

WEST SOMERSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 September 2011 at 4.30 pm
In the Council Chamber, Williton

Present:

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

Officers in Attendance:

Chief Executive (Adrian Dyer)
Corporate Director & Monitoring Officer (B Lang)
Section 151 Officer (G Carne)
Group Manager- Customer and Corporate Support Services (W Bass)
Economic Regeneration and Tourism Manager (C Matthews)

C27 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M O A Dewdney, K V Kravis, E May, L W Smith and K H Turner.

C28 Minutes

(Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 29 June 2011, circulated with the Agenda).

RESOLVED that, subject to the word 'Tipping' being amended to 'Posting' in the first paragraph, the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 29 June 2011 be confirmed as a correct record.

C29 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 S Goss	All Items	Stogursey	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr P N Grierson	All Items	Minehead	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr P H Murphy	All Items	Watchet	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr K Ross	All Items	Dulverton	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr A H Trollope-Bellew	All Items	Somerset County Council	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr D J Westcott	All Items	Watchet	Personal	Spoke and voted

In addition Councillors A Trollope-Bellew, H J W Davies, G D Dowding and C Morgan declared a personal interest in the West Somerset Economic Strategy Refresh item as members of the Quantock Hills Joint Advisory Committee.

C30 Public Participation

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

C31 Chairman's Announcements

1 July 2011	Opened Outdoor & Active Equipment at Wimbleball Lake. Demonstration provided by youngsters with an invitation to join in. Opened the West Somerset Community College Farm.
4 July 2011	Attended the AGM of CLOWNS.
6 July 2011	Attended the Affiliation Ceremony of the Army Cadet Force and 1013 Squadron Air Training Corps at the Royal British Legion Minehead.
11 July 2011	Presented to HRH the Duchess of Cornwall at the Moorland Mousie Trust, Exmoor Pony Center at Ashwick, nr Dulverton. Official opening of the Green Room and re-launch of the Moorland Mousie Book.
7 August 2011	Civic Service at St. Decumans.
8 August 2011	Official visit to the Summer Exhibition of the Watchet Art Club.
10 August 2011	Reception at Butlins prior to the display of the Red Arrows
15 August 2011	Remembrance Service in Blenheim Gardens staged by the Burma Star Association.
18 August 2011	Annual Fund Raising Event of the West Somerset Womens Group RBL at Raleghs Cross.
23 August 2011	Attended the AGM of Engage.
3 September 2011	Present at the Institution of Rev. Penny Dobbin as Vicar for Minehead held at St. Michael's, Minehead.

10 September 2011	Fund raising for the Watchet Choral Society at Doniford
11 September 2011	Mid Devon Civic Ceremony held at Holcombe Rogus

C32 West Somerset Economic Strategy Refresh – Responding to Change

(Report No. WSC 119/11, circulated with the Agenda).

The purpose of the report was to give Council the opportunity of considering the draft refresh of the Economic Strategy for West Somerset, and to endorse the comments made by Cabinet at its meeting on held 7 September 2011.

The Lead Member for Regeneration and Economic Growth drew Members' attention to the Employment and Skills Charter and the need to encourage the private sector to locate to West Somerset. He proposed the recommendations in the report and they were duly seconded by Councillor R P Lillis.

During the debate the following main points were raised:

- The document should be used to encourage inward investment and an executive summary of the document should be prepared
- S106 monies gained from the Hinkley Point planning applications could be used to resource the action plan
- The Strategy did not reflect the fact that access to Dulverton from the motorway was via the A396 and this was fifteen minutes from the motorway
- The document referred to routes into West Somerset as 'relatively poor' where they should be described as 'very poor'.

RESOLVED (1) that Council agrees to adopt the West Somerset Economic Strategy Refresh (subject to the final draft of the Strategy reflecting the comments made by Council on 21 September 2011 and Cabinet on 7 September 2019).

RESOLVED (2) that Council agrees to adopt the Employment and Skills Charter.

RESOLVED (3) that Council acknowledges that the Action Plan is currently a set of indicative actions that will need to be aligned to the emerging corporate priorities and the refreshed Community Strategy resulting in SMART actions and clear outcomes.

C33 Remuneration Committee

(Report No. WSC 113/11, circulated with the Agenda).

The purpose of the report was to ratify the recommendation from Cabinet not to approve the creation of a Remuneration Committee and in so doing maintain the status quo.

The Leader proposed that a Remuneration Committee should not be created as recommended by Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet and his proposal was seconded by Councillor S J Pugsley.

RESOLVED that Council approves the recommendations from Cabinet (6 July 2011) and the Scrutiny Committee (13 June 2011) to not create a Remuneration Committee.

C34 Review of Financial Regulations and Contract Standing Orders

(Report No. WSC 78/11, circulated with the Agenda).

The purpose of the report was for ~~the Cabinet Council~~ to ~~offer comment on proposed~~ approve changes to Financial Regulations for 2011, attached as Appendix A, and Contract Standing Orders, attached as Appendix B.

In the absence of the Lead Member for Finance, the Section 151 Officer presented the report. He advised Members that the report had been considered by Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet and formed part of the Constitution. The recommendations in the report were proposed by Councillor S J Pugsley and seconded by Councillor P Grierson.

RESOLVED that ~~Cabinet Council~~ note approve the changes to the two documents appended to the report (shown as tracked changes) and included as Appendix A and B to the Minutes of this meeting.

C35 Devolution and Delegation Project – Progress to date

(Report No. WSC 112/11, circulated with the Agenda).

The purpose of the report was to update Council on progress to date in discussing devolution and delegation of services with parish and town councils.

In the absence of the Lead Member for Finance, the Section 151 Officer presented the report. He reminded Members that Council had adopted a Strategy for the Delegation/Devolution of Services to Parish and town Councils in July 2010. With regard to meetings that had taken place with parishes, engagement had been good and the deadline for responses was the end of September 2011.

During the debate the following points were made:

- The exercise had helped to build relationships with parish and town councils
- Officers were commended for their attendance at many meetings and particularly Graham Carne, Bruce Lang and Angela Lamplough
- Flexibility around the deadline date for responses was requested
- Consideration should be given to giving control of smaller assets, such as small pockets of land, to parishes

RESOLVED that Council notes the progress to date on the discussions with parish and town councils regarding devolution and delegation of services

C36 Membership of Committees

The Leader of the Conservative Group confirmed that his nominated replacement on the Planning Committee, who had resigned for reasons explained at the June Council meeting, had been amended and Councillor D Sanders had taken the vacant seat and received appropriate training.

C37 Minutes and Notes for information

Minutes of the Standards Committee held on 12 July 2011 (circulated with the Agenda).

RESOLVED that the draft Minutes of the Standards Committee held on 12 July 2011, be noted.

Draft Notes of the Watchet, Williton & Quantocks Area Panel held on 7 June 2011, the draft Notes of the Minehead Area Panel held on 8 June 2011, draft Notes of the Exmoor Area Panel held on 23 June 2011 and draft Notes of the Dunster Area Panel held on 18 July 2011 (circulated with the Agenda).

It was noted that attendance at Area Panel meetings by members of the public was poor. The Leader agreed that this should be an item on the next Corporate Policy Advisory Group meeting.

A question was raised regarding voting rights at Panel meetings and in response the Chief Executive advised that the Panels were set up to agree their own rules and this was detailed in the Council's Constitution.

RESOLVED that the draft notes of the Watchet, Williton & Quantocks Area Panel held on 7 June 2011, the draft Notes of the Minehead Area Panel held on 8 June 2011, draft Notes of the Exmoor Area Panel held on 23 June 2011 and draft Notes of the Dunster Area Panel held on 18 July 2011, be noted.

Draft Notes of the Hinkley Point – Somerset Nuclear Energy Group (SNEG) held on 28 June 2011 (circulated with the Agenda).

RESOLVED that the Draft Notes of the Hinkley Point – Somerset Nuclear Energy Group (SNEG) held on 28 June 2011 11, be noted.

The meeting closed at 5.39 pm