

WEST SOMERSET COUNCIL

Minutes of Council held on 21 March 2018 at 4.30 pm

in the Council Chamber, Williton

Present:

Councillor B Heywood Chairman
Councillor R Woods Vice-Chairman

Councillor I Aldridge	Councillor B Allen
Councillor A Behan	Councillor M J Chilcott
Councillor H Davies	Councillor M Dewdney
Councillor G S Dowding	Councillor S Goss
Councillor A P Hadley	Councillor I Jones
Councillor B Maitland-Walker	Councillor K Mills
Councillor C Morgan	Councillor P H Murphy
Councillor J Parbrook	Councillor P Pilkington
Councillor S Pugsley	Councillor R Thomas
Councillor A H Trollope-Bellew	Councillor K Turner
Councillor T Venner	Councillor D J Westcott

Officers in Attendance:

Director of Operations (S Adam)
Assistant Chief Executive (B Lang)
Section 151 Officer (P Fitzgerald)
Assistant Director – Place and Energy Infrastructure (A Goodchild)
Community and Housing Impact Lead (L Redston)
Meeting Administrator (K Kowalewska)

C79 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Clifford, A Kingston-James and N Thwaites.

C80 Minutes

(Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 23 February 2018, circulated with the Agenda.)

RESOLVED that, subject to correcting Councillor B Allen's name within the recorded votes taken in Minutes Nos. C72 and C74, the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 23 February 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.

C81 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 I Aldridge	All	Williton	Spoke and voted
Cllr M Chilcott	All	SCC	Spoke and voted
Cllr H Davies	All	Williton	Spoke and voted
Cllr S Goss	All	Stogursey	Spoke and voted
Cllr B Maitland-Walker	All	Carhampton	Spoke and voted
Cllr C Morgan	All	Stogursey	Spoke and voted
Cllr P H Murphy	All	Watchet	Spoke and voted
Cllr J Parbrook	All	Minehead	Spoke and voted
Cllr P Pilkington	All	Timberscombe	Spoke and voted
Cllr R Thomas	All	Minehead	Spoke and voted
Cllr A H Trollope-Bellew	All	Crowcombe	Spoke and voted
Cllr K H Turner	All	Brompton Ralph	Spoke and voted
Cllr T Venner	All	Minehead	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 Davies	C86	Member of Somerset Wildlife Trust	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr S Dowding	C85	Member of RNLI	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr J Parbrook	C86	Mayor of Minehead Town Council	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr A Trollope-Bellew	C86	Member of Somerset Wildlife Trust	Personal	Spoke and voted

C82 **Public Participation**

Mike Webber, Chairman of Watchet Bowling Club, spoke in support of the Watchet Bowling Club application.

Jan Ross, Engage Development Worker, spoke in support of the Watchet Bowling Club application.

John Irvén, Watchet Town Council spoke in support of the Watchet Bowling Club application.

A request was made for the Council to refer the decision back to POB in order to give the Watchet Bowling Club the opportunity to address any misunderstandings about the viability of the project.

C83 **Chairman's Announcements**

On 16 March 2018, the Chairman attended South Somerset District Council Chairman's Civic Evening in Yeovil. Due to the adverse weather conditions, the Chairman sent his apologies for the High Sheriff of Somerset's Legal Service at Wells.

The Chairman took the opportunity, on behalf of the Council, to thank the officers for all their hard work in preparing and running the simultaneous Council and Cabinet/Executive meetings on 19 March 2018 at Oake Manor Golf Club. All agreed it was a great success.

C84 **Notice on Motion**

In accordance with Procedure Rule 11 the following motion was received from Councillor G S Dowding.

Recognising the waste and pollution caused by plastics, West Somerset Council resolves to become a 'single-use plastic free' council by:

- a) Phasing out single-use plastic products, such as bottles, cups, cutlery and drinking straws, and the unnecessary use of plastic bags in all council activities, where reasonable and possible, by Spring 2019.
- b) Encouraging users of Council facilities, local businesses and other local public agencies to do the same, by championing alternatives, such as reusable water bottles, cups, cutlery and bags.
- c) Submitting a public report to the Council by Autumn 2018, which summarises single-use plastic within the council, progress and plans for phasing it out, including by encouraging others; with a further update by Spring 2019.

It was stated that Councillors should set a good example to the electorate and it was hoped the Council would promote the non-use of plastic as much as possible, i.e. via its website and by including information in mail outs circulated to the public.

Councillor S Dowding proposed the recommendation which was duly seconded by Councillor P Murphy.

Members were fully supportive of the motion. It was important to start phasing out the use of plastics wherever practicable as there were more eco-friendly alternative products available. Members acknowledged that more could be done as an authority and on an individual basis, and that everyone should be encouraged to recycle or reuse their plastic. It was advised that more plastics would be able to be recycled as part of the roll out of the Somerset Waste Partnership's Recycle More scheme. It was noted that paper cups were coated and hard to recycle. Central government legislation was also needed to help drive this process forward.

RESOLVED that, recognising the waste and pollution caused by plastics, West Somerset Council to become a 'single-use plastic free' council by:

- a) Phasing out single-use plastic products, such as bottles, cups, cutlery and drinking straws, and the unnecessary use of plastic bags in all council activities, where reasonable and possible, by Spring 2019.
- b) Encouraging users of Council facilities, local businesses and other local public agencies to do the same, by championing alternatives, such as reusable water bottles, cups, cutlery and bags.

c) Submitting a public report to the Council by Autumn 2018, which summarises single-use plastic within the council, progress and plans for phasing it out, including by encouraging others; with a further update by Spring 2019.

C85 **HPC Planning Obligations Board – Allocation of CIM Funding, Grant Applications under £100,000**

(Report No. WSC 30/18, 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 from the Community Impact Mitigation (CIM) Fund for grant applications under £100,000 received on 1 January 2018.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the item. She provided information on the bids submitted for grant funding under £100,000 to the Planning Obligations Board (POB) and highlighted the key points from the report. Reassurance was given that comprehensive, detailed information was provided to the Board when they deliberated each application beyond what was printed in the Council report presented to Members. The considerable amount time and effort put in by applicants when preparing their bids was also acknowledged.

She went on to propose the recommendation of the report which was duly seconded by Councillor M Dewdney.

During the debate the following main points were made:

- It was hoped that POB would look more sympathetically and favourably at the RNLI's reapplication when they submitted their bid for a second time.
- The West Somerset Young People's Outreach Sexual Health Support project was considered to be very commendable.
- It was confirmed that the POB decisions on the three applications were unanimous.

RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Hinkley Point C Planning Obligations Board and West Somerset Cabinet be endorsed as follows:

- (1) To not approve the allocation of funding to the Minehead RNLI for the D Class Lifeboat project.
- (2) To not approve the allocation of funding to the ATWEST for the Grow Moor Rover project.
- (3) To approve the allocation of £71,150 from the 2nd Annual Payment to Minehead Eye for the West Somerset Young People's Outreach Sexual Health Support Project.

C86 **HPC Planning Obligations Board – Allocation of CIM Funding, Grant Applications over £100,000**

(Report No. WSC 31/18, 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 from the Community Impact Mitigation (CIM) Fund for grant applications over £100,000 received on 1 December 2017.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the report and provided information on the six applications submitted for grant funding over £100,000. For applications requesting grant funding over £100,000, POB felt it valuable to invite applicants to attend in person to speak about their projects to the Board. Attention was drawn to the evaluation criterion as well as Appendix A of the report which detailed the funding criteria comments and provided extra background information for each of the applications.

She proposed the recommendation of the report which was seconded by Councillor A Trollope-Bellew.

Various questions and issues were raised and the main points of discussion focussed on:

- The potential impact of the new Watchet Bowling Club building on other community buildings in the area.
- The new changing rooms and community hall at Minehead Recreation Ground – the project was welcomed as the provision of leisure facilities and the new building would greatly improve the area, benefitting both local people and the wider community.
- Watchet Bowling Club – disappointment was expressed that POB had recommended not to approve the application and it was hoped that an enhanced resubmitted bid would receive a favourable hearing. Following concerns raised at the Cabinet meeting, a very useful meeting had been held between officers and ward members which provided a better understanding as to how the decision was made.
- The YMCA Somerset Coast was an excellent project focusing on training and skills development and would generate jobs to the area, as well as making excellent use of the currently derelict Great Western Hotel in Taunton.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor P Murphy and seconded by Councillor R Woods that the recommendation 2.1.1 of the report be changed to read, "To not approve the application for funding for Watchet Bowling Club for funding towards the Watchet Bowling Club, Gym and Community Facility at the present time. To request that Council Officers offer to work with Watchet Bowling Club in order to assist them with the preparation to present a revised bid to the CIM Fund in due course."

On being put to the vote the amendment was CARRIED.

This then became part of the new substantive motion and the recommendations contained in the report, as amended, were put to the vote and were CARRIED.

RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Hinkley Point C Planning Obligations Board and West Somerset Cabinet be endorsed as follows:

- (1) To allocate £382,047 from the 1st Annual CIM fund payment to Minehead Town Council for the New Changing Rooms and Community Hall at Minehead Recreation Ground.
- (2) To not approve the application for funding for Watchet Bowling Club for funding towards the Watchet Bowling Club, Gym and Community Facility at this present time. To request that Council Officers offer to work with Watchet Bowling Club in order to assist them with the preparation to present a revised bid to the CIM Fund in due course.
- (3) To allocate £112,235 from the 1st Annual Payment to Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership for the Naturally Active Project.
- (4) To allocate £159,035 from the 1st Annual Payment to Somerset Wildlife Trust for the Brilliant Coast Project.
- (5) To not approve the allocation of funding for the Somerset Rural Youth Project for the Coastal Character project.
- (6) To allocate £500,000 from the 1st and 2nd Annual Payments to YMCA Somerset Coast for the Great Western Hotel project.

C87 **Financial Monitoring 2017-2018 as at 31 December 2017**

(Report No. WSC 32/18, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to provide an update on the projected “outturn” – end of year – financial position of the Council for the financial year 2017-2018 (as at 31 December 2017).

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the report in detail and went on to propose the recommendations of the report which were duly seconded by Councillor M Dewdney.

Members acknowledged the hard work undertaken by the Finance Team and the officers were thanked for providing regular updates and feedback.

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee made reference to the recommendations proposed by the Committee at its meeting on 15 February 2018 and the subsequent discussion held at Cabinet on 7 March 2018. Councillor P Murphy then went on to propose an amendment to recommendation 2.2 b) of the Council report to read, “£70,000 to the Sustainability reserve”. This was seconded by Councillor P Pilkington.

The Section 151 Officer reiterated the advice he gave at the Cabinet meeting and emphasised the original recommendations were based on prudent proposals to mitigate risk and to strengthen the resilience of the Authority during this significant period of change.

The Lead Member echoed her commitment to review the figures and the final outturn position at the end of the financial year in order to consider options for allocating additional funds to the Sustainability reserve should there be any underspends.

On being put to the vote the amendment was LOST.

RESOLVED (1) that the Council's forecast financial performance as at 31 December 2017 with the estimated position at the end of the financial year be noted.

RESOLVED (2) that the following transfers be approved:

- a) £600,000 to the Business Rates Smoothing reserve
- b) £70,000 to the Transformation reserve
- c) £30,000 to the Asset Management and Compliance reserve.

The meeting closed at 6.48 pm.