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## **NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON**

**17<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7.00 p.m.**

### **Present**

Councillor Hasthorpe (in the Chair)

Councillors Abel, Barfield, Beasant, Bramley, Brookes, Cairns, Callison, Cracknell, Fenty, Freeston, Furneaux, Green, Harness, Hudson, Jackson, Lindley, Mickleburgh, Nichols, Parkinson, Patrick, Pettigrew, Procter, Rodwell, Rogers, Rudd, Shepherd, Sheridan, Silvester, K Swinburn, S Swinburn, Watson, Wheatley, Wilson and Woodward.

### **Officers in Attendance:**

- Rob Walsh (Chief Executive)
- Simon Jones (Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer)
- Paul Windley (Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager)
- Paul Wisken (Civic and Mayoral Officer)

### **NEL.46 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Deputy Mayor welcomed all those present to this meeting of North East Lincolnshire Council with all Members in virtual attendance, except for himself who was situated in Grimsby Town Hall with the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer. He invited the Monitoring Officer to advise on protocols to be followed at this meeting.

The Deputy Mayor noted that since the last Council meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> July, there had been a resurgence of the Covid-19 virus in many areas of the UK. Mercifully, North East Lincolnshire continued to have a low number of cases and he urged all Members to continue doing the sterling work they had been doing in assisting with the needs of the residents of the Borough in keeping the virus away.

On the Mayoral front, he highlighted the re-opening of the wonderful Great Grimsby Fishing Heritage Centre with a new art exhibition from local artist Tony Codd. Along with the Deputy Mayoress, he had attended the Merchant Navy Day Ceremony on 3<sup>rd</sup> September and taken part in the Naval Flag Raising Ceremony

on 9<sup>th</sup> September to give official recognition of the outstanding efforts made by the NHS across the region since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. On 20<sup>th</sup> August he was delighted to host a Civic Reception in honour of the incredible efforts of teacher Zane Powles, recognised for both his dedication to feeding his pupils during their time away from school and also his awesome charity cycle ride around the country.

#### **NEL.47 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from this meeting were received from Councillors Barber, Goodwin, Hyldon-King, James, Nici and Shreeve.

#### **NEL.48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest from Members in respect of any items on the agenda for this meeting.

#### **NEL.49 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of North East Lincolnshire Council held on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 were approved as a correct record.

#### **NEL.50 THE LEADER'S STATEMENT**

The Council received a statement from the Leader of the Council.

The Leader commented that North East Lincolnshire had done well to get this far without a significant local Covid-19 outbreak. That we still had one of the lowest infection rates in the country was, in no small part, due to the sterling work done by this local authority and our partners to implement control measures. It was also thanks to the generally high level of compliance by local people, businesses and visitors to the area. However, with a general rise in rates nationally, he stressed that we all needed to continue to do our bit to keep the virus at bay – wash your hands, cover your face, make space. He warned against complacency and again thanked Elected Members and all council staff for the commitment and work that had been put into fighting Covid locally.

On economic recovery post lockdown, engagement continued with the business sector to support their sustainability and viability. The Leader acknowledged that, with the furlough scheme soon coming to an end, some employers in our area would have significant challenges. Whilst lower than the average increase across the country, the reported 50% increase in Universal Credit claimants across North East Lincolnshire since the start of the pandemic was clearly very worrying. A cross sector taskforce had been established to oversee the implementation of the Government's Kickstart programme for young people and the administration would do all it could to support people back into work.

The outcome of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review was awaited with the Council about to enter a challenging budget round. The Leader hoped that the review would deliver a settlement for local government that enabled us to plan effectively for the medium term, protect key public services and support local economic recovery. The administration continued to lobby our local MPs and the Government on this issue.

There was continued engagement with leading south bank businesses on the future Local Enterprise Partnership arrangements. The administration was pressing strongly to ensure that the Greater Lincolnshire LEP's Local Industrial Strategy more robustly reflected the sector strengths of our area. The publication of the Government's White Paper on devolution and local recovery was awaited. Around the Humber estuary, the four Council Leaders have agreed the need for credible and effective collaboration arrangements, in any event. The Humber Leadership Board, a joint committee of the four Councils, would focus on key priority areas including energy and ports, involve LEP partners and promote the economic potential of the Humber. Discussions continued with Greater Lincolnshire Leaders on the potential for devolution and local government re-organisation, and any material developments would be reported to both Cabinet and Full Council.

Regeneration continued to be a major focus and work continued apace despite Covid. The formal opening of the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult Centre of Excellence in the Port of Grimsby was welcomed by the Leader. He felt that this further strengthened our credentials as a Borough that was leading the way on the renewables front. The Catapult had a focus on innovation, research and development and sat alongside the likes of Orsted and Triton Knoll, in sending a very positive message about the area's future.

Following a successful public consultation exercise, the Town Investment Plan for Grimsby was being finalised for submission to Cabinet and, in due course, Government. £25m had been set aside via the Government's Stronger Towns Fund to support transformational town centre regeneration projects. Alongside our Future High Streets Fund bid to transform and repurpose the western end of Freshney Place, this represented an ambitious programme of change to support local, sustainable regeneration.

Progress continued with the Onside Youth Zone project and the public realm works in St James Square and the Garth Lane area. An additional £1m of Government grant funding via the Accelerated Towns Fund had been received to upgrade Riverhead Square. The Leader noted that this was evidence of the Government's continued commitment to the Town Deal and confidence in the work of this administration.

New recycling bins were now being used in nearly 40,000 homes across the Borough. Feedback had been very positive and there had been an increase in the unacceptably low recycling rates inherited from the previous administration. However, it was recognised that there were around 2,000 terraced homes that may not have space for the new bins and the council was actively consulting and

working with these residents to find a workable solution. A weekly food waste collection trial would commence in March, 2021 to further reduce domestic residual waste.

Capital works continued to increase capacity and reduce congestion at Tollbar roundabout and to build a major new roundabout at the junction of Littlecoates Road and Cambridge Road in Grimsby. These works, funded by the Greater Lincolnshire LEP, were currently on schedule and within budget.

The Leader noted that it had been almost a year since Ofsted carried out a Focused Visit that resulted in some particularly challenging feedback and recommendations regarding our Children's Services. He reported that significant improvements were now in place with a positive direction of travel but we must not be complacent. He added that it was essential to continue with transformational change to make these services safe, robust and financially sustainable.

As with all local authorities around the country, the council continued to plan for exiting the EU and the end of the transition period in the New Year. Enabling legislation was in place for Government to introduce lorry parks around port areas, if needed, to minimise potential disruption. The Leader stated that, whilst no decisions had yet been made in respect of lorry parks around the Humber, the Government had previously consulted with us on potential sites. He felt it important that such plans were put in place and work would continue with all relevant agencies as needed.

The Leader concluded by noting that Democratic Services would be emailing all members with details of special urgency decisions and an update on the implementation of motions resolved at previous Council meetings.

## **NEL.51 QUESTION TIME**

A question had been submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures from Mr Paul Arundell. In Mr Arundell's absence, the Chair put the question, as set out below, to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Skills and Housing:

*"Is it right for the Council to spend money on the sculpture of a palm tree that has no relevance to Cleethorpes, when the money could be better spent on the disabled facilities for residents and visitors to Cleethorpes?"*

Councillor Fenty, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Skills and Housing, thanked Mr Arundell for the question. He responded that public art could often be controversial and he explained that this was one part of a five strand project to be installed on the North Promenade to drive additional footfall and support businesses. The five strands were:

1. Shutter Art – which he believed to be the longest contemporary walking art in Europe and was now complete

2. Programmable dancing illuminations looped around lampposts extending along most of the North Promenade and due to be installed no later than February 2021.
3. Funky Fitness Furniture – to be used to sit on and take in the breathtaking views or for fitness purposes, due to be installed by the end of 2020.
4. Relay Running Markers at 100m intervals thro to a 800m half-mile marker, due to be installed by the end of November, 2020.
5. The White Palm - planning approval had now been granted and the sculpture was now out to tender. The palm would be 72ft high, making it taller than the Angel of North, which he noted had met strong resistance when first proposed but was now much loved and an iconic symbol of the North.

The projects were aimed at attracting tourism but also for local people to take advantage of free parking after hours to see the sights and help with fitness. Councillor Fenty was hopeful that they would help to attract other events across the North Promenade. All funding was through the Coast Communities Fund programme and the product of significant engagement led by Coast NEL, a private sector led group of interested organisations. The council were the accountable body and responsible for delivery of project. This was granted by the government for very specific purposes including public realm works, business support and also, the public art programme. It was not direct Council cash and could not be used on disabled facilities. Councillor Fenty felt that, together with the wider Cleethorpes regeneration programme, these projects would add vibrancy and value to the North Promenade.

The Deputy Mayor thanked Mr Arundell for his question and noted that written confirmation of the answer would be sent to him.

## **NEL.52      AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20**

Council received a report detailing the activities of the Audit and Governance Committee during the council year and setting out how it had discharged its responsibilities. This report was referred to Council by the Audit and Governance Committee at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2020.

The Mayor welcomed the independent Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee, Mr. Tim Render, to the meeting and invited him to introduce his report. Standing Orders were suspended for this purpose.

Mr Render reflected that audit may not have seemed the most exciting part of the Council's work over the past six months when many challenges for Members, staff and the people of North East Lincolnshire had to be faced and dealt with. However, he countered that it was precisely at times like this that the Council needed assurance that it was properly controlling what it did, and this was the "bread and butter" of audit. He reminded Members of the size and complexity of the organisation with an annual turnover approaching £300m, assets worth £325m, partnerships that cost the council over £60m a year, and borrowings of £130m, with treasury transactions approaching £1billion a year. The Audit and Governance

Committee makes sure that the rules set by Council were followed, that public assets were protected and effective arrangements were in place for managing resources and securing value for money. Mr Render confirmed that the committee was able to provide substantial assurance that the council had sound arrangements in place for managing risk and controlling what the organisation does. That conclusion followed the work that the committee had reviewed from internal and external audit; specific exercises carried out in looking at Treasury Management and the Council's accounts; and our work monitoring and reviewing the governance effectiveness of partnerships.

Mr Render explained how an assurance map was being used to support the committee's work and covering all governance, management and monitoring processes in place across the organisation. The committee had also published its work programme and shared it with scrutiny members to complement their respective work. While the committee considered itself to be effective when assessed against the standards of effectiveness expected for Audit Committees, it was recognised that there were improvements that could still be made.

During the course of the year, the committee had followed its usual programme of approving an internal audit programme and considering the findings of audits; approving the accounts for 2018/19 (with another clean audit opinion); reviewing partnership governance (which was evolving, especially with the development of the Union with the CCG); and closely monitoring the Council's arrangements for managing risk. The Committee had continued its work virtually since March and the most important aspect of this work, given the huge changes the Council had to make to respond to the pandemic, was to understand how the internal control framework had been adapted. The first major in-depth review to be undertaken during this municipal year would be of the Council's Medium Term Financial Planning process, to provide assurance that, given the challenges faced by the council, robust and effective processes for dealing with this key part of the Council's responsibilities were in place.

Mr Render reported on the recommendations of the recent Redmond Review and particularly welcomed the promotion of a move to simplify council statutory accounts and to make them genuinely more accessible and useful for any reader.

In conclusion, Mr Render thanked the Head of Internal Audit, the Director of Resources and Governance and their staff for their support of the committee's work. He remained grateful to members of the committee, commenting on how they had demonstrated both enthusiasm in developing a more effective audit function; and tenacity in following through issues. Mr Render commended the report to Council.

**RESOLVED** – That the Audit and Governance Committee annual report for 2019/20 be approved.

## **NEL.53 TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2019-20**

The Council received a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources containing details of treasury management arrangements, activity and performance during 2019-20. This report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020 and was referred to Council for approval.

RESOLVED – That the Treasury Management Outturn Report 2019-20 be noted.

## **NEL.54 AMENDMENT TO COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS**

The Council considered a report from the Monitoring Officer advising of a proposed amendment to the Council's Standing Orders regarding questions on the minutes of Cabinet and Committee meetings.

The Leader moved the recommendations within the report and this was seconded by Councillor Fenty.

The Deputy Mayor noted that, as required by the Council's Standing Orders, this matter would stand adjourned without discussion to the next meeting of the Standards and Adjudication Committee.

RESOLVED – That the report now submitted be referred to the next meeting of the Standards and Adjudication Committee for consideration.

## **NEL.55 NOTICE OF MOTION 1**

Council considered a Notice of Motion, proposed by Councillor Beasant and seconded by Councillor Rudd, submitted in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders as set out below:

Across North East Lincolnshire children and young people have faced difficult times, and now the coronavirus is making matters much worse. During 2020 the health and well-being of children, and young people has deteriorated rapidly; some experts now recognise that matters will not improve for some considerable time.

The Children's Commissioner, said recently:

"Kids have not had their Nightingale moment during the crisis, but if it comes at this stage, where there's a determination to do things differently for children and help the most disadvantaged fully in life, that would be a great Nightingale moment to have."

The Council's Place Board (operating as the Health and Wellbeing Board) in December, noted:

"There were particular challenges around issues such as air quality, traffic and transport, crime and antisocial behaviour and access to play spaces, all

of which impacted more on people who lived in more deprived areas. Mr Barnes made the point that most children in the borough resided in our more deprived communities, so it is especially important that efforts were targeted in these areas if we are to prevent further deteriorations in child obesity and child mental health issues.”

Parks and open spaces play a huge part helping to develop children and young people as well as helping to improve their health and well-being.

However, there have been no major investment in our parks and open spaces for many years. This Council, therefore, calls upon the Portfolio Holder For Environment and Transport to write to the Minister of State for Children and Families calling upon government to make available funding (equivalent to the Liveability and Playbuilders funding) to improve our play parks and open spaces. The Council further calls upon our two local MPs to lobby the Minister of State for Children and Families to implement a massive programme of investment in our play areas, and across the UK.

Following a debate, a recorded vote was held in accordance with the requirements of the Council’s Standing Orders, the votes cast were recorded as follows:

For the motion

Councillors Abel, Barfield, Beasant, Bramley, Brookes, Cairns, Callison, Cracknell, Fenty, Freeston, Furneaux, Green, Harness, Hasthorpe, Hudson, Jackson, Lindley, Mickleburgh, Nichols, Parkinson, Patrick, Pettigrew, Procter, Rodwell, Rogers, Rudd, Shepherd, Sheridan, Silvester, K Swinburn, S Swinburn, Watson, Wheatley, Wilson and Woodward (35 votes).

The motion was therefore carried unanimously and it was

**RESOLVED –**

1. This Council calls upon the Portfolio Holder For Environment and Transport to write to the Minister of State for Children and Families calling upon government to make available funding (equivalent to the Liveability and Playbuilders funding) to improve our play parks and open spaces.
2. This Council further calls upon our two local MPs to lobby the Minister of State for Children and Families to implement a massive programme of investment in our play areas, and across the UK.

**NEL.56 NOTICE OF MOTION 2**

Council considered a Notice of Motion, proposed by Councillor Patrick and seconded by Councillor Green, submitted in accordance with the Council’s Standing Orders as set out below:



Covid 19 has emerged as one of the biggest threats to public health for generations, impacting hundreds of thousands across the country, with sadly tens of thousands losing their lives, despite this, the crisis is far from over. We pay tribute to those key workers, both professional and voluntary, locally and nationally, that rose to the challenges set before them and still do day after day, in evermore challenging circumstances.

The battle against Covid has been made harder still by a government that has found itself unprepared, and so further adding to the impact and uncertainty that has come to define the scale of the challenge in the UK. Failures include but are not limited to the inability to implement an effective track and trace system to better focus critical resources and response, as well as local testing on demand in all areas to allow all concerned residents to seek reassurance or support depending upon test results.

Locally, North East Lincolnshire has mercifully not been impacted as other areas, however, we are still highly vulnerable, owing to such issues as a high proportion of older residents, underlying health issues, and many workers in industries like food production who have been particularly identified as at risk.

This council notes that although North East Lincolnshire has a testing centre on Duchess Street this centre is not available every day, nor is it available for all residents of NEL who need to access a test on the days it is open the nearest, full time permanent, testing site for Covid to our Borough is located in the East Riding of Yorkshire, in Hessle, at least a fifty mile round trip by car. This distance increases and is more expensive for those who do not have access to a vehicle, therefore acting as a deterrent against testing, increasing the risk of a spike in transmissions in our area.

This Council calls upon the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Health to both work with our Director for Public Health to press central government as a matter of urgency for the establishment of a permanent full time testing site within the boundaries of North East Lincolnshire as soon as is practically possible, and for this site to operate as long as the Covid crisis continues.

We ask the Leader and Portfolio Holder for health to report back their progress on this urgent matter, verbally to each and every full council meeting until they are successful in this undertaking.

The motion was debated and during the course of the debate, Councillor Cracknell, Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care confirmed that a full-time testing site in Duchess Street, Grimsby had been confirmed. At the conclusion of the debate, a recorded vote was held in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Standing Orders, the votes cast were recorded as follows:

#### For the motion

Councillors Beasant, Green, Mickleburgh, Nichols, Patrick, Rodwell, Rogers, Rudd, Sheridan, Watson, Wheatley and Wilson (12 votes).

### Against the motion

Councillors Abel, Bramley, Brookes, Cairns, Callison, Cracknell, Fenty, Freeston, Furneaux, Harness, Hasthorpe, Hudson, Jackson, Lindley, Parkinson, Pettigrew, Procter, Shepherd, Silvester, K Swinburn, S Swinburn and Woodward (22 votes).

### Abstention

Councillor Barfield (1 vote).

The motion was therefore declared lost.

## **NEL.57      SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

Councillor Patrick moved that the Council's Standing Orders governing the length of meetings be suspended to permit this meeting to continue beyond 10.00 p.m. This was seconded by Councillor Bramley. Upon a show of hands, the motion was lost.

## **NEL.58      QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

The Mayor invited Councillor Rodwell to present the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

*"Please can you tell us whether an alternative to Suggitt's Lane Crossing is going ahead and if so when?"*

Councillor S. Swinburn, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport, responded that the administration continued to work with Network Rail on a solution to enable crossing the railway line adjacent to Suggitt's Lane. The administration was presented with an 'outline' design option on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020, where initial feedback and comments were provided to Network Rail. The administration had agreed 'in principle' for Network Rail to progress into detailed design stage. Detailed designs were due back from Network Rail in late October, 2020. However, Network Rail had incurred some delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Funding for the proposal was yet to be finalised but this was required before further public engagement or progress could be made through the planning process. The anticipated duration of fabrication and construction was 32 weeks, including 22 weeks for works on site. Councillor Swinburn reiterated that the council was doing all it could to bring an alternative crossing to Suggitt's Lane.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Rodwell asked for a guarantee of funding from the council or the government to work with Network Rail to pay for the alternative crossing.

Councillor Swinburn repeated that funding for the project had yet to be finalised and, therefore, he could not guarantee where the funding would come from.

The Mayor invited Councillor Freeston to present the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

*"Does the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport believe that the swift action taken to introduce a temporary traffic regulation order on Edward Street will solve the issues of missed bin collections?"*

Councillor S Swinburn responded that this had been a long standing problem for local residents which the previous portfolio holders had been unable to resolve. He felt that the action taken had already proved to be a great success and he was now looking at other alternatives where there were similar issues in the Borough.

The Mayor invited Councillor Freeston to present his second question to the Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Heritage and Culture, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

*"With the summer season coming to an end, does the Portfolio Holder for Tourism believe that the Conservative Administration's investment in our resort has been a success in attracting huge numbers even in these difficult times?"*

Councillor Procter, Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Heritage and Culture, responded that an enormous amount of work had been undertaken to improve the resort's offer. The administration had invested in a more coherent Marketing Strategy with the aim of putting Cleethorpes on the tourism map and a new Resort Manager had been appointed to make the resort a safer and more attractive place to visit. Public toilets in the resort had been made free to use and this was an integral part of the tourism offer. The administration had worked very hard on regeneration plans for the North Promenade and Sea Road, which would have a positive impact on the resort's appeal. Councillor Procter felt that the Covid secure Resort Strategy had paid dividends, enabling the local economy to bounce back from the pandemic. He noted concerns from local businesses in the resort about being able to survive through the winter and he was working closely with Martin Vickers MP on support that could be provided to prevent this from happening.

The Mayor invited Councillor Patrick to present the following question to the Leader of the Council, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

*"Will the Leader reassure this council that he puts his commitment to the borough of North East Lincolnshire above all other political considerations?"*

Councillor Jackson responded by providing an assurance that he put his commitment to the people of the borough of North East Lincolnshire above all other political considerations.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Patrick asked the Leader of the Council why he had been involved in secret meetings to discuss erasing North East Lincolnshire from the map.

Councillor Jackson responded that the heritage of North East Lincolnshire was Grimsby, Cleethorpes, Immingham and the surrounding villages. He commented that North East Lincolnshire was, in effect, an administrative construct.

The Mayor invited Councillor Patrick to present the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Skills and Housing, the question having been submitted on notice in accordance with Council's Standing Orders.

*“Does the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Skills and Housing concede that his original ambition to find a suitable site for the travelling community in the borough by the end of 2019 was an error of judgement?”*

Councillor Fenty responded that the previous administration had allowed illegal encampments to continue for substantial periods which had resulted in much publicised clearances costing this council and the private sector considerable amounts of money. This had not happened since the Conservative administration had been in place because they had introduced strict enforcement backed by court orders and, therefore, illegal encampments had been moved on within a maximum of five working days. He noted over the last two years the average number of caravans within illegal encampments had been between five and six. The previous administration had proposed a policy for a stopover site for up to 30 caravans. Councillor Fenty stated that he wasn't ducking a difficult decision but pausing the decision as there may not be a need for as large a site. He had asked for needs assessment to be undertaken to feed into the Local Plan review to form a new policy for a designated stopover site which would then be referred to scrutiny for consideration. Therefore, he felt that there had no error of judgement.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Patrick asked the portfolio holder why he was procrastinating on this matter, having already discarded two previous definitive lists of sites.

Councillor Fenty responded that from his previous answer it was evident that there could be a need for a smaller site and this presented an opportunity to review previously listed sites and potentially bring in others. Therefore, it was sensible to pause the programme and look at the needs assessment while also enforcing any illegal encampments.

The Mayor invited Councillor Patrick to present his final question, which was to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources but Councillor Patrick requested to withdraw this question to a later date.

**NEL.59 MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2020**

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Jackson and seconded by Councillor Fenty.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 be approved and adopted.

**NEL.60 MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2020**

At CB.23 (Local Strategic Partnerships), Councillor Wheatley asked how the decision on continued membership of the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership had been reached.

Councillor Jackson responded that a whole range of different issues had been taken into account, including the potential future direction of devolution and the different ways that the Local Strategic Partnerships operated. He added that the decision had been subsequently debated at the Economy Scrutiny Panel.

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Jackson and seconded by Councillor Fenty.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 be approved and adopted.

**NEL.61 MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2020**

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Jackson and seconded by Councillor Fenty.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 be approved and adopted.

**NEL.62 MINUTES OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER – ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST, 2020**

At PH.ETE.7 (Tracking Report), Councillor Wheatley enquired why the petition for a resident parking schemes for Hinkler Street, Cleethorpes had been removed from tracking, when this matter was still under consultation.

Councillor S Swinburn responded that he would need to look into this further and agreed to provide a written response to Councillor Wheatley.

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor S Swinburn and seconded by Councillor Jackson.

RESOLVED –

1. That the minutes of the Portfolio Holder – Environment and Transport meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2020 be approved and adopted.
2. That a written response be provided to Councillor Wheatley on the reason for the Hinkler Street, Cleethorpes parking permit scheme being removed from the tracking report.

**NEL.63 MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND LIFELONG LEARNING  
SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2020**

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Freeston and seconded by Councillor Bramley.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 be approved and adopted.

**NEL.64 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING  
HELD ON 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY, 2020**

The minutes of the above meeting were moved by Councillor Silvester and seconded by Councillor Woodward.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Communities Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2020 be approved and adopted.

**NEL.65 MINUTES OF THE ECONOMY SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING HELD  
ON 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2020**

At SPE.8 (Local Plan Review), Councillor Wheatley asked the Chair if he agreed that economic growth was of paramount importance to North East Lincolnshire.

Councillor Furneaux responded that it was, alongside many other matters.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Wheatley asked why had the administration chosen to pitch its new build position based on decline when this conflicted with the Council's economic strategy which was founded on economic growth.

Councillor Furneaux responded that he understood the reason the new build plans had been reduced was because they had been deemed to be over ambitious. He recognised that economic growth was hugely important but there was no point in having unascertainable targets that would never be reached as that was no good for the borough as a whole.

On the same minute, Councillor Patrick noted that the Leader of the Council had welcomed the review and noted that it would provide an opportunity to identify

more brownfield sites for commercial housing development. He asked the Chair if he could provide examples of such sites.

Councillor Furneaux responded that there were a number of brownfield sites in the area but it would be unwise for him to pre-empt any potential sites in a public forum and he therefore offered to provide a written response.

At this point the meeting concluded with all remaining business deferred to the next scheduled meeting of Council. It was further noted that Councillors Rogers and Wilson had indicated to ask questions on the minutes of this particular meeting and they would be provided with the opportunity to ask their questions when the remaining business was considered.

RESOLVED –

1. That a written response be provided to Councillor Patrick with regard to his question on the identification of brownfield sites for commercial housing development.
2. That consideration of the remaining business of this meeting be deferred to the next scheduled meeting of Council.

There being no further business, the Deputy Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.