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EAST
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 16 JULY 2020
DECISION LIST

Agenda Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
1.	-	Public Question Time	To answer questions from members of the public.	No public questions were submitted.	
2.	-	Apologies for Absence	-	<p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Charlesworth.</p> <p>At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Jones reported that Councillor Charlesworth was currently on maternity leave after giving birth to a baby boy Monty, weighing over 8lb.</p> <p>The Chairman requested that the congratulations and best wishes of Council be passed onto Councillor Charlesworth and her family.</p>	-
3.	-	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.	<p>Declarations of Interests were made by Councillor Charlotte Cane as follows:</p> <p>Agenda Item 7(i) Motion Local Electricity Bill – Prejudicial Interest as unpaid Director and minor shareholder in Reach Solar Farm Ltd (will not be exercising public speaking right).</p> <p>Agenda Item 9 Corporate Plan – Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) as employed by Wildlife Trust Bedfordshire,</p>	-

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				Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire (BCN).	
4.	-	Minutes – 21 May 2020	-	<p>It was resolved:</p> <p>That the Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 21 May 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the amendment of Minute 17 Covid 19 Update as follows:</p> <p>Page 12 penultimate paragraph, final sentence to read:</p> <p>A Member referred to page 2 section 4.1 of the report which said ‘all service leads including the two trading companies...’ and the Member commented that they thought that the Trading Companies were independent of the Council, so were they working together?</p> <p>Page 12 final paragraph, final sentence to read:</p> <p>The Chief Executive responded that the comment in the report was accurate, since it was considered appropriate that all activities of both the Council and the Trading Companies were co-ordinated to deal with the challenges of the crisis.</p>	Democratic Services Manager
5.	-	Chairman’s Announcements	Announcement of items of interest.	<p>The Chairman made the following announcements:</p> <p>The Chairman reported that, as of 3 July, the Chief Executive, John Hill, had served 25 years at East Cambridgeshire, almost</p>	-

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				<p>20 of which had been as Chief Executive. She stated that John had led the organisation to achieve many accomplishments and had worked with a large number of Leaders of all political persuasions through both good and challenging times. His excellent leadership skills were demonstrated by his ability to produce focused priorities and objectives and then to empower staff to deliver these. Notable achievements included maintaining a balanced Budget and Council Tax freeze, the establishment of the Council's two trading companies ECTC and ECSS and more recently becoming joint Chief Executive of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CA). The Chairman expressed the congratulations and thanks of the Council to John Hill.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council, Councilor Anna Bailey, endorsed the comments of the Chairman and expressed her own personal congratulations and thanks to John Hill. John had arrived in the Fens from Birmingham but had adapted well to the ways of the area, leading the Council through a great many changes. He always had been 'fleet of foot' and innovative and had a refreshing way of cutting through the detail to bring clarity. The Leader also commended John's role as joint Chief</p>	

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				<p>Executive of the Combined Authority and referred to the significant benefits which the CA was bringing to the County as a whole and to this District.</p> <p>Councillor Cane, as Liberal Democrat Deputy Leader, also congratulated John Hill and stated that he was a conscientious and committed Chief Executive both to East Cambridgeshire and now the County as a whole via the Combined Authority.</p> <p>Council expressed their appreciation to John Hill via a round of applause.</p> <p>The Chairman reminded Members of the E-mail notification earlier in the week of the remote Special Council meeting to be held on Friday 31 July 2020 to consider an Exempt Asset Management matter in the Parish of Mepal</p>	
6.	-	To Receive Petitions	To receive public petitions.	<p>A petition of approximately 1,229 local signatures was received requesting the Council to consider the provision of a Splash Pad in Ely.</p> <p>One of the Petition Organisers, Ellie Senior, spoke in support of the Petition and responded to questions by Members.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Ellie for her attendance and presentation of the Petition to the Council. The Leader of the Council then responded and stated that she had met with Ellie recently to discuss the detail</p>	-

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				of the issues. The Leader referred to the fact that it was usual for Town and Parish Councils to provide local play facilities and this had been recognised by the presentation of the Petition to City of Ely Council as well, who were considering the allocation of CIL/S106 funding for this purpose. If this was progressed, the District Council would assist in identifying and facilitating a suitable location for the Splash Pad.	
7.	-	Notice of Motions Under Procedure Rule 10	<p>The following motions were received and considered:</p> <p>(i) <u>Local Electricity Bill</u> (text of Motion at end of Decision List)</p> <p>(ii) <u>Black Lives Matter</u> (text of Motion at end of Decision List)</p> <p>(iii) <u>Balloons and Lanterns</u> (text of Motion at end of Decision List)</p>	<p>Motion referred to Operational Services Committee in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.4.</p> <p>Motion referred to Finance & Assets Committee in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.4.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>	<p>Director Operations/ Adrian Scaites-Stokes</p> <p>Director Commercial/ Janis Murfet</p> <p>Director Commercial/ Open Spaces & Facilities Manager</p>

8.	-	To answer Questions from Members	To receive questions from Members of Council.	<p>Questions from Members were received and responses given as follows:</p> <p><u>Councillor Lorna Dupré:</u></p> <p>I would like to ask the following question of the Chair of Finance & Assets Committee:</p> <p>Members of this Council will be aware of the fire at Mepal Outdoor Centre on Sunday 12 July. The Centre was handed back to the Council in February 2017, since when it has lain empty and deteriorating, at some considerable cost to secure, and subject to ongoing incidents of trespass. An exercise to sell or let the Centre to an external bidder in 2018 failed to reach a satisfactory conclusion. What are the Council's plans now for this important but declining asset?</p> <p><u>Response by Chair of Finance & Assets Committee, Councillor David Brown</u></p> <p>Firstly, I would like to thank Councillor Dupre for her question.</p> <p>I will start by thanking the fire crews from Chatteris, Manea, Ely, Cottenham and Cambridge who attended the fire on Sunday 12th June and brought the situation under control. I would also like to thank our Building Control team who attended on Monday to inspect and secure the building.</p>	Director Commercial
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				<p>The cause of the fire was deliberate. I would urge anyone with information about the incident to contact police by visiting www.cambs.police.uk to submit an online report or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.</p> <p>I can confirm that the Council has been undertaking a number of site investigations and surveys to fully establish future uses of this asset.</p> <p>I fully agree that this matter is one of urgency and, following on from the Chairman's announcement earlier, I hope Council will be discussing this issue in the very near future.</p> <p><u>Councillor John Trapp:</u></p> <p>Question 1a) Roughly how many people are currently employed at Lancaster Way Business Park?</p> <p>Question 1b) We are told that the expected employment at Lancaster Way Business Park will be in excess of 2,000. What is the basis for this assertion?</p> <p><u>Response by Leader of the Council, Councillor Anna Bailey:</u></p> <p>Around 1,700 people are currently employed at Lancaster Way Business Park. Thorlabs are nearing completion of</p>	
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				<p>construction of their new premises and are intending to bring 250 members of staff onto the site, DB Broadcast is due to open their new premises next month which will see 70 – 80 members of staff on site, and Cambridge Nutritional Sciences is due to open by the end of the year, also with 70 – 80 members of staff. So in terms of part 1b of the question, the Business Park is expected to exceed 2,000 jobs on site by the end of this year.</p> <p>It's worthy of note that the Thorlabs facility has actually been constructed to accommodate around 500 people to cater for their phased expansion plans.</p> <p>In terms of the phase two expansion of Lancaster Way Business Park, this was the subject of a planning application which was granted permission in 2011. Since then, in April 2016 the site has, thanks to the support of this Authority, been granted status as an Enterprise Zone - it's part of the Cambridge Compass Enterprise Zone, a status which is hugely helpful in bringing new businesses and high-quality jobs to the Park.</p> <p>The impact of phase 2 expansion is estimated to increase FTE employment on Lancaster Way Business Park to between 2,500 and 3,200 people. This is based on the square footage expansion of the site, but is obviously subject to the needs of</p>	
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				individual businesses as they relocate to the site or expand.	
9.		Corporate Plan	To consider the updated Corporate Plan 2020-23 for East Cambridgeshire District Council.	<p>It was resolved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) That the completed actions and progress made during the past 12 months be noted. (ii) That the new Corporate Plan set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved. (ii) That the Monitoring Officer be instructed to amend the Constitution (ref: Article 1 paragraph 1.05) to make the necessary amendments to reflect the new Corporate Plan priorities. 	Corporate Management Team
10.		Covid-19 Impact on Council Finances	To consider the impact of Covid-19 on the Council's finances in 2020/21 and the potential impact on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).	<p>It was resolved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) To note the current assessment of Covid-19 on the Council's finances detailed in the report. (ii) To instruct the Finance Manager to update the Finance & Assets Committee, when appropriate, on revisions to the Medium Term Financial Strategy to take into account Covid-19 and the 2019/20 budget outturn. (iii) To request the Finance Manager and Director, Commercial in consultation with the Chairman of Finance & Assets Committee, to 	Finance Manager & S151 Officer

				<p>negotiate with GLL.</p> <p>(iv) To approve new loan facilities for East Cambs Trading Company from 31st March 2021, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ original £5m loan (due to be repaid by 31st March 2021) – a new loan with a final repayment date of 31st July 2023 and with a reduced interest rate of 3.50% per annum, this compared to 5.22% for the original loan, as detailed in paragraph 10.5 of the submitted report; ▪ MOD loan (due to be repaid by 31 March 2021) – a new loan with a final repayment date of 31st March 2023 and with a reduced interest rate of 3.50% per annum, this compared to 5.22% for the original loan, as detailed in paragraph 10.5 of the submitted report. <p>(v) To approve an increase in management fee of £91,000 to East Cambs Street Scene, to cover the first six months additional costs of the waste and recycling service.</p>	
11.		Constitutional Amendment	To consider an amendment to Council Procedure Rules within the Constitution regarding Budget amendments.	<p>It was resolved:</p> <p>That approval be given to the proposed amendment to Council Procedure Rules within the Constitution, as detailed at</p>	Democratic Services Manager

				Appendix 1 to the submitted report, subject to the inclusion of the same wording in 'track changes' in Procedure Rule 11.9 in Procedure Rule 12.10.1, to ensure consistency.	
12.		Combined Authority Update Report	To receive a report on the activities of the Combined Authority from this Council's appointees.	It was resolved: That the report on the activities of the Combined Authority be noted.	-
13.		Action Taken by the Chief Executive on the Grounds of Urgency	To note action taken by the Chief Executive on the grounds of urgency relating to the Local Authority Discretionary Grant Fund.	It was resolved: That the report be noted.	-

MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10

(i) Local Electricity Bill

This Council:

- (i) acknowledges the efforts that this council is making to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy;
- (ii) recognises that councils can play a central role in creating sustainable communities, particularly through the provision of locally generated renewable electricity;
- (iii) further recognises
 - that very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers result in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so,
 - that making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier's operation would create significant opportunities for councils and local community co-operatives to be providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses and organisations, and
 - that revenues received by councils that became local renewable electricity providers could be used to help fund local greenhouse gas emissions reduction measures and to help improve local services and facilities;

(iv) accordingly resolves to support the Local Electricity Bill, currently supported by a cross-party group of 187 MPs, and which, if made law, would make the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate by establishing a Right to Local Supply; and

(v) further resolves to:

- write to local MPs, asking them to support the Bill, and
- write to the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People, at 8 Delancey Passage, Camden, London NW1 7NN or info@powerforpeople.org.uk expressing its support.

Proposed: Mark Inskip

Seconded: Lorna Dupré

(ii) **Black Lives Matter**

Council notes:

1. In the UK 26% of instances of police using firearms are against Black people, despite Black people making up only 3.3% (1) of the population. 51% of young men in custody in the UK are from Black, Asian or minority ethnic backgrounds, despite these groups making up only 14% (2) of the UK population. The 2017 Lammy Report concluded that “BAME individuals still face bias, including overt discrimination, in parts of the justice system”. Most recently, we’ve seen that BAME people are 54% (3) more likely than white people to be fined under the new coronavirus lockdown laws.
2. Here in East Cambs, Black people face being stopped by police just because they are Black. An example of this happening in Ely was recently posted on social media. Data from Stop Watch shows that in 2018/2019, police officers in Cambridgeshire subjected Black people to stop and search at a rate of 6 (4) times more than white people.
3. The police killing of George Floyd in June 2020, has led to protests against the killing of Black people by police everywhere from Floyd’s home of Minneapolis, to the UK, Japan, and New Zealand. The world knows George Floyd’s name, and his death has fuelled a movement to end police violence against Black people.

(1) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/764894/police-use-of-force-apr2017-mar2018-hosb3018.pdf

(2) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/643001/lammy-review-final-report.pdf

(3) <https://www.itv.com/news/2020-06-17/bame-people-50-more-likely-to-receive-coronavirus-lockdown-fines-mps-told/>

(4) <https://www.stop-watch.org/your-area/area/cambridgeshire>

East Cambridgeshire District Council extends our solidarity to the Black Lives Matters movement and believes that:

- A. Racism in all forms, both structural and in individuals, continues to be a serious and often unseen problem throughout the UK, including in East Cambridgeshire. The needs and challenges of Black people may differ from those of Asian people and also those of other minority ethnic groups and the Council will ensure that this is reflected in our approach to equality, diversity and inclusion.
- B. Although progress has been made in combating racism in all its forms, more work is needed to eradicate it entirely.

This Council, representing people in East Cambridgeshire, welcomes its duty to actively lead that work locally.

Council resolves to meet the challenge head-on with immediate action to:

- I. Review and recommend concrete actions on ensuring that we maintain an actively anti-racist outlook within the area of BAME access to housing and to homelessness & welfare support.
- II. Commit to taking an active part in Black History Month.
- III. Write to the Minister for Schools asking the government to provide resources to schools to support them in providing further historical context for events normally only seen through the lens of white British history.
- IV. Produce a report on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on BAME communities in East Cambridgeshire by the end of 2020, to be reviewed by the Finance and Assets Committee, and shared with BAME community representatives.
- V. Ask the Police & Crime Commissioner to put in place measures to ensure that arrest and custody measures are proportionate.
- VI. Write to the two MPs in our district to ask that rather than spending money on another race inequality review, the Government implements recommendations of previous reviews - specifically including but not restricted to, the Lammy and Windrush recommendations.

On a long term basis Council believes there is a need to further address racism, and therefore resolves to, over time:

- VII. Ask officers to regularly review our progress on the measures above, report progress to Finance & Assets Committee and recommend to Council any additional steps required to achieve these goals.
- VIII. Review and examine the internal structures of East Cambs District Council to ensure Black Asian and Minority Ethnic people are not disadvantaged. Understand specifically how many minority ethnic people the council employ, where are they working, what barriers, if any exist to their career progression and recommend any changes required to our staff policies and procedures to ensure that they are inclusive.
- IX. Act on any concerns raised about street names which derive from individuals or organisations that have racist links.

- X. Ask the Police & Crime Commissioner to report on what measures have been put in place to reduce the disproportionality of BAME people affected by the use of stop and search powers seen locally and nationally and how often are these measures are reviewed; and to provide a regular report as to initiatives and progress.
- XI. Ask the Combined Authority to produce a toolkit for businesses to help broaden their understanding of race inequality in the workplace, including but not limited to materials, signposts to relevant local groups and training that can be provided for staff, and links to relevant networks.

Proposed: Cllr Matthew Downey

Seconded: Cllr Charlotte Cane

(iii) Balloons and Lanterns

East Cambridgeshire is a rural area with many farm animals, as well as a wide and diverse mix of wildlife.

An estimated 200,000 sky lanterns and many thousands of balloons are sold in the UK each year for release. While they can look mesmerising, many people are unaware of the deadly consequences fallen lanterns and deflated balloons can have for animals and the environment.

Wildlife and farm animals can easily become entangled in lantern frames and balloon strings, not to mention the fatal effect these parts can have on an animal if they ingest any component of these items. Deflated and fragments of balloons are commonly mistaken for food by marine life, and the strings used to tether balloons have been known to cause animals to become entangled or choke and suffer from internal blockages which ultimately leads to their death.

Reports state that balloons are the highest-risk debris item to seabirds; they are 32 times more likely to result in death than ingesting hard plastic. Both balloons and sky lanterns have the potential to travel miles from their original release site before returning to land.

There is a risk to buildings, dry standing crops, forestry, hay/straw stacks and habitats.

Wherever the depleted lanterns may fall, they inevitably litter the area in question.

There is an air safety risk associated with possible "ingestion" of parts into aircraft engines.

This Council resolves to ban the release of all types of helium-filled balloon and sky lantern on property and land owned by the District Council.

This Council resolves to ask all Parish and Town Councils within East Cambridgeshire to pass a similar motion to ban the release of all types of helium-filled balloon and sky lantern on Parish & Town Council owned land.

This Council resolves to engage with businesses, communities, landowners, schools and individuals in East Cambridgeshire encouraging them to sign up to this initiative.

Proposer: Cllr Alan Sharp

Seconder: Cllr Amy Starkey