

CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 OCTOBER 2012

AT 4.30 PM

IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WILLITON

Present:

Councillor T Taylor Leader

Councillor K V Kravis
Councillor S J Pugsley
Councillor K H Turner

Councillor C Morgan
Councillor D J Sanders
Councillor D J Westcott

Members in Attendance:

Councillor M J Chilcott
Councillor M O A Dewdney
Councillor A F Knight
Councillor E May
Councillor D D Ross
Councillor L W Smith

Councillor H J W Davies
Councillor B Heywood
Councillor R P Lillis
Councillor P H Murphy
Councillor K J Ross
Councillor A H Trollope-Bellew

Officers in Attendance:

Chief Executive (A Dyer)
Corporate Director (B Lang)
Group Manager – Environment, Customer and Community (S Watts)
Section 151 Officer (S Campbell)
Group Manager – Housing and Economy (I Timms)
Economic Regeneration & Tourism Manager (C Matthews)
Building Control Manager (J Hall) – Item 7 only
Community Safety Officer (P Hughes) – Item 10 only
Meeting Administrator (H Dobson)

At the start of the meeting the Leader gave a warm welcome to the Council's new Section 151 Officer who was seconded from Somerset County Council for up to two days per week.

CAB44 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

At this point in the meeting the Deputy Leader announced the sad loss of Mr Crispin Aubrey, with whom he had had the pleasure of working with many times and wished to convey his condolences to his family.

CAB45 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 September 2012**

(Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held on 5 September 2012 - circulated with the Agenda.)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held on 5 September 2012 be confirmed as a correct record.

CAB46 **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 C Morgan	All	Stogursey	Spoke and voted
Councillor D Westcott	All	Watchet	Spoke and voted
Councillor K H Turner	All	Brompton Ralph	Spoke and voted
Councillor P H Murphy	All	Watchet	Spoke
Councillor K J Ross	All	Dulverton	Spoke
Councillor L W Smith	All	Minehead	Spoke
Councillor A Trollope-Bellew	All	County	Spoke

CAB47 **Public Participation**

The Leader advised that a letter in support of Agenda Item 7, Goviers Lane Railway Crossing, Watchet, had been received and would be read out prior to the debate of the item.

CAB48 **Forward Plan**

(Copy of revised Forward Plan No. 5 – distributed at the meeting.)

The purpose of this item was to approve Forward Plan No. 5 – November 2012 to November 2013.

The Corporate Director reported on the new Access to Information regulations that had come into force the previous month. The changes included how the Cabinets' Forward Plan would be affected, in that key decisions must be publicised 28 days before their consideration. Key decisions could be added to the Forward Plan at any time outside of Cabinet meetings, and were placed on the Council's website for the public to view. Urgent items could be added with the agreement of the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED that, subject to adding 'Amendment to Discretionary Business Rate Relief Scheme' for November, Forward Plan No. 5 – November 2012 to November 2013 be approved.

CAB49 **Cabinet Action Plan**

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

The Chief Executive reported that as a result of consultation received relating to the permanent closure of some public conveniences in the district, the Corporate Management Team had reviewed the winter closure of public conveniences and decided that it would be prudent to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) before winter permanent closure was implemented. Once the EIA had been undertaken, any decision to change the opening arrangements for public conveniences would be re-assessed when members would have the opportunity to consider the results of the consultation.

RESOLVED that the second resolution relating to entering into a three-year SLA with Veolia of CAB37 – Future Provision of Services currently delivered under a Contract with Veolia, be deleted as actioned.

CAB50 **Goviers Lane Railway Crossing, Watchet**

(Report No WSC 127/12, circulated with the Agenda.)

To consider accessibility improvements at the pedestrian railway crossing, Goviers Lane, Watchet in order to comply with the requirements of the 2010 Equalities Act and the Public Sector Equalities Duties (PSED).

The Leader read out a letter received from a member of the public, Mr John Irven, who fully supported the proposed improvements to the railway crossing at Goviers Lane, Watchet and urged Cabinet to approve the report and its recommendations so that the scheme could be implemented forthwith.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the report and recognised the work invested by the partners to reach a solution. The proposed solution would address the issues that had been raised by local residents. The Lead Member proposed the recommendations of the report which were seconded by Councillor C Morgan.

Members praised the exemplary partnership working, and strongly expressed their support for the project.

In response to questions the Group Manager – Environment, Customer and Community advised that the contract was yet to be awarded to the proposed contractor. He hoped that work would commence in November when there were no scheduled West Somerset Railway trains operating. He confirmed that the contingency sum had been submitted by the potential contractor.

RESOLVED (1) that the progressing of the proposed accessibility works at the Goviers Lane railway crossing in accordance with the scheme detailed at Appendix A to the report, be approved.

RESOLVED (2) that the awarding of a contract to G A Sully Ltd for the works at £54,298 plus VAT that includes a £9,250 contingency sum for unforeseen works, be approved.

RESOLVED (3) that the appointment of Michael Riley Associates Ltd to undertake the related project management and the Construction and Design Management (CDM) works at an agreed cost of £12,000 plus VAT, be approved.

RESOLVED (4) that the total cost of £66,298 plus VAT of the scheme be apportioned as shown in paragraph 5.6 of the report with the West Somerset Council (WSC) allocation being restricted to a maximum of £22,255.

CAB51 Pooling of Business Rate Retention

The Leader advised that this item was to be considered by Full Council when further information would be available for all members to discuss the issues.

CAB52 Our Town First – Town Team Partners (Minehead)

(Report No WSC 129/12, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to inform Members about this recent Government initiative that provides additional opportunities and resource for economic regeneration activity in Minehead.

The Lead Member for Regeneration and Economic Growth presented the report in detail advising that the local MP, events group and Town Council were supportive of the proposals. Should the recommendations be approved the balance of the Seaside Strategy Funding reserve would reduce to £41,062.50. He proposed the recommendations of the report, which were seconded by Councillor K Turner.

Members wished to express their support for this initiative and also recognised that many events which took place did not require funding.

In response to questions the Economic Regeneration & Tourism Manager confirmed that it would be necessary to ensure that regular reporting to monitor progress of the events group would be provided and suggested an annual report to the Scrutiny Committee. Further, she advised that events resulted in an increase in 'footfall' thereby promoting the regeneration of the 'high street'.

She confirmed that the Constitution, at Appendix C to the report, was a draft and that should the recommendations be agreed the next steps

would be to work further on it and ensure that members of the group were named in the document.

Members raised concerns that funds raised from events held in the town may not be enough to sustain future events. In response the Economic Regeneration & Tourism Manager advised that it would probably always be a challenge, which was why it was important not to rely on one major event but to provide events throughout the year.

RESOLVED (1) that the contents of the report, be noted.

RESOLVED (2) that a supplementary estimate of £20,000 utilising the £10,000 allocation from Government and £10,000 of unallocated Sea Side Strategy Funding to support the Minehead Events Group in delivering a co-ordinated annual events programme with associated marketing and promotion as detailed in Section 4 of the report attached to the agenda be approved.

CAB53 **Agreement for a Countywide Community Safety Partnership Merger**

(Report No WSC 130/12, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to seek Council approval for West Somerset Council to join a proposed countywide merger of the Community Safety Partnerships encompassing the East and West of the County.

The Lead Member for Community and Customer presented the report and advised of a change to the recommendation to read as follows: 'that Cabinet recommend that Council formally agree to the Community Safety Partnership merger'.

The Lead Member proposed the amended recommendation of the report, which was duly seconded by Councillor D Sanders.

RESOLVED that Cabinet recommend that Council formally agree to the Community Safety Partnership merger.

The meeting closed at 5.50 pm