

WEST SOMERSET COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 September 2014 at 4.30 pm

in the Council Chamber, Williton

Present:

Councillor G S Dowding Chairman
Councillor A F Knight..... Vice-Chairman

Councillor H J W Davies
Councillor S Y Goss
Councillor A P Hadley
Councillor K V Kravis
Councillor I R Melhuish
Councillor P H Murphy
Councillor K J Ross
Councillor M A Smith
Councillor A H Trollope-Bellew
Councillor D J Westcott

Councillor J Freeman
Councillor P N Grierson
Councillor B Heywood
Councillor E May
Councillor K M Mills
Councillor S J Pugsley
Councillor D J Sanders
Councillor T Taylor
Councillor K H Turner

Officers in Attendance:

Chief Executive (P James)
Director of Operations (S Adam)
Assistant Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer (B Lang)
Assistant Director – Operational Delivery (C Hall)
Major Projects Manager (J Holbrook)
New Nuclear Programme Manager (A Goodchild)
Meeting Administrator (K Kowalewska)

C43 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M J Chilcott, M O A Dewdney, R P Lillis, C Morgan, D D Ross and L Smith.

C44 Minutes

(Minutes of the meetings of Special Council and Council held on 23 July 2014, circulated with the Agenda.)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meetings of Special Council and Council held on 23 July 2014 be confirmed as correct records.

C45 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:

WEST SOMERSET COUNCIL
Council Meeting 17.09.2014

Name	Minute No.	Member of	Action Taken
Cllr H J W Davies	All	SCC	Spoke and voted
Cllr S Y Goss	All	Stogursey	Spoke and voted
Cllr P N Grierson	All	Alcombe	Spoke and voted
Cllr P H Murphy	All	Watchet	Spoke and voted
Cllr K J Ross	All	Dulverton	Spoke and voted
Cllr K H Turner	All	Brompton Ralph	Spoke and voted
Cllr D J Westcott	All	Watchet	Spoke and voted

In addition, the following interests were declared:

Name	Minute No.	Description of interest	Personal or Prejudicial	Action Taken
Cllr H J W Davies	C50	Member of SCC Panel	Personal	Left the Chamber
Cllr K V Kravis	C51	Association with owners of Blue Anchor Hotel	Prejudicial	Left the Chamber
Cllr A H Trollope-Bellew	C52	Supplies water to Crowcombe Church House	Personal	Spoke and voted

C46 **Public Participation**

No members of the public spoke at the meeting on any items on the agenda.

C47 **Chairman's Announcements**

4 August 2014	Attended the Somerset Remembers Commemoration of the outbreak of WW1 at St Mary Magdalene Church, Taunton
15 August 2014	Attended the Burma Star Association VJ Memorial Service in Blenheim Gardens, Minehead
4 September 2014	Attended the opening of Psalter's Restaurant at the Luttrell Arms Hotel, Dunster
11 September 2014	Attended the welcoming of 1 st Regiment Army Air Corp, Yeovilton

The Chairman announced that a Joint JMASS meeting for Councillors would be held at Deane House, Taunton on 2 October 2014 at 6.00pm. The Leader of Eastbourne Council would be making a presentation on his Council's experience of joint working and shared services.

C48 **Representation on Committees/Outside Bodies**

Members noted that following the resignation of Councillor P N Grierson from the Conservative Group, the Leader had nominated Councillor D J Sanders to take up the vacant seat on the Scrutiny Committee. There was a vacant seat on Audit Committee that now needed to be filled by the Conservative Group. In addition, there was also now a vacant seat on the Standards Advisory Committee to be filled by the Conservative Group.

It was also noted that Councillor Grierson had resigned as one of the Council's representatives on the Minehead Events Group and following liaison with the relevant parties, it had been agreed not to fill this vacancy, leaving Councillor R P Lillis as the Council's appointed representative on the group.

There was also a vacancy for a Council representative on the Wessex Water Customer Liaison Panel and it was proposed and seconded that Councillor M O A Dewdney take up the vacancy.

The Leader made a request for volunteers from the Conservative Group to fill the vacancies on the Audit Committee and the Standards Advisory Committee and confirmed that appointments would be made in due course.

Members took the opportunity to express their thanks and congratulated all the councillors, officers and organisations concerned who had helped with the planning of the Minehead summer festival event.

RESOLVED that Councillor M O A Dewdney be appointed as the Council's representative on the Wessex Water Customer Liaison Panel.

C49 **Member Reporting on Membership of Outside Body for Information**

The following report was circulated with the Agenda:

- Somerset Building Preservation Trust – Minutes of a Board Meeting held on 9 June 2014 by Councillor H J W Davies

The Chairman reminded Member representatives on outside bodies to continue to submit their reports.

RESOLVED that the report on membership of outside bodies be noted.

C50 **West Somerset Railway Partnership Development Group**

(Report No. WSC 128/14, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to seek Council approval for the nomination of the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Growth, Cllr Karen Mills, to represent the Council on the new West Somerset Railway Partnership Development Group.

The report was presented by the Lead Member for Regeneration and Economic Growth who drew attention to the appendix attached which set out the purpose of the Group. She proposed the recommendation subject to the inclusion of a further recommendation that Councillor I R Melhuish be nominated as the Council's deputy representative to the West Somerset Railway Partnership Development Group, which was seconded by Councillor E May.

RESOLVED (1) that the nomination of the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Growth, Councillor Karen Mills, as the Council's representative to the new West Somerset Railway Partnership Development Group be approved.

RESOLVED (2) that the nomination of Councillor I R Melhuish as the Council's deputy representative to the West Somerset Railway Partnership Development Group be approved.

C51 **Blue Anchor Coastal Protection Scheme**

(Report No. WSC 127/14, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to provide an urgent update to Council on the Blue Anchor coastal protection scheme and the options that now face this Council. The urgency is based around the Environment Agency's inability to hold the allocated money against this project.

The Lead Member for Environment - General presented the report in detail and stressed that if Members were minded to approve the recommendations the project would still need to be looked at in further detail before it went ahead due to not all the funding being guaranteed and the problem not being fully quantified.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendations in the report which were duly seconded by Councillor M A Smith.

The Assistant Director – Operational Delivery advised that despite the risks identified, option two remained the best and most affordable option and would not commit WSC to proceeding with the project should further risks and financial complications arise. He then went on to read out the legal opinion that had recently been received in response to whether the Council was liable for the clear up costs if the scheme did not go ahead.

In response, the officer confirmed that discussions with Somerset County Council regarding their ability to run the project on the Council's behalf would remain an opportunity in the future.

RESOLVED (1) that option two be progressed as the most affordable option and presented the least risk to the Authority.

RESOLVED (2) that West Somerset Council did not financially underwrite the longevity of any scheme in the form of a guarantee to the hotel owners.

RESOLVED (3) that £25,000 capital from the reserve as a supplementary estimate to support option two be approved.

C52 **HPC Planning Obligations Board – Allocations of Funding**

(Report No. WSC 126/14, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to present the recommendations of the Hinkley Point C Planning Obligations Board and Cabinet, for the allocation of monies secured through the Section 106 legal agreement for the Site Preparation Works at Hinkley Point. The relevant fund is the “Community Impact Mitigation (CIM)” Fund.

The item was presented in detail by the Lead Member for Resources and Central Support who advised that Cabinet had considered the report and had endorsed the approach of the Planning Obligations Board.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendation contained in the report which was duly seconded by Councillor D J Westcott.

The Chairman and Lead Member welcomed Sedgemoor District Councillor Ann Fraser to the meeting and thanked her for her support.

In respect of the Burgage Road Play Area project, officers were thanked for their hard work in supporting Stogursey Parish Council to take the bid to fruition.

RESOLVED that the release of funds for two projects from the £3,500,000 that has been paid by EDF to West Somerset Council for the Community Impact Mitigation (CMI) Fund be approved, as follows:

(i) £90,373 for Stogursey Parish Council for the construction of new play area equipment at Burgage Road, Stogursey; and

(ii) £250,000 for Wembdon Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust towards the construction of a new village hall and playing fields in Wembdon.

C53 **Minutes and Notes for Information**

(Minutes and Notes relating to this item, circulated via the Council’s website.)

RESOLVED (1) that the notes of the Watchet, Williton and Quantock Vale Area Panel held on 10 June 2014 be noted.

RESOLVED (2) that the notes of the Exmoor Area Panel held on 19 June 2014 be noted.

RESOLVED (3) that the notes of the Dunster Area Panel held on 28 July 2014 be noted.

The meeting closed at 5.20 pm