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**COUNCIL MEETING**

**30 August 2007 – 7.00 pm**

**PRESENT:**

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Hodds.

Mrs J Ratcliffe (Executive Director – Customers and Resources), Mr C Skinner (Head of Central Services), Mr S Duncan (Head of Financial Services) and Mr R Hodds (Member Services Manager and Scrutiny Officer).

**1. FORMER COUNCILLOR SUE ROBINSON**

The Mayor referred to the recent death of former Councillor Sue Robinson and Members stood for one minutes silence as a mark of respect. The Mayor also recorded his thanks and appreciation to all Councillors and staff who had attended former Councillor Robinson's funeral.

Councillor Jeal recorded his thanks and appreciation to the Leader of the Council and to Councillors for their comments and involvement in the funeral. In response the Leader endorsed the comments made by Councillor Jeal and reported that the position of Deputy Mayor would not be replaced this year and that any Deputy Mayor duties would be covered by either himself or another Member of Council. The Mayor also reported that the Civic Awards would be renamed the "Sue Robinson Civic Awards".

**2. MINUTES**

The minutes of 28 June 2007 were confirmed.

**3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

**4. REPORTS TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION**

(a) **Statement of Accounts 2006/07**

Council considered the Head of Financial Services report on the Statement of Accounts for 2006/07.

Proposer: Councillor Smith

Seconder: Councillor B Coleman

That the Statement of Accounts for 2006/07 be approved.

CARRIED

**(b) Local Collective Agreement for the Implementation of Single Status**

Council considered the Executive Director (Customer and Resources) report on the Draft Local Collective Agreement for the Implementation of Single Status.

Proposer: Councillor Smith

Seconder: Councillor B Coleman

That the Draft Local Collective Agreement for the Implementation of Single Status be approved.

CARRIED

**(c) Adoption of New Model Code of Conduct for Members**

Council considered the Head of Central Services report with regard to the Adoption of the New Model Code of Conduct for Members which would replace the existing code of Conduct.

Proposer: Councillor B Coleman

Seconder: Councillor Stone

That the New Model Code of Conduct for Members be adopted.

CARRIED

**(d) Appointments to Outside Bodies 2007/08**

Proposer: Councillor B Coleman

Seconder: Councillor Stone

- (i) That Councillor Shrimplin be appointed as the Borough Council's representative on the Norfolk Records Committee.
- (ii) That Councillor Williamson be appointed as the Borough Council's representative on the Norwich and Norfolk Racial Equality Council – Executive Committee.
- (iii) That Councillor Peck be appointed as the Borough Council's representatives on the Board of Trustees for the Great Yarmouth Community Trust.

CARRIED

**(e) Membership of the Standards Committee 2007/08**

Council considered the Member Services Manager and Scrutiny Officer's report with regard to the appointment of an additional Parish Council Member and an Independent Member to serve on the Standards Committee.

Proposer: Councillor B Coleman

Seconder: Councillor Stone

- (i) That Mr A Baker be appointed to the Standards Committee as the additional Parish Council representative for a period of three years with effect from 1 September 2007, subject to Mr Baker remaining as a Parish Councillor for this period.
- (ii) That Mrs L Barber be appointed to the Standards Committee as the additional Independent Member for a period of three years with effect from 1 September 2007.

CARRIED

## **5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

### **(i) Council – 28 June 2007**

The Mayor presented the minutes of the Council meeting held on 28 June 2007.

### **(ii) Cabinet – 18 July and 22 August 2007**

The Leader presented the minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 18 July and 22 August 2007.

### **(iii) Scrutiny Committee – 9 July and 9 August 2007**

The Chairman presented the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 9 July and 9 August 2007.

With regard to item 3 - Public Broadcasting Screens – the Shadow Leader stated that the screen in the Market Place had been out of action for ten months and asked whether one of the seafront screens could be used as a replacement for the one on the Market Place. The Cabinet Member (Regeneration and Tourism) reported that this would not be possible as the problems associated with the Market Place screen were currently the subject of investigation. He also reported that there was a possibility that the seafront screens may be rented out during the winter months.

With regard to item 4 – Section 106 Report – the Chairman reported that copies of the detailed financial summary relating to Section 106 Agreements were now available for any Ward Councillor.

Proposer: Councillor B Coleman

Seconder: Councillor Stone

That the minutes of Council of 28 June 2007, Cabinet of 18 July and 22 August 2007, and Scrutiny Committee of 9 July and 9 August 2007, be received.

CARRIED

## **6. MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

In accordance with paragraph 11.1 of Part 4 (Rules of Procedure) of the Constitution, Members are asked to consider the following motions from Councillors Blyth, Castle, Holmes, Linden and Wainwright:-

- (a) This Council, recognising the future importance to the Borough of sea links to Holland via the new Outer Harbour, calls upon the Managing Director, Leader of the Council and the Mayor to seek closer links with the Port Town of IJmuiden or other appropriate Dutch partner port, possibly to include a formal town twinning arrangement.
- (b) This Council, welcoming the recent government announcements with regard to increasing the supply of affordable and rented housing, calls upon the Cabinet Member (Community) to progress plans whereby Great Yarmouth residents might benefit from such initiatives, including seeking permission to restart the building of Council homes and the possible setting up of a Great Yarmouth Housing Company where public/private sector cooperation might boost the number of such homes made available for local families.

With regard to (a) above, the Cabinet Member (Regeneration and Tourism) commented that he accepted the spirit of the motion as presented but cautioned against commitments that may be too specific at this stage. The commercial development of new markets for the Outer Harbour was continuing alongside the construction work and the Borough Council would need to use the Council's Civic Office and other resources to support the commercial success of the Port wherever market opportunities open up.

The Cabinet Member (Regeneration and Tourism) therefore proposed the amended following motion:-

"This Council, recognising the future importance to the Borough of sea links via the new Outer Harbour, will use all resources possible, including its Civic offices, to support and secure good relations with overseas countries and communities in order to promote beneficial commercial trading opportunities for the Borough."

Proposer: Councillor Plant

Seconder: Councillor Castle

That the amended motion, as detailed above, be approved.

CARRIED

With regard to (b) above, the Cabinet Member (Community) reported that this motion referred to just one element of the government's recently issued consultation paper (Green Paper) entitled "Homes for the Future: More Affordable, More Sustainable". This was a wide ranging document which seeks to address the national housing shortage and the need for higher design and environmental standards to be adopted for new homes. It requests comments on a range of proposals relating to a planning policy as well as the housing enabling role and landlord function.

Council was advised that the closing date for responses was 15 October after which the government could be expected to finalise its proposals and enact any necessary legislation. The Cabinet Member reported that it would therefore be premature for the Council to progress plans at this stage when the government is still only considering the various options which are open to it. However, the Heads of Community Services and Planning and Development and the Director of Community Housing will jointly consider the possible implications of the Green Paper for Great Yarmouth and will monitor developments in order to ensure that the Council is in a position to take full advantage of any opportunities that do eventually arise to address the housing problems of the Borough.

Proposer: Councillor Linden

Seconder: Councillor Holmes

That the motion, as detailed in (b) above, be agreed.

LOST

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

Council was advised that there were no urgent key decisions to be reported.

**8. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The meeting ended at 7.50 pm.