

CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 APRIL 2014

AT 4.30 PM

IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WILLITON

Present:

Councillor T Taylor Leader

Councillor K V Kravis
Councillor C Morgan
Councillor D J Westcott

Councillor K M Mills
Councillor S J Pugsley

Members in Attendance:

Councillor G S Dowding
Councillor B Heywood
Councillor R P Lillis
Councillor P H Murphy
Councillor K J Ross

Councillor A P Hadley
Councillor A F Knight
Councillor E May
Councillor D D Ross
Councillor M A Smith

Officers in Attendance:

Chief Executive (P James)
Assistant Chief Executive (B Lang)
Director of Operations (S Adam)
Assistant Director – Operational Delivery (C Hall)
Assistant Director – Housing and Community Development (S Lewis)
Assistant Director – Business Development (I Timms)
Community Liaison and Climate Change Manager (A Lamplough)
New Nuclear Programme Manager (A Goodchild)
Democratic Services Manager (R Bryant)
Parking Officer (M Lewis)
Meeting Administrator (K Kowalewska)
Corporate Support Officer, TDBC (A Randell)
Corporate Support Officer, TDBC (E Hill)
Corporate Support Officer, TDBC (T Meadows)

The Leader introduced and welcomed to the meeting officers from Taunton Deane Borough Council who were attending their first meeting of the Cabinet – Richard Bryant, Democratic Services Manager and Corporate Support Officers – Andrew Randell, Emma Hill and Tracey Meadows.

CAB112 Apologies for Absence

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

CAB113 Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 March 2014

(Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held on 5 March 2014 - circulated with the Agenda.)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held on 5 March 2014 be confirmed as a correct record.

CAB114 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
Councillor D J Westcott	All	Watchet	Spoke and voted
Councillor P H Murphy	All	Watchet	Spoke
Councillor K J Ross	All	Dulverton	Spoke

CAB115 Public Participation

Agenda Item 9 – Request for Allocation of Planning Obligations Funding

Sarah Ellwood, Chair of Watchet Roots spoke in support of the Watchet Outdoor Gym which would be open to all and located in the children's play area at Watchet Memorial Ground. She briefed Members on access to exercise and the feasibility study she undertook on behalf of Watchet Town Council. The gym equipment came with a 25 year warranty and would be seen as a long-term investment for the health and benefit of the community. She further informed that Watchet Roots would launch free instructor led sessions on how to use and get the most out of the equipment.

CAB116 Forward Plan

(Copy of latest Forward Plan published 21 March 2014 – circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of this item was to approve the latest Forward Plan published 21 March 2014.

RESOLVED that the latest Forward Plan published 21 March 2014 be approved.

CAB117 Cabinet Action Plan

(Copy of the Action Plan – circulated with the Agenda.)

RESOLVED that CAB89 – Tobacco Declaration be carried forward.

CAB118 **Consideration of nominations received to list Assets of Community Value under the Community Right to Bid Legislation**

(Report No. WSC 67/14, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to review a nomination received under the Localism Act 2011 Part 5 – The Community Right to Bid.

The Lead Member for Community and Customer presented the report and drew Members' attention to the fact that if the owners of either Dulverton First School or Dulverton Middle School decided to sell their asset as a going concern, the asset disposal would be exempt from the moratorium, and the owner would not need to notify the Council of the intention of sell. The Lead Member went on to propose the recommendation contained in the report which was duly seconded by Councillor K V Kravis.

RESOLVED that the nominations [ACV028] for Dulverton First School and [ACV029] for Dulverton Middle School received 23 February 2014 be accepted as Assets of Community Value.

CAB119 **Volunteer Policy**

(Report No. WSC 66/14, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to seek approval to establish a Volunteering Policy for the Council.

The Lead Member for Community and Customer presented the item emphasising that the Policy focused on the authority's activities with volunteers and related purely to West Somerset Council's volunteer process. The aim of the policy was to provide volunteers under the command of WSC with clear guidance and information about their role.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendation contained in the report which was seconded by Councillor K M Mills.

Members were in agreement that a lot of thought had gone into the document and the Policy could be used as a model for other organisations to follow. During the debate it was proposed to include the promotion of WSC's volunteer opportunities at Engage West Somerset's Volunteer Centre and other agencies, where appropriate, within section 4 of the Policy 'Recruitment of Volunteers', and it was agreed that appropriate wording would be included to amend the Policy.

RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council to accept the Volunteer Policy, as amended.

CAB120 **Request for Allocation of Planning Obligations Funding**

(Report No. WSC 70/14, 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 Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the item highlighting the two proposals and also providing an update on the project relating to Minehead street lighting. She went on to propose the recommendations of the report which were duly seconded by Councillor C Morgan.

During discussion of the Watchet Outdoor Gym proposal, the following points were raised:

- There was a huge demand for innovative ways of getting exercise and an overwhelming support for the project in Watchet.
- This was the first of its kind in West Somerset and it was envisaged that the gym would be well used and successful.
- The project was an excellent example of partnership working with volunteer community groups.
- The Community Liaison and Climate Change Manager advised that the outdoor gym would comprise of a whole range of equipment to exercise different parts of the body, each with its own QR code which would enable users to scan for instructions on how to use it.

With regard to the Community Learning Project it was noted that it was encouraging to see Section 106 monies being used to support individuals to develop traditional skills to improve their job prospects and chances of securing employment.

RESOLVED (1) that the allocation of £24,995 to the Watchet outdoor gym project be agreed.

RESOLVED (2) that the allocation of £500 from the Community Outreach Workers budget (Hinkley) to deliver a community learning project be agreed.

CAB121 Car Park Services Proposed Agency Agreement

(Report No. WSC 71/14, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to seek authority to enter into an agency agreement whereby Somerset County Council would provide enforcement and some of the management services for West Somerset Council (WSC) car parks.

The Lead Member for Regeneration and Economic Growth presented the item and reported that the reason for this proposal was due to the challenges faced by the WSC in-house team to provide an adequate service with limited number of resources. She thanked the Parking Services Officer, Mike Lewis, who had returned from retirement to support the Council, and for his hard work at investigating additional ways of delivering the service. The Lead Member advised that a review of the effectiveness of the agency agreement would be undertaken within 18 months.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendations in the report which were seconded by Councillor K V Kravis.

In response to questions, the Assistant Director – Operational Delivery advised that the final negotiations relating to the transfer of WSC employees had not yet been carried out. He informed that TDBC were very satisfied with the current arrangements provided by NSL Ltd - the contract had been in place for a number of years, with NSL Ltd delivering savings greater than initially expected. The Assistant Director confirmed it was acceptable for Dulverton Town Council to deliver its own car parking arrangements and advised that the Town Council had the option to buy in to the agreement at any time if it so wished.

RESOLVED (1) that the business case for entering an agency agreement with Somerset County Council be noted.

RESOLVED (2) that it be noted that some functions carried out by West Somerset Council staff would transfer and that the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations would apply to the relevant staff.

RESOLVED (3) that the Chief Executive be authorised to enter into an agency agreement for parking enforcement and management services with Somerset County Council.

CAB122 Hinkley Point C – Project Update

(Report No. WSC 68/14, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to provide an update on the Hinkley Point C project; for Cabinet to consider and note future actions as part of Service Plans and corporate activity; to advise of proposed governance changes to be discussed at Corporate PAG and Council during April, and for Cabinet to note progress on the Hinkley Point C Connection Project being promoted by National Grid.

The Lead Member for Environment - Hinkley presented the item. He made reference to various points of information contained in the report and requested that Members note an amendment to paragraph 5.2 of the report as it should read 'Sandford' Corner. He then went on to propose the recommendation in the report which was duly seconded by Councillor S J Pugsley.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support made a statement to the effect that the Council was aware of the impacts that the Hinkley project would have on West Somerset and its communities and confirmed that it would do everything possible to make sure it was ready to monitor, to mitigate and to make the most of the opportunities available. She welcomed the constitution of the Nuclear PAG as it was a good way of getting more Councillors involved.

The Leader advised that the Council had no official view on nuclear energy.

RESOLVED that the updates and the content of the report be noted.

CAB123 Corporate Plan for 2014-16

(Report No. WSC 69/14, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was for Cabinet to consider approving the Corporate Plan for 2014-16.

The Leader of Council presented the item and drew Members' attention to the overall vision for West Somerset and the two key priorities which were fundamental in what WSC had been trying to do over the last 12 months and which remained the Council's focus going forward.

The Leader advised of the recent good news announcement that as a result of the development of the Business Case for Joint Management and Shared Services between TDBC and WSC, central government had given the two councils a transformation funding award of £750,000. It was a significant occasion indicating the Department of Communities and Local Government were recognising the Council's efforts to become more effective, efficient and proactive; and it was a credit to Members that the Council was being listened to as well as being advised.

The Leader proposed the recommendation of the report with an addition to the wording printed so that it was 'subject to recommendation to Council', which was duly seconded by Councillor S J Pugsley.

Members were pleased that central government had recognised the achievements between the two councils and that the partnership arrangement was progressing very well and demonstrating excellent results.

Following a suggestion, it was agreed that appropriate wording would be included to amend key task 1.2 in order to make reference to working more broadly across Somerset with other councils and organisations.

RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council to approve the West Somerset Corporate Plan 2014-16, as amended.

The meeting closed at 5.42 pm