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COUNCIL MEETING

21 February 2008 – 7.00 pm

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Councillor Garrod (in the Chair); Councillors Ames, Barker, Blyth, Burroughs, Castle, B Coleman, M Coleman, Collins, Cook, Cunniffe, Easter, Field, P Hacon, S Hacon, Hewitt, Holmes, Jeal, Jermany, Linden, Peck, Pettit, Plant, Reynolds, Shrimplin, Smith, Stone, Tate, B Taylor, M Taylor, D Thompson, M Thompson, Wainwright, B Walker, C Walker, Watts and Williamson.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Weymouth.

Mr R Packham (Managing Director), Mrs J Ratcliffe (Executive Director – Customers and Resources), Mr C Skinner (Head of Central Services), Mr S Duncan (Head of Financial Services), Mr D Gilbert (Director of Community Housing), Mr R Hodds (Member Services Manager and Scrutiny Officer) and Mr M Kemp (Housing Finance Manager).

1. WELCOME TO COUNCILLOR S HACON

The Mayor welcomed Councillor S Hacon to the Council following her recent success at the Bradwell South and Hopton Ward by-election.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the 10 January 2008 were confirmed.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

4. 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 short 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 Standard Board's Conference held in Birmingham in 2007. Mr Pownall reminded Council that initially any complaint regarding the conduct of a Councillor was submitted directly to the Standards Board for England and relatively serious cases were dealt with at that level while all other matters filtered down to the appropriate local authority. Eventually it was accepted that it would be much more efficient to reverse this procedure and that in future only serious

complaints will be referred to Government level. Obviously this will place a heavier workload on the Standards Committee.

The Leader of the Council expressed his thanks and appreciation on behalf of the Council to Mr N Pownall for his report and for his work as the Independent Chairman of the Council's Standards Committee.

5. REPORTS TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION

(a) Medium Term Financial Strategy 2008/9 to 2010/11

Council considered the Head of Financial Services report on the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the period 2008/09 to 2010/11.

Proposer: Councillor Smith

Seconder: Councillor B Coleman

- (i) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2008/09 to 2010/11 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

(b) Capital Programme and Prudential Indicators 2008/09

Council considered the Head of Financial Services report which presented the proposed Capital Programme for 2007/08 to 2010/11 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 2007/08 to 2010/11 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 a policy the Council will follow with regard to the calculation of the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for 2008/09.

Proposer: Councillor Smith

Seconder: Councillor B Coleman

- (i) That the Capital Programme and its associated financing for 2008/09 to 2010/11 be approved.
- (ii) That the Prudential Indicators and limits for 2007/08 to 2010/11 be adopted.
- (iii) That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement which sets out the Council's policy on MRP be approved.

CARRIED

(c) Treasury Management Strategy 2008/09

As part of CIPFA's Prudential Code, and the CIPFA Code on 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 Smith

Seconder: Councillor B Coleman

(i) That the Treasury Management Strategy 2008/09, and the Treasury Prudential Indicators be approved.

(ii) That the Investment Strategy 2008/09 contained in the Treasury Management Strategy and the detailed criteria relating to specified and non-specified investments be approved.

CARRIED

(d) **Budget 2008/09 to 2010/11 and Council tax 2008/09**

Proposer: Councillor B Coleman

Seconder: Councillor Wainwright

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 2008/09 and estimates for 2009/10 and 2010/11, together with the Council Tax for 2008/09.

Proposer: Councillor Smith

Seconder: Councillor B Coleman

(i) That the Budget for 2008/09, as detailed in the Head of Financial Services' report, be approved.

(ii) That the Estimates for 2009/10 – 2010/11 be noted, as detailed in the Head of Financial Services' report.

(iii) 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	1,235	26,354
Bradwell	3,535	54,000
Burgh Castle	450	6,176
Caister-On-Sea	3,063	43,528
Filby	288	2,689
Fleggburgh	351	2,542
Fritton with St Olaves	244	4,598
Hemsby	1,310	29,083
Hopton	1,091	24,752
Martham	1,125	17,351

Mautby	144	2,788
Ormesby St Margaret with Scratby	1,633	20,000
Ormesby St Michael	117	1,436
Repps with Bastwick	164	2,585
Rollesby	359	5,608
Somerton	109	1,102
Stokesby	121	1,385
Thurne	50	1,541
West Caister	79	0
Winterton	563	13,603
Great Yarmouth and Gorleston	15,092	0

(iv) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2008/09 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

(a) £64,367,306 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) £49,353,009 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) £15,014,297 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) £10,468,732 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 estimate 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) £145.94 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) £261,121 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.

(g) £137.56 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 relate.

(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 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	91.71	106.99	122.28	137.56	168.13	198.70	229.27	275.12
Belton with Browston	105.94	123.59	141.25	158.90	194.21	229.52	264.84	317.80
Bradwell	101.90	118.87	135.86	152.84	186.81	220.77	254.74	305.68
Burgh Castle	100.86	117.66	134.48	151.28	184.90	218.52	252.14	302.56
Caister-on-Sea	101.18	118.04	134.91	151.77	185.50	219.23	252.95	303.54
Filby	97.94	114.25	130.58	146.90	179.55	212.19	244.84	293.80
Fleggburgh	96.54	112.62	128.72	144.80	176.98	209.16	241.34	289.60
Fritton with St Olaves	104.27	121.64	139.03	156.40	191.16	225.91	260.67	312.80
Hemsby	106.51	124.26	142.01	159.76	195.26	230.77	266.27	319.52
Hopton	106.84	124.64	142.45	160.25	195.86	231.47	267.09	320.50
Martham	101.99	118.98	135.99	152.98	186.98	220.97	254.97	305.96
Mautby	104.62	122.05	139.49	156.92	191.79	226.66	261.54	313.84
Ormesby St Marg. with Scratby	99.88	116.52	133.17	149.81	183.10	216.39	249.69	299.62
Ormesby St Michael	99.89	116.53	133.19	149.83	183.13	216.42	249.72	299.66
Repps with Bastwick	102.22	119.25	136.29	153.32	187.39	221.46	255.54	306.64
Rollsby	102.12	119.14	136.16	153.18	187.22	221.26	255.30	306.36
Somerton	98.45	114.85	131.27	147.67	180.49	213.30	246.12	295.34
Stokesby	99.34	115.90	132.46	149.01	182.12	215.24	248.35	298.02
Thurne	112.26	130.96	149.68	168.38	205.80	243.22	280.64	336.76
West Caister	91.71	106.99	122.28	137.56	168.13	198.70	229.26	275.12
Winterton	107.82	125.78	143.76	161.72	197.66	233.60	269.54	323.44
Great Yarmouth and Gorleston	91.71	106.99	122.28	137.56	168.13	198.70	229.27	275.12

(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	938.43	1094.83	1251.24	1407.64	1720.45	2033.26	2346.07	2815.28
Belton with								
Browston	952.66	1111.43	1270.21	1428.98	1746.53	2064.08	2381.64	2857.96
Bradwell	948.62	1106.71	1264.82	1422.92	1739.13	2055.33	2371.54	2845.84
Burgh Castle	947.58	1105.50	1263.44	1421.36	1737.22	2053.08	2368.94	2842.72
Caister-on-Sea	947.90	1105.88	1263.87	1421.85	1737.82	2053.79	2369.75	2843.70
Filby	944.66	1102.09	1259.54	1416.98	1731.87	2046.75	2361.64	2833.96
Fleggburgh	943.26	1100.46	1257.68	1414.88	1729.30	2043.72	2358.14	2829.76
Fritton with	950.99	1109.48	1267.99	1426.48	1743.48	2060.47	2377.47	2852.96
St Olaves								
Hemsby	953.23	1112.10	1270.97	1429.84	1747.58	2065.33	2383.07	2859.68
Hopton	953.56	1112.48	1271.41	1430.33	1748.18	2066.03	2383.89	2860.66
Martham	948.71	1106.82	1264.95	1423.06	1739.30	2055.53	2371.77	2846.12
Mautby	951.34	1109.89	1268.45	1427.00	1744.11	2061.22	2378.34	2854.00
Ormesby St	946.60	1104.36	1262.13	1419.89	1735.42	2050.95	2366.49	2839.78
Margaret with								
Scratby								
Ormesby St	946.61	1104.37	1262.15	1419.91	1735.45	2050.98	2366.52	2839.82
Michael								
Repps with	948.94	1107.09	1265.25	1423.40	1739.71	2056.02	2372.34	2846.80
Bastwick								
Rollesby	948.84	1106.98	1265.12	1423.26	1739.54	2055.82	2372.10	2846.52
Somerton	945.17	1102.69	1260.23	1417.75	1732.81	2047.86	2362.92	2835.50
Stokesby	946.06	1103.74	1261.42	1419.09	1734.44	2049.80	2365.15	2838.18
Thurne	958.98	1118.80	1278.64	1438.46	1758.12	2077.78	2397.44	2876.92
West Caister	938.43	1094.83	1251.24	1407.64	1720.45	2033.26	2346.07	2815.28
Winterton	954.54	1113.62	1272.72	1431.80	1749.98	2068.16	2386.34	2863.60
Great Yarmouth &	938.43	1094.83	1251.24	1407.64	1720.45	2033.26	2346.07	2815.28
Gorleston								

CARRIED

7(e) Housing Revenue Account Budget 2008/09

Council considered the report of the Director of Community Housing on the draft Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2008/09.

Proposer: Councillor Peck

Seconder: Councillor Smith

(i) That the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) (Great Yarmouth Community Housing Service Plan) 2007/08 revised and 2008/09 original budgets be approved.

(ii) That the three year budget forecast for the Housing Revenue Account for the years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 be approved.

(iii) That an average rent increase, in accordance with the Government formula which is equivalent to 5.42% for dwellings and garages, be approved.

(iv) That the service charges for the Caretaking Service be increased by 4.4% be approved.

- (v) That the Service Charge for the maintenance of OAP gardens be increased to £1.60 (plus VAT) be approved.
- (vi) That the Service Charge for the Communal Heating Charge be increased to £4.50 be approved.
- (vii) That the Service Charge for the Warden Service be increased by 4.4%, be approved.

CARRIED

(f) Housing Major Works Programme 2008/09 to 2011/12

Council considered the Director of Community Housing's report on the Housing Major Works Programme 2008/09 to 2011/12.

Proposer: Councillor Peck

Seconder: Councillor Smith

- (i) That the levels of funding to support the Housing Major Works Programme for 2008/09 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 2008/09 programme be agreed.
- (iii) That over programming in order to accommodate slippage of 12.5% 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

(g) Local Collective Agreement for Implementation of Single Status

Council gave consideration to amendments to the Local Collective Agreement for implementation of Single Status as endorsed by the Single Status Working Group at its meeting on the 12 February.

Proposer: Councillor Smith

Seconder: Councillor B Coleman

That the proposed amendments to the Local Collective Agreement for implementation of Single Status be approved.

CARRIED

8. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

(a) Council – 10 January 2008

The Mayor presented the minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 10 January 2008.

(b) Cabinet – 23 January and 20 February 2008

The Leader presented the minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on the 23 January and 20 February 2008.

With regard to Item 11(Local Government Re-organisation), the Shadow Leader reported that he welcomed the setting up of the meetings arranged with the Boundary Committee involving Norfolk Local Authorities and Waveney District Council to be held next week. He made the point that following these meetings there would be a wide ranging debate to come on this issue. The Shadow Leader also referred to the comments expressed by the Leader of Waveney District Council in which reference was made to the Borough Council being a failing authority as a result of the Audit Commission's Report. The Shadow Leader also stated that there was a need to return to competent local government and also commented on the campaign that had been instigated against the "Yartoft" option.

The Leader reported that he would be speaking to the Leader of Waveney District Council on the comments he had expressed regarding the Borough Council. The Leader acknowledged that there would inevitably be a full debate on the issue relating to Local Government re-organisation. The Leader also made the point that Local Government re-organisation should not affect the work currently being done by the Borough Council in terms of service delivery. Councillor Castle also commented that there was a need to evaluate all options under Local Government re-organisation.

(c) Scrutiny Committee – 15 January 2008

The Chairman presented the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the 15 January 2008.

Proposer: Councillor B Coleman

Seconder: Councillor Stone

That the minutes of Council of the 10 January 2008, Cabinet of the 28 January and 20 February 2008 and Scrutiny Committee of the 15 January 2008 be received.

CARRIED

9. CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT

Council considered the Head of Central Services' report recommending that the Constitution be amended to include that Officer delegation to write-off debts be increased by £1,000 to £2,500.

Proposer: Councillor B Coleman

Seconder: Councillor Smith

That the Constitution be amended to include Officer delegation to write-off debts be increased from £1,000 to £2,500.

CARRIED

10. VISIT BY ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT – 27 JANUARY 2008

The Managing Director reported on letters of congratulation that had been received from all those District Councils and a number of voluntary organisations involved in the above event held on Sunday, 27 January 2008. Members of Council were advised that this event had been extremely well received by all those District Councils and organisations involved. Council was also advised of a letter of congratulations received from the Commanding Officer of the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Council recorded their thanks and appreciation to the Member Services Section's Civic Team for their organisation of this event.

11. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.