

WEST SOMERSET COUNCIL

Minutes of Council held on 22 November 2017 at 4.30 pm

in the Council Chamber, Williton

Present:

Councillor B Heywood Chairman
Councillor R Woods Vice-Chairman

Councillor I Aldridge	Councillor A Behan
Councillor M J Chilcott	Councillor H J W Davies
Councillor M O A 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 A H Trollope-Bellew	Councillor K Turner
Councillor T Venner	Councillor D J Westcott

Officers in Attendance:

Assistant Chief Executive (B Lang)
Assistant Director – Place and Energy Infrastructure (A Goodchild)
Assistant Director – Resources & Support (P Carter)
Community and Housing Lead – Energy Infrastructure (L Redston)
Tim Burton, Assistant Director - Planning and Environment – Item 6
Ann Rhodes, Policy Officer (Planning and Environment) – Item 6
Martin Wilsher, Principal Planning Officer (Policy) – Item 6
Meeting Administrator (K Kowalewska)

C42 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Clifford, T Hall, R Lillis, R Thomas and N Thwaites.

C43 Minutes

(Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 20 September 2017, circulated with the Agenda.)

RESOLVED that, subject to correcting the title given to the High Sheriff of Somerset within the Chairman's Announcements, the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 20 September 2017 be confirmed as a correct record.

C44 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	SCC	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 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 S Dowding	C49	Gave advice to applicant	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr A Trollope-Bellew	C49	Landowner was an acquaintance	Prejudicial	Left the Chamber

C45 Public Participation

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

C46 Chairman's Announcements

15 October 2017	WSC Chairman's Civic Service at St Mary Magdalene Church, Winsford
9 November 2017	Attended the official opening of the Quantock Restaurant at the Bridgwater and Taunton College, accompanied by the Vice-Chairman
10 November 2017	Attended the Remembrance Service and Wreath Laying at Dulverton War Memorial
11 November 2017	Attended two Remembrance Day Services at Dulverton and Minehead

In addition, the Vice-Chairman represented the Chairman of Council at two Remembrance Day Services at Watchet and Williton, visited Wells Cathedral to see a presentation on Combating Modern Slavery and attended a Presentation Evening at West Somerset College.

The Leader thanked the Chairman for hosting his Civic Service and congratulated him on its excellent success, stating the event was a credit to both the Chairman and West Somerset Council.

C47 **Stogumber Neighbourhood Development Plan formal adoption (“made”) as a Development Plan Document for WSC**

(Report No. WSC 114/17, circulated with the Agenda.)

Stogumber Neighbourhood Development Plan (SNDP) is a community led planning document which has been produced by Stogumber Parish Council. The document and its evidence base passed an Independent Examination and was supported by 59.58% of those who voted in the referendum. The Stogumber Neighbourhood Development Plan should be formally adopted (made) to enable it to be used to help it decide planning applications in the Stogumber Neighbourhood Plan Area.

The Lead Member for Housing, Health and Wellbeing presented the report and provided background information. He advised that the Council's Planning Policy Officers had assisted in the process, however Stogumber Parish Council had undertaken the majority of the work.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendation which was duly seconded by Councillor A Trollope-Bellew.

The Leader praised the hard work of Stogumber Parish Council, especially that of the former Chairman Julian Spicer, and acknowledged the time and effort spent on developing the SNPD. Thanks was also extended to the Policy Officer (Planning and Environment) for her support to the parish council.

Members reiterated that Stogumber Parish Council had produced a forward-thinking, commendable Neighbourhood Development Plan.

RESOLVED that the Stogumber Neighbourhood Development Plan be formally adopted (“made”) as a West Somerset Council (WSC) Development Plan Document, to be used in the planning application decision making process for the Stogumber Neighbourhood Plan area.

C48 **HPC Planning Obligations Board – Allocation of CIM Funding**

(Report No. WSC 119/17, 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 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 information on the bids submitted to the Planning Obligations Board (POB), highlighting the key points from the report.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendation which was duly seconded by Councillor A Hadley.

Members expressed support for both the Somerset Education Business Partnership and the Holford and District Village Hall projects, believing them to be credible and worthy bids. It was positive to see such a diverse range of applications applying for funding; and it was hoped that applicants, whose bid had been unsuccessful the first time round, would be encouraged to accept assistance from officers in order to resubmit a revised application.

The Assistant Director – Place and Energy Infrastructure provided an explanation on the administration arrangements for the CIM Fund and also informed of a new HPC Community Fund of which payments, totalling £12.8m, would be administered by the Somerset Community Foundation. He advised there would be a significant overlap between the two funds and discussions were currently being held on how this would operate. A briefing note would be circulated to all Members on the matter in due course.

Attention was drawn to Appendix A of the report and Members noted that most of the ring-fenced monies for West Somerset had been allocated, and that a lot of great projects had been supported. Reference was also made to the fact that the 1st Annual Payment and 2nd Annual Payment were open to the whole of Somerset to apply for CIM funding.

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

- (1) To award Somerset County Council £393,849 from the 1st Annual CIM fund payment for the Somerset Education Business Partnership project.
- (2) To not award £300,000 of CIM funding to North Petherton Rugby Club for the New Changing Rooms project on the basis that the project did not sufficiently meet the criteria to mitigate community impacts of the HPC development.
- (3) To award Holford and District Village Hall £125,000 from the CIM Fund ring-fenced for West Somerset for the Holford Village Hall - Fit for Future project with the following conditions:
That no funding will be released until
 - Planning permission has been granted for the proposed project.
 - Match funding has been secured to cover the total project costs as set out in the application.
 - Following the tender process and selection of a preferred contractor the CIM Fund Manager is satisfied that the project remains affordable.
- (4) To not award £35,000 of CIM funding to Fiddington Village Hall for the Kitchen and Toilet Renovation project and to advise the applicants to return with a revised application.
- (5) To note that the HPC Planning Obligations Board have deferred a decision on the application from Citizens Advice Sedgemoor for £165,837 towards the Supporting Hinkley Advice Needs project pending the submission of additional information by the applicant to support their application.

C49 **Hinkley Point C Planning Obligations – Allocation of Ecology Contribution**

(Report No. WSC 120/17, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to request that £250,000 be allocated to the East Quantoxhead Estate for the purpose of providing landscaping and other works to enhance the foraging habitat for bats as a result of the loss of habitat on the main Hinkley Point C site.

The Lead Member for Energy Infrastructure presented the item and highlighted key points from the report. He went on to propose the recommendation which was duly seconded by Councillor S Pugsley.

RESOLVED that that allocation of £250,000 to the East Quantoxhead Estate for the purpose of providing landscaping and other works be approved.

C50 **Standards Advisory Committee**

(Minutes of the Standards Advisory Committee held on 13 June 2017 circulated with the Agenda.)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Standards Advisory Committee held on 13 June 2017 be adopted.

C51 **Member Reporting on Membership of Outside Body for information**

(Somerset Playing Fields Association from Councillor H J W Davies, circulated with the Agenda.)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 4.24 pm.