

WEST SOMERSET COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 January 2015 at 4.30 pm

in the Council Chamber, Williton

Present:

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

Councillor M J Chilcott	Councillor H J W Davies
Councillor M O A Dewdney	Councillor J Freeman
Councillor S Y Goss	Councillor A P Hadley
Councillor B Heywood	Councillor K V Kravis
Councillor E May	Councillor I R Melhuish
Councillor C Morgan	Councillor P H Murphy
Councillor S J Pugsley	Councillor K J Ross
Councillor D J Sanders	Councillor L W Smith
Councillor T Taylor	Councillor A H Trollope-Bellew
Councillor K H Turner	Councillor D J Westcott

Officers in Attendance:

Chief Executive (P James)
Assistant Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer (B Lang)
Director of Operations (S Adam)
Assistant Director – Operational Delivery (C Hall)
Assistant Director – Planning and Environment (T Burton)
Parking and Community Safety Manager (T Biss)
CIM Fund Manager (L Redston)
Housing Initiatives Implementation Officer (A Devine)
Planning Policy Manager (T Bryant)
Principal Planning Officer – Policy (T Clempson)
Principal Planning Officer – Policy (M Wilsher)
PR and Communications Officer (D Rundle)
Meeting Administrator (K Kowalewska)

Also in Attendance:

Mark Blaker, Somerset Waste Partnership

C91 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R P Lillis, K M Mills, D D Ross and M A Smith.

C92 Minutes

(Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 17 December 2014, circulated with the Agenda.)

RESOLVED that, subject to the inclusion of Councillor A H Trollope-Bellew declaring a personal interest as an owner of a water supply pertaining to Minute No. C83, and amending the last bullet point of Minute No. C83 to read 'A question was raised regarding the new charges proposed for caravan site licences and clarification was provided during the meeting', the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 17 December 2014 be confirmed as a correct record.

C93 **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.	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 H Murphy	All	Watchet	Spoke and voted
Cllr K J Ross	All	Dulverton	Spoke and voted
Cllr L W Smith	All	Minehead	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	C99	Williton business owner	Prejudicial	Left the Chamber
Cllr P H Murphy	C99	Business permit holder	Personal	Spoke and voted

C94 **Public Participation**

Peter Grandfield, Stuart Moffitt and Mike Copleston spoke on Agenda Item 9 – HPC Planning Obligations Board – Allocations of CIM Funding, in relation to the Holford and Kilve Broadband Campaign application which was considered and not approved by the Planning Obligations Board, emphasising the importance of the provision of high speed broadband for local businesses and the community. They urged Members to reconsider the funding decision for the broadband campaign in light of the uncertainty of the Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) project and the detrimental effect that any delay would have on the area.

C95 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

C96 **Somerset Waste Partnership Business Plan 2015-20**

(Report No. WSC 16/15, circulated prior to the meeting.)

The purpose of the report was to seek approval for the Somerset Waste Partnership's Draft Business Plan for 2015-2020. Whilst the business plan has a 5 year horizon Members were only requested to approve the plan for 12 months.

The Lead Member for Environment – General introduced the item and welcomed to the meeting Mark Blaker from the Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP). The Lead Member went on to reassure Members that SWP's main priority was saving money for the Council; and he reported that everything put out for recycling was indeed recycled and stressed the importance of using food waste and recycling bins as there was far too many recyclable products, particularly food, being thrown out in the general waste.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendation contained within the report which was seconded by Councillor M O A Dewdney.

Mark Blaker from SWP provided Members with a brief overview of the SWP business plan, and drew attention to the following:

- Since 2010-11 the amount of household waste had increased.
- Budget projections highlighted a 0.66% uplift in costs.
- A major review of the fundamentals of the waste service relating to disposal and collections, and various trials, were taking place, to make the service as efficient and cost effective as possible.
- The three key priorities areas for 2015/16.

During the course of the discussion the main points raised included:

- An intensive and very efficient waste service was being provided.
- The hard work of the local drivers and operatives who collected the recycling/refuse was greatly appreciated and thanks was also expressed to the courteous and helpful staff at the recycling centres.
- It was clarified that approximately 50% of the general refuse could be recycled using the current kerbside service thereby reducing landfill costs.
- An explanation was provided on how the anaerobic digestion plant for recycling food waste operated.

RESOLVED that the Somerset Waste Partnership's Draft Business Plan, attached to the report, be approved.

Note: With the agreement of the Chairman this item was brought forward on the Agenda.

C97 **HPC Planning Obligations Board – Allocations of CIM Funding**

(Report No. WSC 17/15, 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 Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the report and provided an overview of the projects submitted to the Planning Obligations Board (POB). She reported that the consensus of the Board was that the finances and business plans of certain projects had not been fully developed and further evidence was required to link the applications to the Hinkley Point C project. It was highlighted that the POB was still in the early stages of development and the process would continue to be improved in order to assist decision making and help applicants during the bid submission stage.

The Lead Member went on to explain how the decision was reached regarding the Holford and Kilve Broadband Campaign, and stressed that there was a lot of knowledge and interest relating to broadband on the POB and the Board were very supportive of the bid as it had proven links to the Hinkley project and a good business plan, however, it was strongly felt that the timing of the bid was wrong, and she explained further the background to the decision. She stated that WSC was fully committed to ensuring broadband was provided to as many areas of the district as possible and urged the Holford and Kilve parish councils to trust the officers involved in the CDS project to advise them of when the timing was right to resubmit the bid to the POB.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendations in the report, and in order to strengthen the Council's commitment to Holford and Kilve proposed an additional recommendation, to read 'that Council separately and in addition to acknowledging the recommendation from the Planning Obligations Board on Holford and Kilve Broadband, note and support the desire to see Holford and Kilve benefit from the provision of high speed broadband and ask the Assistant Director – Business Development to work with the Holford and Kilve Broadband Campaign to develop, if necessary, a subsequent CIM fund application at the appropriate time'.

The recommendations, as amended, were seconded by Councillor M O A Dewdney.

A lengthy discussion centred around broadband issues.

RESOLVED (1) that the decision of the Hinkley C Planning Obligations Board* be noted as follows:

To award £800 of CIM Funding to the Porlock Bay Shellfish Project to fund a website as part of a wider project to establish mussel and oyster beds in Porlock Bay.

*On 4th June 2014 Cabinet agreed the delegation of authority to the Planning Obligations Board to approve applications for funding up to £1000.

RESOLVED (2) that the decision of Cabinet on 7th January 2015 be noted as follows:

That CIM funding for The Sedgemoor Project is not approved, as the application did not clearly demonstrate and evidence how the project mitigates impacts on the community of the Hinkley Point C project.

That CIM funding for the Bridgwater Digital Radio Link Project is not approved, as the application did not provide evidence of the potential impacts on the community of the Hinkley Point C project and how the project with mitigate those impacts.

RESOLVED (3) that the recommendations of the Hinkley C Planning Obligations Board and Cabinet be endorsed as follows:

That funding for the Holford and Kilve Broadband project is not approved, as the need for funding cannot be established at this time and that the Parish Councils are advised to work with WSC officers to reapply with an amended proposal at a more appropriate time.

That funding for the Watchet Hidden History Project is not approved, as the application did not provide evidence of partner support and relevant permissions to deliver the project.

That funding for the St George's Parish Centre project is not approved due to a current lack evidence of future community need for the project in light of a recent CIM funding award for a project delivering similar outcomes within the locality.

RESOLVED (4) that separately and in addition to acknowledging the recommendation from the Planning Obligations Board on Holford and Kilve broadband, the desire to see Holford and Kilve benefit from the provision of high speed broadband be noted and supported; and the Assistant Director – Business Development be asked to work with the Holford and Kilve Broadband Campaign to develop, if necessary, a subsequent CIM fund application at the appropriate time.

Note: With the agreement of the Chairman this item was brought forward on the Agenda.

C98 **HPC Section 106 Agreement – Allocations of Housing Fund**

(Report No. WSC 13/15, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to present the recommendations of the Hinkley Point Planning Obligations Board (POB) which were endorsed by Cabinet for the allocation of Housing Fund monies secured through the Section 106 legal agreement for the Site Preparation Works at Hinkley Point.

The Lead Member for Housing, Health and Wellbeing presented the report advising that there was a Hinkley Housing Fund of £4 million available to help mitigate the loss of housing that may arise from the Hinkley Point C development. He provided Members with a summary of the three bids highlighting the cost per bed space for each proposal, and then went on to propose the recommendation of the report which was duly seconded by Councillor E May.

Members were supportive of the three bids and questions and issues were raised on matters relating to the Living Over the Shop scheme on how funds were allocated and how properties were identified; and on how loans were administered and repaid under the First Time Buyers Home Loan scheme.

RESOLVED that the release of funds for three projects from the £4,000,000 that has been paid by EDF Energy to West Somerset Council for the Housing Fund be approved:

- Enabling Fund – Old Croft House, Williton - £56,000
- Living Over the Shop - £204,750
- First Time Buyers Home Loan Scheme – £105,000.

C99 **West Somerset Local Plan**

(Report No. WSC 15/15, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to recommend to Council that the Draft West Somerset Local Plan to 2032 should be formally published early in February 2015.

The Lead Member for Housing, Health and Wellbeing presented the report in detail advising that officers had been working on the Local Plan for a number of years and he thanked them for all their hard work and due diligence. He advised that it was a legal obligation for a local authority to produce a local plan and he went on to provide details of the public consultations undertaken, duty to cooperate, timescales, the Strategic Market Housing Assessment and the delivery of affordable housing. With regard to criticism received for not having a local plan, the Lead Member hoped that WSC would have one that was compliant with Government's National Planning Policy Framework and if approved by the Planning Inspector, WSC would be one of a few number of councils in the country to have an adopted Local Plan.

During the debate the following main points were raised:

- Communities needed sustainability of village services which depended on the growth of affordable and market housing development and WSC was correct in rejecting the ENPA's request.
- Off-site provision of affordable housing was welcomed.
- Clarification was sought on the identification of a primary and secondary retail area for Minehead.

- If would be helpful if officers could acknowledge/answer any positive suggestions submitted during the consultation process, and it was hoped that the public would engage in the next round of consultation and all parish/town councils were urged to participate and make comments.
- The importance of new build developments to provide homes for life and assurance was requested that this would continue to be worked on.
- The Local Plan was an essential document and an effective tool for development management purposes and the Planning Committee and would provide a degree of protection.
- It was proposed to include Watchet as a gateway settlement within Policy EC10 of the Local Plan in order to promote the town more fully.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendation, to include the amendment to Policy EC10 'Gateway Settlements' of Appendix 1 to the report, and this was duly seconded by Councillor A F Knight.

RESOLVED that

- the Draft West Somerset Local Plan to 2032 attached at Appendix 1 to the report, including the amendment to Policy EC10, and including the Figures and Proposals Map amendments at Appendix 2, be formally published;
- the amended Local Development Scheme timetable attached at Appendix 3 to the report be adopted;
- the schedule of which saved 2006 local plan policies are to be replaced by which new West Somerset Local Plan to 2032 policies attached at Appendix 4 to the report be endorsed;
- the request from Exmoor National Park Authority to accommodate the objectively assessed open market housing need arising from the West Somerset local authority area within the National Park be rejected; and,
- the Published Plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State following the formal representation period subject to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health and Well-being, as guided by officers, considering there are no substantive soundness issues raised which would warrant further amendment to the Plan.

C100 **Proposed Increase in Parking Fees**

(Report No. WSC 14/15, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to set out a number of proposals for the alignment and increase to parking fees and permits.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the item and provided Members with the background information. She drew Members' attention to the fact that there had been no increase to the current car parking charges for three years and it was proposed to introduce new tariffs in order to be as considerate and have as little impact as possible on local residents. She also made reference to the additional revenue that would be raised.

The Lead Member went on to propose the recommendation which was duly seconded by Councillor K H Turner.

RESOLVED that the following proposals be approved resulting in new parking charges being introduced with effect from 1 June 2015:

- A winter and summer tariff for off-street parking for West Somerset Pay & Display car parks;
- An increase and alignment of summer parking fees;
- An increase to parking permits charges.

C101 **Minutes and Notes for Information**

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

RESOLVED that the notes of the Minehead Area Panel held on 10 December 2014 be noted.

The meeting closed at 6.43 pm