has become catastrophic. ~~So how can our council help in reducing this?~~

~~*By Introducing 'Refill' – a free tap water initiative. It is designed to reduce plastic pollution, making refilling your water bottle easy, attractive and rewarding. If all the refill stations are used just TWICE a week we would save more than 14 million bottles a year, making carrying a refillable bottle a social norm. 340 million plastic bottles would be saved every year if just one in 10 Brits refilled every week. I propose that our council head a campaign in our towns of Brackley and Towcester to encourage local businesses to register as a refill station, they will also have a sticker in the window to alert passers by that they are welcome to go in and fill up their bottle for FREE.*~~

This council pledges to continue playing a leading role in participating in and promoting the Refill Scheme in the district by supplying free tap water to visitors to the Forum building and being actively involved in encouraging local businesses to participate in the scheme including advertising the fact. This will be achieved through visits by its Environmental Health team and by talking to business groups and publicity. Refill estimates that if all the Refill stations are used twice a week more than 14 million plastic bottles a year can be saved and if one in 10 people in Britain refilled every week 340 million bottles could be saved."

On being put to the vote, the amendment was approved. The motion as amended was debated and on being put to the vote, was supported.

Resolved

(1) That the following motion, as amended, be adopted:

South Northamptonshire Council has a good record of tackling environmental issues and as the new Unitary Council approaches, it is important that we continue to champion our approach. There have been several national and local expressions of the strength of public opinion in London and Northamptonshire on the issue of climate change and the need to address carbon reduction to protect the health and wellbeing of future generations. It should be noted that in response to these concerns, the UK parliament has declared a Climate Emergency and set a new target in law to be net carbon zero by 2050.

Action on Climate Change must be shared across all levels of government and we have a duty to limit the impacts of Climate Breakdown. It is proposed, therefore:

- This Council notes that the impacts of climate change are already causing serious damage around the world
- This Council will establish a Working Group under the auspices of the Scrutiny Committee to assess the existing carbon footprint of the district and review potential actions and associated cost estimates this Council could take to limit the effects of Climate Change in South Northamptonshire
 - The Working Group (of up to 10 members) will be cross party, not politically balanced and not limited to current members of the Scrutiny Committee

- A budget of £25,000 will be made available from reserves for any expenses related to the investigation
- This Council requests the Scrutiny Committee to report back to Council before the end of December 2019, with their findings along with recommendations for actions and budgets.
- Council also calls upon its successor West Northamptonshire Unitary Council to continue this work once it comes into existence.

(2) That the following motion, as amended, be adopted:

South Northamptonshire Council has a good record on environmental issues including recycling and as we move forward into our new Unitary Council, it is important we continue this approach.

In the UK we have some of the highest quality drinking water in the world – from our taps. Despite this the consumption of bottled water has doubled over the last 15 years, an estimated 7 billion plastic water bottles are used in the UK each year. Millions of bottles are estimated to be littered, landfilled or incinerated every day producing dangerous levels of CO2 emissions every year. Once plastics enter our oceans they break into micro-plastics, and these are found throughout our oceans and the impact on our wildlife has become catastrophic.

This council pledges to continue playing a leading role in participating in and promoting the Refill Scheme in the district by supplying free tap water to visitors to the Forum building and being actively involved in encouraging local businesses to participate in the scheme including advertising the fact. This will be achieved through visits by its Environmental Health team and by talking to business groups and publicity. Refill estimates that if all the Refill stations are used twice a week more than 14 million plastic bottles a year can be saved and if one in 10 people in Britain refilled every week 340 million bottles could be saved.

27 **Announcements by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive**

The Leader, Councillor McCord, referred to the recent resignation of former Councillor Jonathon Riley and thanked him for his services to the district.

The Chief Executive had no announcements.

28 **Questions to the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive**

Councillor Johns referred to draft Sports and Leisure Strategy which he supported and asked the Leader, Councillor McCord, if there would be a similar strategy for arts and culture to help sustain and improve mental health.

The Leader invited the Portfolio Holder for Wellbeing, Councillor Cooper, to respond. Councillor Cooper explained that the next, and final, strategy was a Community Strategy which would pick these aspects up.

29 'Making' (Adoption) of the Roade Neighbourhood Plan

The Assistant Director for Planning and Economy submitted a report to consider the outcome of the Referendum on the Roade Neighbourhood Plan and to formally 'make' the Neighbourhood Plan.

Resolved

- (1) That the Referendum result of the 20 June 2019, where 94.2% of those who voted, were in favour of the Roade Neighbourhood Plan, which is above the required 50%, be noted.
- (2) That it be agreed to 'make' the Roade Neighbourhood Plan, as recommended by the Planning Policy and Regeneration Committee, so that it continues to have effect as part of the statutory Development Plan for the District.
- (3) That the issuing and publication of a Decision Statement, as recommended by the Planning Policy and Regeneration Strategy Committee be approved.

30 Food and Health and Safety Service Plan 2019/20

The Assistant Director Environment and Regulatory Services submitted a report to consider formal approval of the annual Food and Health & Safety Service Plan 2019/20.

Resolved

- (1) That the Food and Health & Safety Service Plan 2019/20 (annex to the Minutes, as set out in the Minute Book) be approved.

31 Appointment of Section 151 Officer

The Chief Executive submitted a report to designate the appropriate officer of the Council as its Section 151 Officer as required by the Constitution and legislation.

Resolved

- (1) That Martin Henry be designated as the Council's Section 151 Officer with effect from his employment start date, 9 September 2019, with South Northamptonshire Council.

32 Calendars of Meetings 2019/2020 and 2020/21

The Executive Director – Resources submitted a report for Council to consider minor revisions to the calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2019/20 and the calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2020/21.

In presenting the report, the Leader of the Council, Councillor McCord, advised Members that the April 2020 Cabinet meeting would take place on Tuesday 14 April rather than Monday 13 April as this was Easter Monday.

Resolved

- (1) That the revised calendar of meetings for South Northamptonshire Council for the municipal year 2019/20 (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be approved.
- (2) That the calendar of meetings for South Northamptonshire Council for the municipal year 2020/21 (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be approved.

33 Appointments to Outside Bodies, Internal Working Groups and Member Champions 2019/2020

The Executive Director: Resources submitted a report to advise the Council of Cabinet decisions regarding appointments to outside bodies, internal working groups and Member Champions for 2019/2020.

Resolved

- (1) That the appointments to outside bodies, internal working groups and Member Champions for 2019/2020 be noted.
- (2) That delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director: Resources, in consultation with the Chairman of the Council, to appoint Members to any appropriate outside bodies relating to non-executive functions, and to designate attendance as an approved duty.

34 Urgent Business (previously agreed with the Chairman)

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm

Chairman:

Date: