

WEST SOMERSET COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 July 2015 at 4.30 pm

in the Council Chamber, Williton

Present:

Councillor G S Dowding Chairman
Councillor B Heywood Vice-Chairman

Councillor I Aldridge
Councillor A Behan
Councillor M O A Dewdney
Councillor A P Hadley
Councillor I Jones
Councillor B Maitland-Walker
Councillor J Parbrook
Councillor R Thomas
Councillor A H Trollope-Bellew
Councillor D J Westcott

Councillor D Archer
Councillor M J Chilcott
Councillor S Y Goss
Councillor T Hall
Councillor R P Lillis
Councillor K M Mills
Councillor S J Pugsley
Councillor N Thwaites
Councillor T Venner
Councillor R Woods

Officers in Attendance:

Chief Executive (P James)
Director of Operations/Section 151 Officer (S Adam)
Assistant Chief Executive/Monitoring Officer (B Lang)
Assistant Director Operational Delivery (C Hall)
Assistant Director Energy Infrastructure (A Goodchild)
Economic Regeneration and Tourism Manager (C Matthews)
Media and Communications Officer (D Rundle)
Meeting Administrator (K Kowalewska)

C28 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Clifford, H J W Davies, B Leaker, C Morgan, P Murphy and K Turner.

C29 Minutes

(Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 17 June 2015, circulated with the Agenda.)

RESOLVED that, subject to the inclusion of Councillor R Thomas declaring an interest in his capacity as a Member of Minehead Town Council, the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 17 June 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.

C30 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 22.07.2015

Name	Minute No.	Member of	Action Taken
Cllr I Aldridge	All	Williton	Spoke and voted
Cllr D Archer	All	Minehead	Spoke and voted
Cllr S Goss	All	Stogursey	Spoke and voted
Cllr B Maitland-Walker	All	Carhampton	Spoke and voted
Cllr J Parbrook	All	Minehead	Spoke and voted
Cllr R Thomas	All	Minehead	Spoke and voted
Cllr N Thwaites	All	Dulverton	Spoke and voted
Cllr A H Trollope-Bellew	All	Crowcombe	Spoke and voted
Cllr T Venner	All	Minehead & SCC	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 D Archer	C36	Landlord	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr M Chilcott	C36	Landlord	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr G S Dowding	C36	Landlord	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr S Pugsley	C36	Landlord	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr A Trollope-Bellew	C36	Landlord	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr D Westcott	C36	Landlord	Personal	Spoke and voted

C31 Public Participation

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

C32 Chairman's Announcements

12 July 2015	Attended Sedgemoor District Council's Civic Service in Cannington
13 July 2015	Attended the funeral of Rob Johnson who served in the Burma Campaign and who would be much missed, especially by the Burma Star Association

The Chairman advised Members that VJ Day would be commemorated on 15 August 2015 in Blenheim Gardens, Minehead and hoped that many would attend the Burma Star memorial service in the morning.

C33 HPC Planning Obligations Board – Allocations of CIM Funding

(Report No. WSC 115/15, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to present the recommendations of the Hinkley Point C Planning Obligations Board (HPC POB) and West Somerset Council Cabinet, for the allocation of monies from the Community Impact Mitigation (CIM) Fund secured through the Section 106 legal agreement for the Site Preparation Works at Hinkley Point.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the item and provided Members with the background information, as well as a brief outline of the applications which had been considered by the HPC POB and Cabinet. The Lead Member emphasised that it was vital for applicants to provide as much relevant information as possible about the project in order to make the application stronger and that there was a need to take on board the POB's comments. The Council would be able to offer advice and there was a second opportunity for unsuccessful applicants to resubmit a revised application. Attention was drawn to the financial and resource implications contained within the report and to the current approved and uncommitted balances for the HPC CIM fund. She advised that the allocation of monies from the CIM fund did not have an impact on the Council's funds and resources but did enable the community to deliver great projects.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendations of the report, which were seconded by Councillor M Dewdney.

During the discussion, the following main points were raised:

- It was hoped that the issues raised by POB in respect of the Holford and District Village Hall Amenity Enhancement Project and the Kilve Village Hall Refurbishment would be addressed by the applicants and that a more positive outcome would be achieved following the resubmission of these applications.
- Clarification was provided on the need for applicants to provide evidence of engaging with young people in the process.
- Interrelationship work with Stogursey, Holford and Kilve parishes would be undertaken by Engage to help all three committees/parish councils to develop a complementary offer and activities for the community.

RESOLVED (1) that the decision of the Planning Obligations Board to award funding of £750 to Stogursey Football Club for the purchase of removable goal posts from the Small Grant allocation of the CIM Fund be noted.

RESOLVED (2) that the recommendations of the Hinkley Point C Planning Obligations Board and Cabinet be endorsed, as follows:

- That the Holford and District Village Hall application for £507,984 is refused as it does not demonstrate value for money given the level of funding sought relative to the size of the community who would benefit and the lack of match funding.
- That the Kilve Village Hall Refurbishment application for £54,290 is refused given lack of a link between the refurbishment and the impacts that HPC will cause.
- That the North Petherton Playing Fields application for £46,000 is approved subject to securing the remaining match funding and the grant of planning permission.

- That the Sydenham Together application for £60,000 is approved.

C34 Request for Allocation of Planning Obligations Funding

(Report No. WSC 112/15, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to make proposals for the allocation of monies secured through planning obligations to individual schemes.

The item was presented by the Lead Member for Resources and Central Support who reported that this would not impact on the use of un-ring-fenced capital resources (capital receipts). She went on to propose the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor M Dewdney.

RESOLVED that the allocation of £149,500 for phase 1 of the Williton Pavilion project to be added to the capital programme and funded from planning obligations contributions be approved.

C35 Hinkley Point C: Section 106 Agreement – Provisional Allocation of Leisure Contribution

(Report No. WSC 111/15, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was for Council to consider the list of projects set out within the report and agree that they were invited to make application within the allocation of £250,000 paid from the Section 106 agreement for Site Preparation Works at Hinkley Point C. The projects would then be asked to submit information via an application process similar to that provided for other Section 106 agreement allocations before any release of funding, including the desire to see match funding.

In the absence of the Lead Member for Energy Infrastructure the report was presented by the Leader who proposed the recommendations of the report which were duly seconded by Councillor S J Pugsley.

Concern was expressed as it was felt that there was slight ambiguity concerning the 'key facts on West Somerset which the Leisure Fund could impact upon', and it was questioned whether the statistics related to the whole of the West Somerset district; clarification was also sought as to whether the outlining villages and towns were disadvantaged. Assurance was provided that all parish and town councils had been written to and advertisements were placed in the West Somerset Free Press which gave the whole of the community full opportunity to partake in the consultation process which took place as part of the feasibility study undertaken by the Somerset Sports Action Partnership (SASP).

It was noted that SASP had agreed to work with organisations to help develop funding bids with the aim of leveraging in significant match funding. Members acknowledged the challenges faced by the community groups to achieve these projects and wished them all well.

RESOLVED (1) that the list of projects at paragraph 5.4 of the report be invited to make an application within the allocation of £250,000 paid from the Section 106 agreement for Site Preparation Works at Hinkley Point C.

RESOLVED (2) that delegated powers be granted to the Lead Member for Resources and Central Support, the Lead Member for Energy Infrastructure, the Lead Member for Community and Customer and the Assistant Director Energy Infrastructure to grant monies to projects in accordance with the list of projects at paragraph 5.4 of the report upon receipt of the necessary financial and governance information.

C36 **HPC Section 106 – Housing Funding Strategy: Amendment to Private Sector Renewal Policy**

(Report No. WSC 110/15, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was for Members to consider and approve the attached amendment, at Appendix 1 to the report, to the Somerset West Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy, which set out the types of financial assistance that the Council could offer owner occupiers and landlords to carry out essential repairs on their property, and to bring empty properties back into use. The Policy needed to be amended in order to be able to offer the grants and loans for empty properties, Landlord Accreditation and the Living Over the Shops grant, contained within the Hinkley Housing Funding Strategy approved by West Somerset Council on 19 November 2014.

In the absence of the Lead Member for Housing, Health and Wellbeing the Lead Member for Environment presented the report, providing background information. He proposed the recommendation of the report which was duly seconded by Councillor M Chilcott.

RESOLVED that the amendments to the Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy be approved.

C37 **Allocation of HPC S106 Tourism Information Funds**

(Report No. WSC 113/15, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to consult with Council on a suggested approach for the allocation of the HPC S106 Phase 2 (Part Two) Visitor Information funds.

The Lead Member for Regeneration and Economic Growth presented the item and outlined the details contained within the report; she also provided an explanation on the resource allocation to-date and the reasons why it had been agreed to utilise less than half of the allocation available. The Lead Member stated that tourist information centres were vital assets to the community and businesses who rely on them for tourism and thanked the many volunteers for their hard work and commitment. She went on to propose the recommendation of the report which was duly seconded by Councillor D Westcott.

RESOLVED that the allocation of the Phase 2 (Part Two) S106 tourism allocation of £50,000 to those Local Authorities and Visitor Centres identified as requiring support by the Local Authorities party to the S106 Agreement be agreed as follows:

- £20,000 to West Somerset Council for the purposes of supporting Minehead, Porlock and Watchet Visitor Information Services.
- £20,000 to Sedgemoor District Council for the purposes of supporting Burnham-on-Sea, Cheddar and Bridgwater Tourism Information Services.
- £10,000 reserved for Somerset County Council to be released upon production of a fully costed proposal to be submitted to the Hinkley Tourism Action Partnership for delegated approval.

C38 **Annual Treasury Management Review 2014/15**

(Report No. WSC 114/15, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to review the treasury management activity and the performance against the Prudential Indicators for the 2014/15 financial year as prescribed by the revised Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice and in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Policy.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the item and highlighted the key points contained within the report. She proposed the recommendation of the report which was seconded by Councillor A Trollope-Bellew.

Various questions were raised regarding short term and internal borrowing, and in response the Director of Operations advised that the Council had borrowed £1m from the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire. It was noted that a seminar would be arranged, hosted by Arlingclose, the Council's treasury management advisors, to help Members gain a better understanding of treasury management matters, and the Chairman urged everyone to attend.

RESOLVED that the Treasury Management activity for the 2014/15 financial year (attached at Appendix A to the report) be noted.

C39 **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 9 June 2015 be noted.

RESOLVED (2) that the notes of the Minehead Area Panel held on 10 June 2015 be noted.

RESOLVED (3) that the notes of the Exmoor Area Panel held on 18 June 2015 be noted.

C40 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of C41 on the grounds that, if the press and public were present during that item, there would be likely to be a disclosure to them of exempt information of the class specified in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended as follows:

The item contained information that could release confidential information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). It was therefore proposed that after consideration of all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

C41 **Street and Toilet Cleaning Services Contract**

(Report No. WSC 117/15, circulated prior to the Meeting.)

The report set out the history of the Veolia contract and sought support from Council Members to extend this for a further 12 months.

The Lead Member for Environment presented the item and outlined the details contained within the report.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor A Trollope-Bellew.

RESOLVED (1) that the existing contract be extended for 12 months.

RESOLVED (2) that the use of the savings to deliver the functions as identified be supported.

The meeting closed at 5.29 pm.