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COUNCIL MEETING

19 February 2009 – 7.00 pm

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Councillor Easter (in the Chair); Councillors Ames, Barker, Blyth, Burroughs, Butcher, Castle, B Coleman, M Coleman, Collins, Cook, Field, Holmes, Jeal, Jermany, Linden, Page, Peck, Pettit, Plant, Reynolds, Shrimplin, Smith, Stone, Tate, M Taylor, D Thompson, M Thompson, Walker, Watts, Weymouth and Williamson.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor P Hacon.

Mr R Packham (Managing Director), Mrs J Ratcliffe (Executive Director – Customers and Resources), Mr D Gilbert (Director of Community Housing), Mr S Duncan (Head of Financial Services), Mr M Kemp (Service Manager – Housing Finance), Mrs N Swan (Legal Services Manager), Mr P Warner (Head of Planning and Development) and Mr R Hodds (Member Services Manager and Scrutiny Officer).

1. MINUTES

The minutes of 8 January 2009 were confirmed.

2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Members were advised that no questions had been raised by a member of the public.

3. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Council considered the Monitoring Officer's annual report of the work carried out over the past year by the Standards Committee. Council also considered a presentation from the Independent Chairman of the Standards Committee, Mr N Pownall, on his work as Chairman of the Standards Committee and on his attendance at the Standards Board's Conference held in Birmingham in 2008. Mr Pownall reported that in addition to the procedural changes, the new instructions from the Government explicitly direct independent members to be much more proactive in the affairs of their Local Authority. Mr Pownall expressed his wish that an informal meeting be held between himself, the Leader and the Managing Director to discuss this issue further.

Council expressed their thanks and appreciation to Mr Pownall for his report and for his work as the Independent Chairman of the Council's Standards Committee.

4. REPORTS TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION

(a) Mayor 2009/10

On reference from Cabinet of 21 January 2009, Council was recommended to agree that Councillor Anthony Thomas Smith be appointed as Mayor of the Borough of Great Yarmouth for the Municipal Year 2009/10.

Proposer: Councillor B Coleman

Seconder: Councillor Castle

That Councillor Anthony Thomas Smith be appointed as Mayor of the Borough of Great Yarmouth for the Municipal Year 2009/10.

CARRIED

(b) Amendment to the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (LDF)

Council considered the Head of Planning and Development's report with regard to the amendment to the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (Local Development Framework). Members were advised that the amendment to the Core Strategy Development Plan Document sets out the overall vision and spatial planning strategy for the Borough to 2021 and includes options to locate a housing requirement shortfall of 800 dwellings to 2025.

The Cabinet Member (Regeneration and Tourism) reported that the options contained within the document had been amended following the Cabinet meeting on 18 February and Council was advised that the second bullet points of both options one and two will be revised to read "including an A12/A14 link road and improved community facilities".

Proposer: Councillor Plant

Seconder: Councillor B Coleman

That, subject to the above amendment, approval be given to the document "Amendment to the Core Strategy" being published for consultation under Regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.

CARRIED

(c) Medium Term Financial Strategy 2009/10 to 2011/12

Council considered the Head of Financial Services' report on the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the period 2009/10 to 2011/12.

Proposer: Councillor Ames

Seconder: Councillor B Coleman

- (i) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2009/10 to 2011/12 be approved.
- (ii) That the Policy on the level and nature of reserves as set out in the Head of Financial Services' report be approved.

CARRIED

(d) Capital Programme and Prudential Indicators 2009/10

Council considered the Head of Financial Services' report which presented the proposed Capital Programme for 2008/09 to 2011/12, together with the proposed approach to the overall financing of this programme for the next three years. The report also outlined the Council's Prudential Indicators for 2008/09 to 2011/12 which is required by the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. In accordance with the Capital Finance Amendment Regulations, the report contained a statement of the Policy the Council will follow with regard to the calculation of the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for 2009/10.

Proposer: Councillor Ames

Seconder: Councillor B Coleman

- (i) That the Capital Programme and its associated financing for 2009/10 to 2011/12 be approved.
- (ii) That the Prudential Indicators and limits for 2008/09 to 2011/12 be adopted.
- (iii) That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement which sets out the Council's Policy on MRP be approved.

CARRIED

(e) Treasury Management Strategy 2009/10

As part of CIPFA's Prudential Code, and the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management Requirements, Council was asked to consider the Head of Financial Services' report on the Treasury Management Strategy which included both the investment and borrowing strategies for the forthcoming year.

Proposer: Councillor Ames

Seconder: Councillor B Coleman

- (i) That the Treasury Management Strategy 2009/10 and the Treasury Prudential Indicators be approved.
- (ii) That the Investment Strategy 2009/10 contained in the Treasury Management Strategy and the detailed criteria relating to specified and non-specified investments be approved.
- (iii) That delegated authority be given to the Head of Financial Services in conjunction with the Cabinet Member (Resources) to amend the Treasury Management Strategy following advice from the Council's Treasury Management Advisors, or in response to changes in market conditions.

CARRIED

(f) Budget 2009/10 to 2011/12 and Council Tax 2009/10

Proposer: Councillor B Coleman

Seconder: Councillor Stone

That paragraph 13.4 of Part 4 (Rules of Procedure) of the Constitution be waived in respect of the main speakers in the budget debate, both of the opening speeches and the summing up.

CARRIED

Council considered the Head of Financial Services' report which set out the budget for 2009/10 to 2011/12, together with the Council Tax for 2009/10.

Proposer: Councillor Walker

Seconder: Councillor Williamson

That the Council Tax increase be reduced from 4.5% to 2.5% by removing £80,000 from general balances.

LOST

Proposer: Councillor Ames

Seconder: Councillor B Coleman

- (i) That the Budget for 2009/10, as detailed in the Head of Financial Services' report be approved.
- (ii) That the estimates for 2010/11 – 2011/12 be noted, as detailed in the Head of Financial Services' report.
- (iii) That the Fees and Charges for 2009/10 as detailed in the Head of Financial Services' report be approved.
- (iv) That the amounts being calculated by the Council in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations as the amount of Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate, be agreed as follows:-

Parishes	Tax Base	Parish Precept
Ashby with Oby	23	0
Belton with Browston	1,228	31,667
Bradwell	3,521	49,949
Burgh Castle	465	5,550
Caister on Sea	3,074	55,107
Filby	288	2,706
Fleggburgh	358	2,628
Fritton with St Olaves	245	4,404
Hemsby	1,333	29,354
Hopton	1,086	25,784
Martham	1,133	28,509
Mautby	145	1,909
Ormesby St Margaret w Scratby	1,640	30,534
Ormesby St Michael	121	1,075
Repps with Bastwick	166	1,974
Rollesby	366	5,672
Somerton	110	1,096
Stokesby	119	1,417
Thurne	52	952
West Caister	77	0
Winterton	571	13,603
Great Yarmouth and Gorleston	15,165	0

- (v) That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2008/09 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- (a) £71,590,549 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act.
- (b) £51,625,027 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act.
- (c) £19,965,522 Being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.
- (d) £15,184,270 Being the aggregate of sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed business rates and revenue support grant increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and increased by the amount of any sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its collection fund to its general fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charges) directions under Section 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, as amended by the Collection Fund (General) (England) Direction 2002.
- (e) £152.82 Being the amount at (c) above less the amount at (d) above, all divided by the amount at Recommendation 3 above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
- (f) £283,890 Being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- (g) £143.75 Being the amount at (e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (f) above by the amount in Recommendation 4 above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special items relates.
- (h) Being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (g) above the amounts of the special items or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned in Appendix C divided in each case by the amount at Appendix C, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate as follows:-

PARISHES	Borough and Parish Council Tax Amounts							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ashby with Oby	95.83	111.81	127.78	143.75	175.69	207.64	239.58	287.50
Belton with Browston	113.02	131.87	150.70	169.54	207.21	244.89	282.56	339.08
Bradwell	105.29	122.85	140.39	157.94	193.03	228.14	263.23	315.88
Burgh Castle	103.79	121.10	138.39	155.69	190.28	224.89	259.48	311.38
Caister on Sea	107.78	125.76	143.72	161.68	197.60	233.54	269.46	323.36
Filby	102.10	119.12	136.14	153.15	187.18	221.22	255.25	306.30
Fleggburgh	100.72	117.52	134.30	151.09	184.66	218.24	251.81	302.18
Fritton with St Olaves	107.82	125.79	143.76	161.73	197.67	233.61	269.55	323.46
Hemsby	110.51	128.94	147.35	165.77	202.60	239.45	276.28	331.54
Hopton	111.66	130.27	148.88	167.49	204.71	241.93	279.15	334.98
Martham	106.72	124.52	142.30	160.09	195.66	231.24	266.81	320.18
Mautby	104.61	122.05	139.49	156.92	191.79	226.66	261.53	313.84
Ormesby St Margaret w Scratby	108.24	126.29	144.33	162.37	198.45	234.54	270.61	324.74
Ormesby St Michael	101.75	118.72	135.67	152.63	186.54	220.47	254.38	305.26
Repps with Bastwick	103.76	121.06	138.35	155.64	190.22	224.81	259.40	311.28
Rollesby	106.16	123.87	141.56	159.25	194.63	230.03	265.41	318.50
Somerton	102.47	119.56	136.63	153.71	187.86	222.03	256.18	307.42
Stokesby	103.77	121.07	138.37	155.66	190.25	224.84	259.43	311.32
Thurne	108.04	126.05	144.06	162.06	198.07	234.09	270.10	324.12
West Caister	95.83	111.81	127.78	143.75	175.69	207.64	239.58	287.50
Winterton	111.71	130.34	148.95	167.57	204.80	242.05	279.28	335.14
Great Yarmouth & Gorleston	95.83	111.81	127.78	143.75	175.69	207.64	239.58	287.50

- (i) Being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (g) and (h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands as follows:-

PARISHES	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ashby with Oby	968.71	1130.17	1291.62	1453.07	1775.97	2098.88	2421.78	2906.14
Belton with Browston	985.90	1150.23	1314.54	1478.86	1807.49	2136.13	2464.76	2957.72
Bradwell	978.17	1141.21	1304.23	1467.26	1793.31	2119.38	2445.43	2934.52
Burgh Castle	976.67	1139.46	1302.23	1465.01	1790.56	2116.13	2441.68	2930.02
Caister on Sea	980.66	1144.12	1307.56	1471.00	1797.88	2124.78	2451.66	2942.00
Filby	974.98	1137.48	1299.98	1462.47	1787.46	2112.46	2437.45	2924.94
Fleggburgh	973.60	1135.88	1298.14	1460.41	1784.94	2109.48	2434.01	2920.82
Fritton with St Olaves	980.70	1144.15	1307.60	1471.05	1797.95	2124.85	2451.75	2942.10
Hemsby	983.39	1147.30	1311.19	1475.09	1802.88	2130.69	2458.48	2950.18
Hopton	984.54	1148.63	1312.72	1476.81	1804.99	2133.17	2461.35	2953.62
Martham	979.60	1142.88	1306.14	1469.41	1795.94	2122.48	2449.01	2938.82
Mautby	977.49	1140.41	1303.33	1466.24	1792.07	2117.90	2443.73	2932.48
Ormesby St Margaret w Scratby	981.12	1144.65	1308.17	1471.69	1798.73	2125.78	2452.81	2943.38
Ormesby St Michael	974.63	1137.08	1299.51	1461.95	1786.82	2111.71	2436.58	2923.90
Repps with Bastwick	976.64	1139.42	1302.19	1464.96	1790.50	2116.05	2441.60	2929.92
Rollsby	979.04	1142.23	1305.40	1468.57	1794.91	2121.27	2447.61	2937.14
Somerton	975.35	1137.92	1300.47	1463.03	1788.14	2113.27	2438.38	2926.06
Stokesby	976.65	1139.43	1302.21	1464.98	1790.53	2116.08	2441.63	2929.96
Thurne	980.92	1144.41	1307.90	1471.38	1798.35	2125.33	2452.30	2942.76
West Caister	968.71	1130.17	1291.62	1453.07	1775.97	2098.88	2421.78	2906.14
Winterton	984.59	1148.70	1312.79	1476.89	1805.08	2133.29	2461.48	2953.78
Great Yarmouth & Gorleston	968.71	1130.17	1291.62	1453.07	1775.97	2098.88	2421.78	2906.14

CARRIED

(g) Housing Revenue Account Budget Estimates 2009/10

Council considered the report of the Director of Community Housing on the draft Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2009/10. Council also considered the Director of Community Housing's tabled addendum to his report which highlighted changes with regard to the percentage to be applied to the rent increases and service charges in order to comply with Government guidelines for rent restructuring. Members were advised that it was essential that the revised figure from 6.2% to 6.83% was applied in order to ensure that the Council not only meets the Government's requirement for rent restructuring but also to avoid an on-going loss of rental income of £124,000 each year in the future.

Proposer: Councillor Peck

Seconder: Councillor B Coleman

- (i) That the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) (Great Yarmouth Community Housing Service Plan) 2008/09 revised and 2009/10 original budget estimates be approved.
- (ii) That the three year budget forecast for the Housing Revenue Account for the years 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13 be approved.
- (iii) That an average dwelling rent increase of £3.82 which is the equivalent of an average increase of 6.83% in accordance with the Government Rent Restructuring Formula be approved.

- (iv) That the charges for garages be increased by 5% be approved.
- (v) That the service charges for the caretaking service to be increased by 6.83% be approved.
- (vi) That the service charge for the maintenance of OAP gardens to be increased by 6.83% from £1.60 to £1.71 (plus VAT) be approved.
- (vii) That the service charge for communal heating to be increased by 111% from £4.50 to £9.50 be approved.
- (viii) That the service charges for the warden service to be increased by 3% be approved.
- (ix) That it be noted that the Officers will undertake a review of the HRA budget and services commencing in July 2009 in order to identify savings and efficiencies for implementation during the budget estimate exercise for 2010/11.

CARRIED

(h) **Housing Major Works Programme 2009/10 to 2012/13**

Council considered the Director of Community Housing's report on the Housing Major Works Programme 2009/10 to 2012/13.

Proposer: Councillor Peck

Seconder: Councillor B Coleman

- (i) That the levels of funding to support the Housing Major Works Programme for 2009/10 as set out in the Director of Community Housing's report be approved.
- (ii) That the inclusion of the schemes, as set out in the Director of Community Housing's report, in the 2009/10 programme be agreed.
- (iii) That over-programming in order to accommodate slippage of 7.5% be agreed.
- (iv) That the Director of Community Housing be authorised to modify the programme by way of extensions, additions or deferrals, should the need arise during the year, in order to achieve the appropriate programme spend.
- (v) That the draft Housing Major Works Programme for subsequent years be noted.

CARRIED

5. **MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

(a) **Council – 8 January 2009**

The Mayor presented the minutes of the Council meeting held on 8 January 2009.

(b) **Cabinet – 21 January and 18 February 2009**

The Leader presented the minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 21 January and 18 February 2009.

(c) **Scrutiny Committee – 14 January 2009**

The Chairman presented the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 14 January 2009.

(d) **Audit and Risk Committee – 16 February 2009**

The Chairman presented the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 16 February 2009.

Proposer: Councillor B Coleman

Seconder: Councillor Stone

That the minutes of Council of 8 January 2009, Cabinet of 21 January and 18 February 2009, Scrutiny Committee of 14 January 2009 and Audit and Risk Committee of 16 February 2009 be received.

CARRIED

6. REPORT OF LEADER ON URGENT KEY DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING WHICH WERE NOT IN THE FORWARD PLAN

The Leader reported that there were no issues for consideration.

7. GAPTON HALL ROUNDABOUT

The Leader reported on a letter received from the Highways Agency which gave details of the programme of work proposed to be carried out at the Gapton Hall Roundabout between September and December 2009.

8. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 8.10 pm.