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EAST
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 19 MAY 2022 – DECISION LIST

Agenda Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
1.	-	Public Question Time	To answer questions from members of the public.	There were no public questions.	-
2.	-	Election of Chairman 2022/23	To elect a Chairman of the Council for the 2022/23 municipal year.	It was resolved: That Cllr Alan Sharp be elected as Chairman of East Cambridgeshire District Council for the municipal year 2022/23.	
3.	-	Apologies for Absence	To receive apologies for absence from Members.	Apologies were received from Cllrs Charlotte Cane and Joshua Schumann.	-
4.	-	Declarations of Interest	To receive declarations of interests from Members in respect of any items on the Agenda in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct.	No Declarations of Interest were made.	-
5.	-	Minutes – 21 April 2022	To receive the Minutes of the last Council meeting.	It was resolved: That, subject to the agreed amendment ¹ , the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 April 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.	Democratic Services Manager

¹ Page 3, paragraph 3, line 11: “...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.”

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6.	-	Election of Vice-Chairman 2022/23	To appoint a Vice-Chairman of the Council for the 2022/23 municipal year.	It was resolved: That Cllr Daniel Schumann be elected as Vice-Chairman of East Cambridgeshire District Council for the municipal year 2022/23.	-
7.	-	Chairman's Announcements	Announcement of items of interest.	The Chairman highlighted the list of engagements he had undertaken during 2021/22 on behalf of the Council, as contained in the Council Agenda, and gave further details of some of these engagements.	-
8.	-	Vote of Thanks to Jo Brooks, Director Operations	To thank retiring Director Operations, Jo Brooks, for her service.	Tributes were given, and a scroll and flowers presented, thanking Jo Brooks, Director Operations, for her exemplary dedication and service to the Council, to the residents of the District, and to public service.	-
9.	X1	Isleham Neighbourhood Plan – Referendum Result and Adoption	To formally adopt the Isleham Neighbourhood Plan as part of the Development Plan for East Cambridgeshire.	It was 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.	Strategic Planning Manager

Agenda Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
10.	-	To Receive Petitions	To receive public petitions.	No public petitions had been received.	-
11.	-	Notice of Motions Under Procedure Rule 10	To receive and consider Motions with Notice.	No Motions had been received.	-
12.	-	To answer Questions from Members	To receive questions from Members of Council.	Four Questions from Members were received and three responses given as detailed at the end of the Decision List.	-
13.	X2	Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders	To receive details of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council; Political Groups; and Group Leaders and Deputies for the 2022/23 municipal year.	It was 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.	Democratic Services Manager
14.	X3	Political Proportionality	To receive details of the political balance of the Council and the implications for the allocation of seats on Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member Bodies.	It was 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.	Democratic Services Manager
15.	X4	Membership of Committees and Sub-Committees (including substitutes) and other Member Bodies 2022/23	To consider the appointment of Members and substitutes to Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member Bodies for 2022/23.	It was 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.	Democratic Services Manager

Agenda Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
16.	-	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority a) Appointments to the Combined Authority b) Update reports	a) To consider the appointments to be made to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for the municipal year 2022/23. b) To receive the reports from the Constituent Council representatives on the Combined Authority: Audit & Governance Committee (11/3/22) Overview & Scrutiny Committee (28/3/22) Combined Authority Board (30/3/22)	a) It was 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	Democratic Services Manager

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				<p>amended by the Combined Authority between now and the next Council meeting.</p> <p>b) It was resolved:</p> <p>That the reports on the activities of the Combined Authority from the Council's representatives be noted.</p>	
17.	X5	Appointment of Board Director East Cambs Street Scene (ECSS)	To appoint a Board Director for East Cambs Street Scene (ECSS).	<p>It was resolved:</p> <p>That the Corporate Unit Manager be appointed as a Board Director for ECSS.</p>	Chief Executive
18.	-	Exempt Minutes – 21 April 2022	To receive the Exempt Minutes of the last Council meeting.	<p>It was resolved:</p> <p>That the Exempt Minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 April 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.</p>	Democratic Services Manager

12. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

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 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 Councillor 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 Councillor 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 Joshua Schumann:

(Having received apologies from Cllr J Schumann for the meeting, the Chairman stated that Cllr Schumann’s response would be circulated to all Members in due course.)

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."