

WEST SOMERSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 15 May 2013 at 2.30 pm
In the Council Chamber, Williton

Present:

Councillor D D Ross	Chairman
Councillor G S Dowding	Vice-Chairman
Councillor A M Chick	Councillor M J Chilcott
Councillor H J W Davies	Councillor J Freeman
Councillor S Y Goss	Councillor P N Grierson
Councillor A P Hadley	Councillor B Heywood
Councillor A F Knight	Councillor K V Kravis
Councillor R P Lillis	Councillor E May
Councillor I R Melhuish	Councillor K M Mills
Councillor C Morgan	Councillor P H Murphy
Councillor S J Pugsley	Councillor K J Ross
Councillor D J Sanders	Councillor L W Smith
Councillor M A Smith	Councillor T Taylor
Councillor A H Trollope-Bellew	Councillor K H Turner
Councillor D J Westcott	

Officers in Attendance:

Chief Executive (A Dyer)
Corporate Director & Monitoring Officer (B Lang)
Group Manager – Housing & Community (I Timms)
Climate Change and Community Liaison Manager (A Lamplough)
Administrative Support (H Dobson)
Administrative Support (E Day)

C1 Election of Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor G S Dowding be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing municipal year.

At this point there was a short adjournment in the proceedings to allow for photographs of the incoming and outgoing Chairmen.

Councillor G S Dowding thanked Councillors for electing him as Chairman, he expressed his hopes for the coming year and wished to be able to serve the Council to the best of his ability.

Councillor Taylor thanked Councillor D Ross for his role as Chairman in exercising his wisdom and guiding Members through a successful year. Further, he thanked him for his long and loyal service to the Council.

The Chief Executive congratulated Councillor G S Dowding on being elected Chairman. Further, he had been fortunate to have worked with excellent Chairmen in the past and thanked Councillor D Ross for his Chairman skills in being able to maintain order in the Chamber. In recognition of his service and the gratitude of the Council he presented him with a past Chairman's badge.

Councillor D Ross expressed his thanks for the kind words that had been expressed. He had considered it a huge honour to have been elected Chairman and believed that it was redolent of the Conservative Group that a member of the opposing political group had been elected Chairman. His main thanks were passed to Members and how they were able to work together. Further, he thanked the Corporate Director and Chairman's Secretary for their support for the past year.

C2 Appointment of Vice Chairman

Nomination/s for Vice Chairman was requested.

Councillor A F Knight was proposed and seconded.
Councillor J Freeman was proposed and seconded.

An open vote was held upon which it was

RESOLVED that Councillor A F Knight be elected Vice Chairman of the Council for the ensuing municipal year.

C3 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M O A Dewdney.

C4 Declarations of Interest

Members present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Member of a County, Parish or Town Council:

Name	Minute No	Description of Interest	Personal or Prejudicial	Action Taken
Cllr H J W Davies	All Items	Somerset County Council	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr S Y Goss	All Items	Stogursey	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr P N Grierson	All Items	Minehead	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr C Morgan	All Items	Stogursey	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr P H Murphy	All Items	Watchet	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr K J Ross	All Items	Dulverton	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr L W Smith	All Items	Minehead	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr K H Turner	All Items	Brompton Ralph	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr D J Westcott	All Items	Watchet	Personal	Spoke and voted

C5 Minutes

(Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 24 April 2013 and of the Licensing Committee held on 24 July 2012, circulated with the Agenda).

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 24 April 2013 and Licensing Committee held on 24 July 2012, be confirmed as a correct record.

C6 Public Participation

No member of the public had requested to speak on any item on the agenda.

C7 Appointment of Leader

Members were reminded that although Councillor Taylor had been elected as Leader for four years he wished to provide Council with the opportunity to reconsider each year.

RESOLVED that the appointment of Councillor T Taylor as Leader be confirmed for the ensuing municipal year.

C8 Appointment of Deputy Leader of the Council

RESOLVED that Councillor K Kravis be appointed as Deputy Leader of the Council for the ensuing municipal year.

C9 Cabinet

The Leader announced the following appointments and portfolios:

CABINET			
Name	Political Group	Lead Member	Shadow Portfolios
Councillor K M Mills	Conservative	Regeneration and Economic Growth	Councillor K J Ross
Councillor K H Turner	Conservative	Housing, Health & Wellbeing	Councillor A Hadley
Councillor S J Pugsley	Conservative	Executive Support and Democracy	Councillor P Murphy
Councillor D Westcott	Conservative	Community and Customer	Councillor E May
Councillor T Taylor	Conservative	Leader and Performance and Corporate Support	Councillor I Melhuish
Councillor C Morgan	Conservative	Environment - Hinkley	Councillor M Smith
Councillor A H Trollope-Bellew	Conservative	Environment - General	Councillor J Freeman
Councillor K V Kravis	Conservative	Resources and Central Support	Councillor D Ross

The Leader thanked Councillor D Sanders for his huge contribution as Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Growth over the years.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor I Melhuish, announced the shadow portfolio holders as detailed in the table above.

RESOLVED that the appointments be noted and that the Corporate Plan, Constitution and any other relevant documents be updated accordingly.

C10 Allocation of Seats to Committees

RESOLVED that the nominations for Committee seats made by the political groups be ratified and that the composition of the Committees be as detailed below.

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
9 seats in total	
Conservative 6	
Democratic Alliance 3	
Name	Political Group
Councillor M Chilcott	Conservative
Councillor M Dewdney	Conservative
Councillor G Dowding	Conservative
Councillor P Grierson	Conservative
Councillor B Heywood	Conservative
Councillor R Lillis	Conservative
Councillor J Freeman	Democratic Alliance
Councillor P Murphy	Democratic Alliance
Councillor K J Ross	Democratic Alliance

LICENSING COMMITTEE	
11 seats in total	
Conservative 8	
Democratic Alliance 3	
Name	Political Group
Councillor A Chick	Conservative
Councillor M Dewdney	Conservative
Councillor S Goss	Conservative
Councillor P Grierson	Conservative
Councillor R Lillis	Conservative
Councillor D Sanders	Conservative
Councillor L Smith	Conservative
Councillor D Westcott	Conservative
Councillor H Davies	Democratic Alliance
Councillor A Hadley	Democratic Alliance
Councillor E May	Democratic Alliance

PLANNING COMMITTEE	
15 seats in total	
Conservative 10	
Democratic Alliance 5	
Name	Political Group
Councillor A Chick	Conservative
Councillor G Dowding	Conservative
Councillor B Heywood	Conservative
Councillor A Knight	Conservative
Councillor K Mills	Conservative
Councillor C Morgan	Conservative
Councillor S Pugsley	Conservative
Councillor L Smith	Conservative
Councillor A Trollope-Bellew	Conservative
Councillor K Turner	Conservative
Councillor A Hadley	Democratic Alliance
Councillor E May	Democratic Alliance
Councillor I Melhuish	Democratic Alliance
Councillor D Ross	Democratic Alliance
Councillor M Smith	Democratic Alliance

AUDIT COMMITTEE	
7 seats in total	
Conservative 5	
Democratic Alliance 2	
Name	Political Group
Councillor M Chilcott	Conservative
Councillor M Dewdney	Conservative
Councillor S Goss	Conservative
Councillor R Lillis	Conservative
Councillor D Sanders	Conservative
Councillor E May	Democratic Alliance
Councillor D Ross	Democratic Alliance

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PANEL	
8 seats in total	
Conservative 5	
Democratic Alliance 3	
Name	Political Group
Councillor S Goss	Conservative
Councillor B Heywood	Conservative
Councillor A Knight	Conservative
Councillor A Trollope-Bellew	Conservative
Councillor K H Turner	Conservative
Councillor I Melhuish	Democratic Alliance
Councillor K J Ross	Democratic Alliance
Councillor M Smith	Democratic Alliance

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
9 Seats in total
3 West Somerset District Councillors
3 Independent Members
3 Parish/Town Councillors
Councillor P Grierson
Councillor P H Murphy
Councillor D J Westcott

C11 Appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees

The following appointments were made –

Scrutiny Committee

Chairman	Councillor K J Ross
Vice Chairman	Councillor R P Lillis

Planning Committee

Chairman	Councillor A F Knight
Vice Chairman	Councillor I R Melhuish

Licensing Committee

Chairman	Councillor D J Sanders
Vice Chairman	Councillor A P Hadley

Audit Committee

Chairman	Councillor S Y Goss
Vice Chairman	Councillor E May

Local Development Panel

Chairman

Councillor K H Turner

Vice Chairman

Councillor A F Knight

C12 Appointment of Representatives on Outside Bodies

Nomination/s for a representative on the Minehead Events Group was requested to be included in the list of representatives to be appointed on outside bodies for consideration by Council.

Councillor A Hadley was proposed and seconded.

Councillor P Grierson was proposed and seconded.

An open vote was held upon which it was

RESOLVED(1) that the Councillor P Grierson be included as a representative on the Minehead Events Group in the list of Members appointed to serve on Outside Bodies for the municipal year 2013-2014.

RESOLVED (2) that the Members appointed to serve on Outside Bodies for the municipal year 2013-2014 be as follows –

ORGANISATION	REPS 2012/2013
Management Committee of Broadlands	Councillor P Grierson
MATA Regal Theatre Co Ltd	Councillor I R Melhuish
Watchet Youth Centre	Councillor D J Westcott
Somerset Rural Youth Project	Councillor E May
Early Childhood & Child Care Network Meetings	Councillor E May Deputy: Councillor D J Westcott
Strategic Partnership Group West Somerset Sports and Leisure Centre	Councillor I Melhuish
Somerset County Playing Fields Association	Councillor H J W Davies
Somerset Play Forum	Councillor E May
Somerset Passenger Transport Forum	Councillor A H Trollope-Bellew Sub: Councillor K Mills
Exmoor National Park (politically balanced)	Councillor S J Pugsley Councillor J Freeman Councillor C Morgan Councillor T Taylor
Somerset Building Preservation Trust	Councillor H J W Davies Deputy: Councillor G Dowding
The Parrett Drainage Board	Councillor R Lillis (Dunster Area) Councillor C Morgan (Stockland Area)
Wessex Water Customer Liaison Panels	Councillor A Chick
Countywide Shared Services Task and	Councillor T Taylor

Finish Group	Councillor I Melhuish
Quantock Hills Joint Advisory Committee (politically balanced)	Councillor A Trollope-Bellew Councillor S Dowding
West Somerset Advice Bureau	Councillor P Grierson
ENGAGE - West Somerset Voluntary Sector Development agency	Councillor R Lillis
Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group (politically balanced)	Councillor C Morgan Councillor S Goss Councillor M Smith
Taunton & Somerset NHS Trust – Foundation Trust Council of Governors	Councillor D Ross
Minehead EYE Management Committee	Councillor D J Westcott Deputy: Councillor E May
Somerset Armed Forces Community Covenant Partnership	Councillor G S Dowding
Somerset Local Access Forum	Councillor A Trollope-Bellew
Minehead Visioning Group	Councillor M Chilcott Councillor R Lillis Councillor K Mills (PH)
Rural Commission	Councillor A Trollope-Bellew Councillor B Heywood
Police and Crime Panel	Councillor G Dowding Deputy: Councillor D Sanders
Health and Wellbeing Board	Councillor K Turner
Minehead Events Group	Councillor P Grierson

C13 Request for Allocation of Planning Obligations Funding

(Report No. WSC 59/12, circulated after the Agenda).

The purpose of the report was to seek Council approval of a recommendation from Cabinet concerning the allocation of capital monies secured through planning obligations to an individual scheme.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the report in detail advising that the sum of £35,000 would be allocated from the Section 106 agreement with Morrisons as detailed in 5.1.4 of the report, attached to the agenda. The Planning Obligations Board and the Asset Management Group had considered the options available. She believed that Option 4, as detailed in the report and attached to the agenda, would provide the best value for money in the long run, for as well as improving the lighting and providing a cycle path; the enhancement of the footpath would be to a standard that Somerset County Council could adopt and with no long term maintenance costs. Therefore, she proposed the recommendation of the report, which was duly seconded by Councillor I Melhuish.

In response to a question, the Climate Change and Community Liaison Officer advised that Somerset County Council had agreed to cover associated legal costs. Further, that it was hoped that the work would commence in September and be completed at the end October 2013.

It was suggested that perhaps further signs be positioned to help with access issues and to point the way to the town centre.

RESOLVED that the sum of £35,000 be allocated from the balance of monies held under the Morrisons Development Section 106 Agreement to the Minehead Street Lighting and Cycle Path Project.

NOTE: Having regard to the special circumstances pertaining in relation to this item – namely that a decision was required to enable the works to proceed as quickly as possible - the Chairman was of the opinion that, despite its non-inclusion on the agenda, this item should be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency.

The meeting closed at 3.34 pm.