

CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 MARCH 2017

AT 4.30 PM

IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WILLITON

Present:

Councillor M Chilcott Deputy Leader (In the Chair)

Councillor M Dewdney
Councillor S Pugsley
Councillor D J Westcott

Councillor C Morgan
Councillor K Turner

Members in Attendance:

Councillor I Aldridge
Councillor S Goss
Councillor B Heywood
Councillor N Thwaites

Councillor S Dowding
Councillor A Hadley
Councillor B Maitland-Walker

Officers in Attendance:

Director of Operations (S Adam)
Democratic Services Manager (R Bryant)
Assistant Director Operational Delivery (C Hall)
Assistant Director Energy Infrastructure (A Goodchild)
Community and Housing Lead (HPC) (L Redston)
Steam Coast Trail Project Officer (B Turner)
Car Park Operations Manager (T Biss)
Meeting Administrator (C Rendell)

CAB69 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K Mills and A Trollope-Bellew.

CAB70 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 February 2017

(Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held on 8 February 2017 - circulated with the Agenda.)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held on 8 February 2017 be confirmed as a correct record.

CAB71 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 C Morgan	All	Stogursey	Spoke and voted
Cllr K Turner	All	Brompton Ralph	Spoke and voted
Cllr D Westcott	All	Watchet	Spoke and voted
Cllr S Goss	All	Stogursey	Spoke
Cllr N Thwaites	All	Dulverton	Spoke
Cllr I Aldridge	All	Williton	Spoke
Cllr B Maitland-Walker	All	Carhampton	Spoke

CAB72 Public Participation

Item 7 New Traffic Regulation Order (Off Street Parking)

Councillor Margaret Rawle, member of Dulverton Town Council spoke in opposition to both recommendations in relation to the Dulverton parking permits. Dulverton relied upon businesses to operate in the town to support the local economy and provide facilities for tourists and residents alike. It was a low wage area and an increase to the permit price would penalise the workers in the town. It was envisaged that if the permit prices were increased, this would cause more on-street parking along the approach roads to the town. There would be a negative impact on the town if the Lion Stables car park was not included in the annual parking permit. It had been agreed when Dulverton Town Council relinquished the car parks back to West Somerset Council, that all permits would be available for use in all the car parks in the town. Dulverton was not urban and relied upon the good will of businesses, residents and tourists.

Councillor Gerry Lewis, member of Dulverton Town Council spoke in opposition to both recommendations in relation to the Dulverton parking permits. For the last twenty years Dulverton Town Council had administered the car parks with the express intention to maintain the fees at a level commensurate with the economic wellbeing of the town. Concern was expressed that the large increases to the costs of the permits would have a considerable detrimental effect to the small community. Whilst it seemed sensible to bring in line the cost of permits across the District, this did not fall in line with the West Somerset Council vision 'to enable people to live, work and prosper in West Somerset'. The increase in parking charges would cause displacement which would lead to inappropriate parking and congestion, which would diminish the economic wellbeing of the town. The proposals would not raise any additional revenue and would cause hardship to residents and workers.

CAB73 Forward Plan

(Copy of the Forward Plan for the month of May 2017 – circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of this item was to approve the Forward Plan.

The Lead Member for Environment raised concern on item FP/17/5/01 on the forward plan. This related to Cabinet Appointments on Outside Bodies. It was requested that members reported back and gave regular feedback.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan for the month of May 2017 be approved.

CAB74 HPC Planning Obligations Board – Allocations of CIM Funding

(Report No. WSC 20/17 – circulated prior to the Meeting.)

The purpose of the report was to present the recommendations of the Hinkley Point C Planning Obligations Board 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 details on the bids submitted to the Planning Obligations Board (POB).

The first application was a substantial bid submitted by the Friends of the Steam Coast Trail. The total project cost for phase two of the trail was £543,166, with an amount of £331,710 applied for under the CIM fund. She commented on the success of the bid and that it was one of the highest scoring applications that had been submitted to the POB. It was presented in an excellent manner and demonstrated evidence of the impacts from Hinkley and how it would help to mitigate them. This was phase two of the project and feedback from phase one had been very positive.

The second application was from the Stogursey Lengthsman Scheme for a total amount of £30,000. Although this project fell in the middle of the impact zone, it had not demonstrated any wider community benefits across the District which meant this application scored low against most of the criteria. It was suggested that the application was funded by the ring-fenced money solely for the Stogursey area.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support proposed the recommendation in the report which was duly seconded by Councillor D Westcott.

Members praised the success of phase one of the Steam Coast Trail and it was confirmed that match funding had already been granted by the Coastal Community Fund for £205,000.

Members acknowledged and understood the reasons why the Stogursey Lengthsman Scheme bid had not succeeded in obtaining funds. Although they thought it was a worthwhile scheme, it had not fulfilled the sustainability and legacy criteria in the bid. They were hopeful that EDF would reinstate the Lengthsman Scheme and give Stogursey special consideration.

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

- (i) To release £331,710 to the Friends of Steam Coast Trail from the CIM fund ring-fenced for West Somerset for Phase 2 of the Steam Coast Trail.
- (ii) To recommend that the application from Stogursey Parish Council for the Stogursey Lengthsman project is not granted funding from the CIM Fund ring-fenced for West Somerset and to recommend to Stogursey Parish Council that the project is more suited to receiving funding from the CIM fund ring-fenced specifically for projects in Stogursey.

CAB75 New Traffic Regulation Order (Off-Street Parking)

(Report No. WSC 19/17 – circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to seek agreement to revoke the West Somerset District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2016 and bring into operation from June 2017 the West Somerset District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2017.

In the absence of the Lead Member for Regeneration and Development, the Lead Member for Housing, Health and Wellbeing presented the report and provided detailed background information.

Dulverton car park permits had been set at a tariff which was significantly different to similar permits across the District. The proposed increase still provided savings to meter prices. Lion Stables car park was a short stay car park. It was proposed to limit the use of the Dulverton permit to the long stay car parks (Exmoor and Guildhall) only and promote the Shoppers restricted 2 hour permit in the Lion Stables short stay car park.

Overnight sleeping in vehicles within the car parks was not currently permitted. The Council was aware that there was an increase in expectation by visitors who were travelling via Motor Homes, to be able to use car parks for overnight stops. There would be a small number of designated Motor Home parking bays made available in certain car parks.

The Boat Trailer parking area was situated near the slipway at the West Pier, Watchet. It was currently unregulated and used by unauthorised vehicles who left no capacity for boat trailer parking.

It was proposed to merge the individual 'Named' permit which covered all the Watchet car parks into one 'Watchet' car park permit to assist in the distribution of parking across the town.

There was a small car park situated north of the Quay West car park which was owned by the Council and was not currently regularised. This would be added to the Order.

Members raised concern on the impact the parking policy would have on displacement. Killick Way, Williton, was given as an example of this. Displacement was always a risk when changes were made. This would be monitored and if there was a significant increase in congestion, amendments could be made. It was confirmed that the Council had a statutory responsibility to operate car parks to manage traffic flows, and were unable to sell car parks in the same way the Council had sold some toilets in the District, because they were a discretionary service.

Members were reminded that the Council must not set its fees and charges with the intention to create a surplus, but if it did, the surplus could be reinvested in Council services.

In response to the question asked why Watchet could have one permit for all the car parks in the town and Dulverton could not, it was confirmed that Dulverton had a short stay car park in the town, so therefore could not have one permit for all. Whereas, Watchet car parks were all long stay.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support thanked the public speakers for attending Cabinet and also the residents that had submitted letters to the Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

The Lead Member for Housing, Health and Wellbeing proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor M Dewdney, as follows:-

RESOLVED (1) that it be recommended to Council to approve the revocation of the West Somerset District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2016 and its replacement with the West Somerset District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2017 from June 2017.

RESOLVED (2) that it be recommended to Council to bring Dulverton (6 and 12 month) permits in line with "Named" permit in two stages. Stage one to be implemented in June 2017, 6 months £105 and 12 months £150, stage two to be implemented from April 2018 so both permits are fully aligned with those across the District.

RESOLVED (3) that it be recommended to Council to approve the use of increased revenue created to support the maintenance of car parks.

RESOLVED (4) that it be recommended to Council to approve the removal of the Lion Stables (short stay) car park from the Dulverton permit.

RESOLVED (5) that it be recommended to Council to approve the introduction of a tariff allowing Motor Homes to park overnight in designated car parks for a maximum of 48 hours with no return within 7 days.

RESOLVED (6) that it be recommended to Council to incorporate the Boat Trailer Park area at West Pier, Watchet within the Order and combine the payment of daily slipway fees and trailer parking charges.

RESOLVED (7) that it be recommended to Council to approve the consolidation of the Watchet "Named" permit to one "Watchet" permit allowing parking in all Council car parks within Watchet.

RESOLVED (8) that it be recommended to Council to approve the incorporation of Quay West, Minehead North car park within the Order.

The meeting closed at 5.15pm