

Planning Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2025

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Present

Tim Jickells – in the Chair, Harry Blathwayt, Stephen Bolt, Andrée Gee, Tony Grayling, James Harvey, Martyn Hooton, Gurpreet Padda and Matthew Shardlow

In attendance

Natalie Beal – Planning Policy Officer (item 10), Jason Brewster – Governance Officer, Kate Knights– Heritage and Design Manager (item 9), Ruth Sainsbury – Head of Planning and Sara Utting – Senior Governance Officer

Members of the public in attendance who spoke

No members of the public in attendance.

1. Apologies and welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Leslie Mogford, Vic Thomson, Melanie Vigo di Gallidoro and Fran Whymark

Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014

The Chair explained that the meeting was being audio-recorded. All recordings remained the copyright of the Broads Authority and anyone wishing to receive a copy of the recording should contact the Governance Team. The minutes remained the record of the meeting. He added that the law permitted any person to film, record, photograph or use social media in order to report on the proceedings of public meetings of the Authority. This did not extend to live verbal commentary. The Chair needed to be informed if anyone intended to photograph, record or film so that any person under the age of 18 or members of the public not wishing to be filmed or photographed could be accommodated.

2. Declarations of interest and introductions

Members indicated that they had no further declarations of interest other than those already registered.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. Matters of urgent business

There were no items of urgent business

5. Chair's announcements and introduction to public speaking

No members of the public had registered to speak. The Chair noted that this was the Senior Governance Officer's last Planning Committee before taking early retirement. The Chair

thanked her for her efforts supporting the committee and in particular her calm authority during meetings.

6. Requests to defer applications and/or vary agenda order

No requests to defer or vary the order of the agenda had been received.

7. Applications for planning permission

There were no applications for consideration.

8. Enforcement update

Members received an update report from the Head of Planning (HoP) on enforcement matters previously referred to the Committee. Further updates were provided at the meeting for:

Land at the Beauchamp Arms Public House (Unauthorised static caravans)

The HoP confirmed that the previously cancelled Pre-hearing at Norwich Crown Court had been rescheduled for 11 March 2025.

9. Broads Authority Design Guide and Code endorsement

The Heritage and Design Manager (HDM) introduced the report, which documented the Broads Authority Design Guide and Code Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in anticipation of its endorsement and approval by the Authority. The SPD comprised a Design Guide and a Design Code and both were consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Levelling Up Regeneration Act 2023. The Design Code was intended to reflect the local character of the Broads and local aspirations for development within the area. National guidance stated that Design Codes should be prescriptive in nature and state requirements that must be met. Where applicants could not meet these requirements, they would have to justify the reasons for this non-compliance. The HDM indicated that, having undertaken three stages of consultation, the content of the SPD was complete although she indicated that the layout might be altered slightly, for the purposes of usability and accessibility, following a consultation with the Authority's Communications Team before final publication.

In response to a question the HDM indicated that the consultation responses had been numerous and wide ranging (as indicated in Appendix 2 of the report), that the SPD had been amended as a consequence of this feedback and that a key area for improvement in the most recent consultation had been regarding Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).

Members supported the Broads Authority Design Guide and Code noting its concise and comprehensive method of stating the characteristics of good design within the Broads and its role in helping to preserve the Broads built vernacular.

Harry Blathwayt proposed, seconded by Andrée Gee

It was resolved unanimously to endorse the Broads Authority Design Guide and Code and recommend its adoption by the Broads Authority as a Supplementary Planning Document.

10. Consultation Responses

The Planning Policy Officer (PPO) introduced the report, which documented responses to East Suffolk Council's (ESC's) Neighbourhood Plan Guidance for Climate Change, ESC's Neighbourhood Plan Guidance for Housing, the pre-submission (Regulation 14) version of the Strumpshaw Neighbourhood Plan issued for consultation by the Strumpshaw Parish Council and the Custom and Self-Build Housing Supplementary Planning Document jointly produced by Broadland District and South Norfolk Councils. The PPO explained each of the consultation documents in turn.

East Suffolk Council's Neighbourhood Plan Guidance for Climate Change

The PPO had engaged the Authority's Carbon Reduction Projects Manager in the review of the ESC's Neighbourhood Plan Guidance for Climate Change and the proposed response consisted of three minor comments.

East Suffolk Council's Neighbourhood Plan Guidance for Housing

The proposed response to the ESC's Neighbourhood Plan Guidance for Housing sought some clarifications principally on ensuring the siting of new dwellings was consistent with the local plans.

Regulation 14 version of the Strumpshaw Neighbourhood Plan

The PPO indicated she had engaged with the Authority's Heritage and Design Manager and the Authority's Environment Policy Adviser in the review of the Regulation 14 version of the Strumpshaw Neighbourhood Plan. There were no significant issues with this neighbourhood plan and the proposed response sought clarification on a number of points and suggested improvements to some wordings. Since the report had been published the PPO had received additional comments from a Member. These sought to correct a mislabelled reference to the Strumpshaw Design Codes and Guidance, questioned the neighbourhood plan's assertion that the Strumpshaw Steam Museum was within a Site of Special Scientific Interest and some improvements to the Habitat Regulation Screening report.

Members supported both the response detailed in Appendix 2 of the report and the additional responses described.

Broadland District and South Norfolk Councils' Custom and Self-Build Housing Supplementary Planning Document

The response to the Broadland & South Norfolk Custom and Self-Build Housing Supplementary Planning Document as well as some minor corrections had requested considerations for possible landscape impacts and impacts to the Broads and its setting.

Martyn Hooton proposed, seconded by Matthew Shardlow.

It was resolved unanimously to endorse the nature of the proposed responses to the East Suffolk Council's Neighbourhood Plan Guidance for Climate Change, East Suffolk Council's

Neighbourhood Plan Guidance for Housing, the regulation 14 version of the Strumpshaw Neighbourhood Plan including the additional Member supplied comments, and the Custom and Self-Build Housing Supplementary Planning Document issued jointly by Broadland District and South Norfolk Councils.

11. Appeals to the Secretary of State

The Committee received a schedule of appeals to the Secretary of State since the last meeting.

12. Decisions made by officers under delegated powers

The Committee received a schedule of decisions made by officers under delegated powers from 27 January to 20 February 2025 and any Tree Preservation Orders confirmed within this period.

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Planning Committee would be on Friday 4 April 2025 at 10:00am at The King's Centre, 63-75 King Street, Norwich.

The meeting ended at 10:23am.

Signed by

Chair