



EAST
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Agenda Item 4

Minutes of a Meeting of
East Cambridgeshire District Council held at
The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, CB7 4EE on
Thursday 19th May 2022 at 6.00pm

PRESENT

Councillor Christine Ambrose Smith	Councillor Bill Hunt
Councillor David Ambrose Smith	Councillor Mark Inskip
Councillor Sue Austen	Councillor Alec Jones
Councillor Anna Bailey	Councillor Daniel Schumann
Councillor Ian Bovingdon	Councillor Alan Sharp (Chairman)
Councillor David Brown	Councillor Amy Starkey
Councillor Matthew Downey	Councillor Lisa Stubbs
Councillor Lorna Dupré	Councillor John Trapp
Councillor Lavinia Edwards	Councillor Paola Trimarco
Councillor Lis Every	Councillor Jo Webber
Councillor Mark Goldsack	Councillor Alison Whelan
Councillor Simon Harries	Councillor Christine Whelan
Councillor Julia Huffer	Councillor Gareth Wilson

2 members of the public were in attendance.

1. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2022/23

Cllr Alan Sharp was duly nominated as Council Chairman by Cllr Anna Bailey and seconded by Cllr Daniel Schumann.

There being no other nominations, it was resolved:

That Cllr Alan Sharp be elected as Chairman of East Cambridgeshire District Council for the municipal year 2022/23.

Cllr Sharp then read aloud, and signed, the Declaration of Office for Chairman of Council.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Charlotte Cane and Joshua Schumann.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were made:

5. MINUTES – 21st APRIL 2022

On page 3, paragraph 3, Cllr Dupré had requested that a small addition be added to line 11, in line with the original content of the speech:

“...there would be difficult cases such as disabled drivers and market traders who would need to be listened to and solutions found that help meet their needs, but it was important not to rule out any options while the consultation process was ongoing.”

There were no comments or objections regarding the amendment.

It was resolved:

That, subject to the agreed amendment above, the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 21st April 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

6. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN 2022/23

Cllr Daniel Schumann was duly nominated as Council Vice-Chairman by Cllr Anna Bailey and seconded by Cllr Bill Hunt.

Cllr Gareth Wilson was duly nominated as Council Vice-Chairman by Cllr Lorna Dupré and seconded by Cllr John Trapp.

A secret ballot was held in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.2.1, with Cllr Daniel Schumann receiving 17 votes and Cllr Gareth Wilson receiving 9 votes.

It was resolved:

That Cllr Daniel Schumann be elected as Vice-Chairman of East Cambridgeshire District Council for the municipal year 2022/23.

Cllr D Schumann then read aloud, and signed, the Declaration of Office for Vice-Chairman of Council.

7. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman stated that it had been a privilege to serve as the Chairman of Council for 2021/22 and he looked forward to another year in the role. He drew Members' attention to the list of Chairman's Engagements that had been included in the Agenda papers and provided further details about some of the events. He added that, together with the Leader of Council, he had been part

of the welcoming party for Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal at Ely Cathedral two days earlier for the unveiling of the Fenland Black Oak Project, which he encouraged everyone to visit.

8. VOTE OF THANKS TO JO BROOKS, DIRECTOR OPERATIONS

The Chairman invited the Leader of Council, Cllr Anna Bailey, to propose the vote of thanks to Jo Brooks, Director Operations. Cllr Bailey spoke as follows:

“Thank you Chairman, very much. It is of course with very mixed feelings that I propose this vote of thanks, but Jo, it’s so good to see you here at Full Council this evening.

Jo started work at East Cambs in June 2013 as our Principal Housing Officer and made a huge and immediate impact for residents in housing need across the District. Jo showed her capability of grappling with apparently intractable problems and found ways of dealing with them, earning the respect and loyalty of her colleagues and always with a razor-like focus on getting good outcomes for people, which is absolutely what drives and motivates Jo.

Jo moved on with her career at East Cambs when in September 2014 she became Director of Operations, taking a large number of services under her wing. But a piece of Jo’s heart always remained with her housing team and her legacy within that team is as clear to see today as it was then.

The thing about Jo is that she sprinkles a little bit of Jo-ness everywhere that she goes and in everything that she does. And Jo, you’ve done so much in your time here at East Cambs, it’s simply impossible to mention all of it. Jo is never satisfied with just OK, it is always about being the best and helping others to be the best that they can be.

In her new role Jo got immediately stuck into setting up and implementing the new performance framework and ‘can do’ culture that still is at the very heart of the organisation today.

Jo works by earning the respect and trust of her staff, by supporting them when they need it, stepping away when they don’t, and always ensuring that recognition of achievements belongs to them, rather than to herself.

Jo took on the huge task of bringing the waste service back in house. Together with James Khan and their waste crews - and lots of bacon rolls - they set about transforming the service and driving new initiatives including a large and ongoing community engagement programme to encourage recycling and responsible waste disposal by residents, leading to the District’s excellent recycling rate which is the highest in the county and in the top 20 nationally. We’ve not quite made it to the top yet Jo, but we will continue! Part of the campaign was to engage

young people through the schools competition which led to the infamous Michael Recycle who makes regular appearances at various events and on social media.

Jo supported the planning team through huge change, mentoring Rebecca, and ensuring that positive change was embedded and lasting.

Jo has an absolute passion for emergency planning activity and it was a huge frustration to Jo that when Covid struck she herself was stuck in hospital. But on her return to work Jo led the Council's Covid recovery effort with massive gusto, and the ongoing response as lockdowns came and went. She brought in schemes to encourage people to get outdoors safely, and even helped children to see Santa online when visits to grottos were not allowed. And many many other initiatives that could only have come from Jo; her creativity is endless.

And Jo is an absolute expert at getting money from other organisations, always shoehorning in cash for East Cambs; she did it often and regularly and very successfully.

Jo is also very passionate about the environment - hedgehogs in particular - and both those elements have shone through in her work at East Cambs, where, alongside Richard Kay she has passionately thrown herself into the Council's Environment Plan and our yearly commitments, always sprinkling ideas with a little bit of Jo-ness to spark imaginations and bring them to life. And Jo's love of hedgehogs has spread into the organisation too, both in the planning service and, when Jo moved to Little Ouse she discovered that it's not a natural habitat for hedgehogs - being heavily agricultural - so Jo has mentored Maggie and donated her hedgehog houses and Maggie is now doing the work that Jo did previously, saving and supporting hedgehogs.

And whose plans are being implemented for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee? Jo's of course! Jo loves a bit of royalty, and I have never seen her quite so excited as on meeting Prince Charles on his visit to the District, an operation that from an East Cambs point of view Jo personally oversaw and ran with military precision – I think there were many practices at curtseying! And, of course, Jo also attended a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace which, obviously, required the purchase of a new hat!

Jo is first and foremost a very very proud and dedicated public servant and she is a brilliant one.

Jo, I speak for all my Group - it has been our absolute privilege to work with you and we thank you, for all that you have done for the Council, the residents, for the District. We were so lucky when you made that move from Devon to become a Fenny!

You are the beating heart of East Cambs Jo, your legacy is clear to see everywhere and I know that the organisation continues to say, and will continue to say, every single day, “what would Jo do?”

The Chairman then invited the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Cllr Lorna Dupré, to second the vote of thanks. Cllr Dupré spoke as follows:

“Thank you very much indeed Chair, and it is a great privilege to second this vote of thanks to Jo. I won’t say it’s a pleasure, because we really, really don’t want to see you go, and I know you feel the same.

I have always been hugely impressed by Jo as a dedicated member of the Council’s senior officer team. I joined this Council as a Member the year after Jo joined as an officer but I became aware of her at the point of her well-deserved promotion and that was such a great move for Jo and also for the Council.

Jo has always described herself as a ‘housing girl’, but the scope of the issues she has been called upon to deal with have stretched far beyond that. She is extremely hard working, absolutely committed and diligent, with a real passion to find solutions that work for people and to bring everybody around the table and hammer things out until they’re done, and done right.

Jo’s always been very helpful to me in addressing issues in my own Ward and across the Council more widely and I know that she has performed that service without fear or favour for every single member of this authority and we all have cause to be deeply grateful to Jo for her commitment to the Council, to the community of East Cambs and for her role in helping us to represent them to our very best.

I have not only been impressed by Jo - I have always at a personal level liked and respected her. The last couple of years in particular have been incredibly difficult, but she has borne them with an amazing courage, a smile, and a positive attitude always, which leave me dumbfounded with her attitude and approach, but not surprised because that is absolutely everything that I know of Jo, and that Jo has always been.

I shall personally miss Jo enormously, I know that members of my Group will, and I know that Jo will miss this Council too. We all wish this departure were at a different time and in different circumstances, but on behalf of my Group I would like to say: Thank you, Jo, you did us proud.”

The Chairman then invited the Chairman of the Operational Services Committee, Cllr Julia Huffer, to address Council. Cllr Huffer spoke as follows:

“I first met Jo in 2015 when as a newly elected member with a passion for all things waste-related I became Member Champion for Waste. I remember sitting in a meeting with Veolia and Jo and thinking that the

expression “an iron fist in a velvet glove” could have been created just for Jo. I quickly realised that her passions, apart from her cats and handbags, were her staff and her residents. She fought fiercely to get Veolia to provide a service worthy of our residents and when it became clear that the standards they offered were miles away from what Jo wanted to give our District, she oversaw the bringing back in-house of our wonderful waste team with determination, intelligence and kindness. She successfully delivered a first-class service for her residents and better terms and conditions for her beloved waste crews.

She never asked anyone to do anything she wouldn't do herself, she leads from the front, and her loyalty, humour and kindness will be with me forever.

She leaves very large shoes to fill, she has set the bar very high, and I will miss her enormously. God bless you Jo, I feel privileged to have worked with you and I can't thank you enough for everything you have done for East Cambs.”

The Chairman then invited comments from other Members, who all spoke of Jo Brooks' enthusiasm, dedication, efficiency, professionalism, kindness, willingness to help, inspirational leadership, and her exemplary contribution to public service. All expressed gratitude for having worked with her, and regret that she was retiring, stating that she would be a very difficult act to follow. In addition to the achievements and initiatives already mentioned, Members also drew attention to her work on the Youth Strategy and the Community Safety Partnership, both of which gave a legacy that would benefit residents of East Cambridgeshire for years to come.

The Council then stood and the Chairman formally thanked Jo Brooks, Director Operations, for her dedication and service to the Council and the District, and presented her with a commemorative scroll and a bouquet of flowers. Rounds of applause had followed each speech and the presentation.

Jo Brooks thanked Members for their kind words and reflected that it was almost exactly 10 years since she had joined the Council. She had hoped to remain at ECDC for many more years, but sadly cancer had other plans and therefore she had made the difficult decision to retire at the age of only 53. Although she missed her work every day, she was determined to enjoy every remaining moment. She knew that she hadn't always been able to give Members the answers that they wanted to hear, but she hoped that she had always given them options. She stated that she left behind an excellent team, and was very proud of her 37 years as a public servant.

6:38 – 6:45pm the meeting was briefly adjourned.

9. ISLEHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – REFERENDUM RESULT & ADOPTION

Council considered a report (X1, previously circulated) containing the Isleham Neighbourhood Plan that had been the subject of a successful referendum on 28th April 2022. The Corporate Unit Manager explained that the Plan had received the majority support needed at the recent referendum, with approximately 92% of votes cast in its favour. It now needed to be formally “made” (i.e. “adopted”) by the Council to become part of the Development Plan for East Cambridgeshire.

Cllr Huffer moved the recommendation in the report and expressed her pleasure at proposing the adoption of the Isleham Neighbourhood Plan since she knew the huge amount of work that had gone into it, mostly by volunteers, and the benefits it would bring to all the residents of Isleham. Cllr Goldsack added his support by seconding the motion. He had seen the benefits of Neighbourhood Plans in other areas, as well as the tireless work of those who had developed the Isleham Plan. As a Local Authority Member for Isleham and a resident of the village, he was delighted to support the Plan.

A Member congratulated the community and the Parish Council for a thorough and comprehensive Plan. The Member had experienced the creation and adoption of a Neighbourhood Plan in their own village and, whilst recognising the lengthy and time-consuming process, they recommended that other villages should also develop their own Plans since they formed statutory Planning documents. Another Member commented that Littleport was shortly to commence their own Neighbourhood Plan, and thanked all Parish Councils whose example they could follow.

It was unanimously resolved:

a) That Isleham Parish Council be congratulated on its preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan and a successful referendum outcome, becoming the fourth Parish Council to do so in East Cambridgeshire.

b) That the Isleham Neighbourhood Plan, as attached at Appendix 1 of the report, be formally made part of the Development Plan for East Cambridgeshire with immediate effect.

10. PETITIONS

No petitions had been received.

11. MOTIONS

No Motions had been received.

12. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

Questions were received and responses given as follows:

i) Question to the Chairman of the Operational Services Committee from Cllr Mark Inskip:

“On Friday 11 February councillors were informed of major changes to the refuse collection service run by East Cambs Street Scene to be introduced on 28 March 2022. I raised a number of queries and concerns to officers in response. I was particularly concerned about the changes being introduced during a period where the regular collection cycle is disrupted by a series of bank holidays. I specifically asked whether consideration had been given to deferring this change to a more stable period for collection days, for example after the last of the April, May and June bank holidays.

As East Cambs residents are only too well aware, no change was made to the introduction of the round reconfiguration changes and as a consequence they have faced weeks of disruption with wheelie bins not being emptied on the planned collection day and black bags piled up on streets for days at a time. Most recently this weekend residents in my ward complained of black bags in one area that remain uncollected for two weeks despite the missed collections being reported multiple times.

The timing of this change has guaranteed that issues faced by residents have been amplified and extra stress put on refuse crews who had additional work as a consequence of the bank holiday catch-ups.

Will the Chair of Operational Services Committee apologise to residents for the weeks of disruption to a core council service? And will she acknowledge it was a mistake to introduce these changes just prior to a series of bank holidays?”

Response from the Chairman of the Operational Services Committee, Cllr Julia Huffer:

“Thank you for your question Cllr Inskip.

Making major changes to the most important service to all our residents was not something that was not done lightly or on a whim. As some areas of our District have grown exponentially, the pressure on our crews has also grown in certain areas on certain days. Due to the ever-evolving nature of the service provided and the daily constraints and pressures it presents there would never be an ideal time to implement a project of this magnitude.

Much thought was given to the time of the implementation and the additional confusion that Bank Holiday collections presents to all. From April to August 2022, four out of the five months experience at least one Bank Holiday, with June experiencing an additional day due to the Queen’s Jubilee. As you head into July, the only month without a Bank Holiday, you then encounter the school holidays and peak leave pressures.

The increasing pressure ECSS experienced from the staffing shortage, which resulted in the temporary suspension of the green waste collection service during December and January, was continuing and without reconfiguring the collection rounds, this pressure could have caused another suspension of the green waste service when the demand for the service was higher. The Council and ECSS did not want this to happen and, although there were challenges highlighted in connection with the Bank Holidays, after careful consideration and the successful use of communication methods it was deemed the right time to implement the project.

This is not something that can be trialled or a dummy run carried out. Many hours were spent working out the new routes which involve crews doing rounds they have never done before and, although the crews are working really hard, errors have been made and some residents have been inconvenienced. However, things are getting back to the gold standard of service we are used to before the changes were made.

Councillors Inskip and Dupré made much of the missed collections in Witchford recently. Maybe if they had sought answers from Officers before playing the blame game a more balanced comment could have been made, but never let the facts get in the way of a tweet, district report to a Parish Council, or a headline in a leaflet. On that particular day, a Saturday, the reason for the failed collections was nothing to do with the round reconfiguration but an unexpected staff shortage which meant that certain areas could not be collected as expected. This would have been the case with or without the changes to the collection schedule. In future I would ask certain members opposite to check for facts before hurling accusations about the incompetence of management. I have spoken to the Waste Team about the pile of black bags uncollected for two weeks: they have investigated, they have resolved the issue, I understand it's something to do with cars parked down a very narrow channel.

I of course apologise unreservedly to any residents who have been inconvenienced in the last six weeks and I ask for their forbearance and understanding as the new routes become as familiar to our amazing crews as the old routes were.

Personally, I'm still getting used to putting my bins out on a Sunday and often awake with start on a Wednesday morning in a panic thinking I've missed bin day! All the residents I have spoken to, and have helped when they have experienced problems, have been understanding and sympathetic. Maybe Cllr Inskip you could take the same approach. I'm puzzled by your statement that you queried the timing of the changes in February. Can I ask who you raised this with as I have no record of such a conversation either by email or at committee, and if I'm wrong then I apologise. Thank you Chair."

ii) Question to the Leader of Council from Cllr Simon Harries:

“New Legislation requires all voters to show photo ID in order to exercise their right to vote. There is concern this may lead to disenfranchisement among the estimated 20% of the population that has no acceptable Photo ID at the moment and cannot afford to pay for the most common options: passport or driving licence. We understand that councils are responsible for ensuring voters in their own area receive acceptable Photo ID free of charge in time to exercise their right to vote.

Will the Leader of the Council please explain the process they plan to adopt for:

- a) notifying voters of the need to show Photo ID;
- b) notifying voters of the process to be followed in order to receive free Photo ID from the council;
- c) producing and distributing such Photo ID in time for the first elections for which Photo ID is legally required?”

Response from the Leader of Council, Cllr Anna Bailey:

“Thank you Cllr Harries for your question, and thank you to our Democratic Services Officers for their advice on the answer.

The Elections Act received Royal Assent on 28 April 2022, but will require secondary legislation to enact the various provisions within it, including the requirement for Voter identification. Preliminary indications are that the current intention is for Voter ID to be introduced in time for the May 2023 Elections. However, there is no detail about timescale at this stage, or how the process will operate.

It is anticipated that Central Government will run a national public awareness campaign and that Authorities will be expected to co-ordinate local publicity of the requirements.

As soon as Democratic Services have further details from the enactment of secondary legislation, and the guidance from Central Government on the processes that the Council are required to follow, we will of course update all Councillors on our implementation plan.”

iii) Question to Cllr Joshua Schumann from Cllr Lorna Dupré:

“At the Council Meeting on 21 April Cllr J Schumann seconded the motion to lend £7.5m to ECTC. He spoke in support of the motion assuring Councillors that the Council’s S151 Officer had “scrutinised the Company’s Business Plan”. On 6 May the shareholders’ meeting scheduled for 12 May was postponed. My group has been advised that the reason for this postponement was that the Business Plan for 2022/23 was not due to be received by the Board of ECTC until June.

As the Business Plan for 2022/23 has not yet been received by ECTC’s Board, why did Cllr J Schumann assure this Council that the S151 Officer had scrutinised it?”

Response from Cllr J Schumann:

Since apologies had been received from Cllr J Schumann, the Chairman asked the Democratic Services Manager to request a written response from Cllr J Schumann, and to circulate it to all Members once received. [See Appendix.]

iv) Question to the Leader of Council from Cllr Alec Jones:

“Schedule 4 Section 3 of the Memorandum of Understanding with ECSS states that operational changes to the refuse service can only be made with the endorsement of ‘the Chair of the Regulatory Services Committee (or equivalent)’.

Regular green waste collections were suspended by ECSS between Monday 13 December 2021 and Friday 28 January 2022 inclusive.

In her email to Cllr Charlotte Cane of 6 January 2022 Cllr Huffer, the Chair of the Operational Services Committee, stated “You will note that changes can be made with the endorsement of the Chair of Operational Services or equivalent, in this case the Leader of the Council.”

Can the Leader of the Council confirm:

- a) Whether she personally endorsed this suspension of green waste collections between Monday 13 December 2021 and Friday 28 January 2022?
- b) If so, the date and form (email, telephone etc) in which she did this?
- c) Which member or members are ‘equivalent’ to the Chair of the Regulatory Services Committee for the purposes of Schedule 4 Section 3 of the Memorandum of Understanding with ECSS?”

Response from the Leader of Council, Cllr Anna Bailey:

“Thank you Cllr Jones for your question.

The administration agreed to the suspension of green waste for a short period last year at a meeting on 22nd November 2021 with Officers here at the Council offices in The Grange; the meeting was attended by myself as Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Council.

The Chairman of the Operational Services Committee which took over responsibility for the waste contract when it superseded the Regulatory Services Committee has already confirmed that she supported that decision to ensure the health and wellbeing of staff and the smooth running of the rest of the service.

For further background and context for anybody that is interested I refer them to page 7 of the Minutes of the previous meeting that are in the Council Agenda papers for this evening, which gives a lot of detail about why these changes were necessary and it was arising from that first instance where we did need to carry out that suspension of the green waste service. I think this subject has had a lot of airtime now, it’s been

well-articulated. If there are further queries I would ask opposition members to just please simply put them forward, we're happy to answer them, there's no need to keep airing the same subject at full Council meetings."

Two Members questioned whether the Leader of Council had answered part c of the question. The Chair stated that no debate would be had on Member Questions, and further questions could be posed on a future occasion if needed.

13. LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, GROUP LEADERS AND DEPUTY GROUP LEADERS

Council considered a report (X2, previously circulated) containing details of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council; Political Groups; and Group Leaders and Deputies for the forthcoming year.

Cllr Sharp moved the recommendation in the report, seconded by Cllr D Schumann.

It was unanimously resolved:

That the details of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council; Political Groups; and Group Leaders and Deputies for the forthcoming municipal year, as detailed in paragraph 3.1 of the Officer's report, be noted.

14. POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY

Council considered a report (X3, previously circulated) containing details of the political balance of the Council and the implications for the allocation of seats on Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member Bodies

Cllr Sharp moved the recommendation in the report, seconded by Cllr D Schumann.

It was unanimously resolved:

That the political balance, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Officer's report, be noted, and the allocation of seats on Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member Bodies as set out in Appendix 2 of the report, be approved.

15. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES (INCLUDING SUBSTITUTES) AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES 2022/23

Council considered a report (X4, previously circulated) containing details of the proposed appointments of Members and substitutes to Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member Bodies for 2022/23.

Cllr Sharp moved the recommendation in the report, seconded by Cllr D Schumann.

It was unanimously resolved:

That the memberships of Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member Bodies, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Officer's report, be approved for 2022/23.

16. CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY

a) Membership and other appointments

Council considered a previously-circulated report requesting Council to make appointments to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for the municipal year 2022/23. The appendices to the report had been circulated after the results of the relevant local elections were known. The Chairman read aloud the names of the proposed nominees, as notified by the relevant Group Leaders, which were unchanged from the previous municipal year.

It was unanimously resolved:

1. That the following appointments and nominations to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for the municipal year 2022/23 be approved:

- i) That Cllr Anna Bailey be appointed as the Council's appointee to the Combined Authority with Cllr Joshua Schumann appointed as the substitute member;
- ii) That Cllrs Alan Sharp and Lorna Dupré be nominated as Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with Cllrs Bill Hunt and Charlotte Cane nominated as their respective substitutes;
- iii) That Cllr David Brown be nominated as Member of the Audit & Governance Committee, with Cllr David Ambrose Smith nominated as the substitute member.

2. That the Chief Executive be authorised to make any amendments to the appointments to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Audit and Governance Committee in consultation with the Political Group Leaders, if the political balance is amended by the Combined Authority between now and the next Council meeting.

b) Update Report

Council considered the previously-circulated reports from the meetings of the Audit & Governance Committee (11th March 2022), the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (28th March 2022) and the Combined Authority Board (30th March 2022).

There were no questions or comments from Members to the representatives on the aforementioned committees.

It was unanimously resolved:

That the reports on the activities of the Combined Authority from the Council's representatives be noted.

17. APPOINTMENT OF BOARD DIRECTOR (EAST CAMBS STREET SCENE)

Council considered a report (X5, previously circulated) seeking approval to appoint the Corporate Unit Manager as Board Director for East Cambs Street Scene (ECSS), to replace the Director Operations who had resigned.

Cllr Bailey proposed the recommendation in the report, seconded by Cllr Huffer.

A Member stated their opposition to the appointment on the same conflicts of interest grounds that the appointment of a Board Director to East Cambs Trading Company (ECTC) had been opposed at the last meeting. The Member also reiterated that the opposition was on principle, and entirely unrelated to the proposed candidate.

It was resolved:

That the Corporate Unit Manager be appointed as Board Director for ECSS.

18. EXEMPT MINUTES – 21st APRIL 2022

The Chairman asked whether Members wished to raise any points on the detail of the Exempt Minutes of the previous meeting and stated that the meeting would need to move to Exempt session if any Member wished to do so. There were no comments or questions from any Members.

It was resolved:

That the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 21st April 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The meeting concluded at 7:10pm

Chairman.....

Date.....

Appendix

Written response from Cllr J Schumann to question asked by Cllr Dupré (Minute 12)

Thank you Councillor Dupre for your question.

Clearly the terminology used could have caused confusion. What was meant was the financial information on which the Section 151 Officer relied on when making his assessment, and all that information was provided to all Members in the exempt appendix. This included 'plans' in which the 'business' had based its financial projections on. The S151 officer had suggested in his introduction that he was happy that he had scrutinized and considered these plans in his recommendation. My comment was not in reference to the Business Plan document but rather the above explanation.

I apologise if the terminology used has caused confusion but believe the Council's decision was made in the correct context and with the necessary information.