

**CABINET**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 DECEMBER 2014**

**AT 4.35 PM**

**IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WILLITON**

**Present:**

Councillor T Taylor ..... Leader

Councillor K V Kravis  
Councillor C Morgan  
Councillor A H Trollope-Bellew  
Councillor D J Westcott

Councillor K M Mills  
Councillor S J Pugsley  
Councillor K H Turner

**Members in Attendance:**

Councillor M O A Dewdney  
Councillor S Y Goss  
Councillor E May

Councillor G S Dowding  
Councillor B Heywood  
Councillor P H Murphy

**Officers in Attendance:**

Assistant Chief Executive (B Lang)  
Director of Operations (S Adam)  
Director of Growth and Development (B Cleere)  
Finance Manager (S Plenty)  
Corporate Strategy and Performance Manager (P Harding)  
New Nuclear Programme Manager (A Goodchild)  
Media and Communications Officer (D Rundle)  
Meeting Administrator (K Kowalewska)

**CAB65     Apologies for Absence**

No apologies for absence were received.

**CAB66     Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 November 2014**

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

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

**CAB67     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:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Minute No.</b>	<b>Member of</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>
Councillor K H Turner	All	Brompton Ralph	Spoke and voted
Councillor D J Westcott	All	Watchet	Spoke and voted
Councillor S Y Goss	All	Stogursey	Spoke
Councillor P H Murphy	All	Watchet	Spoke

In addition, the following interest was declared:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Minute No.</b>	<b>Description of interest</b>	<b>Personal or Prejudicial</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>
Cllr A H Trollope-Bellew	CAB74	Owner of a water supply	Personal	Did not speak or vote

**CAB68     Public Participation**

No member of the public had requested to speak.

**CAB69     Forward Plan**

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

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

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

**CAB70     Cabinet Action Plan**

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

**RESOLVED (1)** that CAB57 – Hinkley Point C Planning Obligations Funding – Allocations of Community Impact Mitigation Funding be deleted as actioned.

**RESOLVED (2)** that CAB58 – Council Tax Rebate Scheme Review for 2015/16 be deleted as actioned.

**RESOLVED (3)** that CAB60 – Earmarked Reserves Review be deleted as actioned.

**RESOLVED (4)** that CAB63 – Hinkley Tourism Action Plan - Allocation be deleted as actioned.

**RESOLVED (5)** that CAB64 – EDF Housing Funding Strategy be deleted as actioned.

**CAB71     Corporate Performance Report Quarter 2 2014/15 (1 April to 30 September)**

(Report No. WSC 164/14 – circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to provide Members, and the public, with an update on progress in delivering the Council's corporate priorities and the performance of Council services for the period from 1st April to 30th September 2014.

The Leader presented the item and advised that the Scrutiny Committee had considered the report and he drew Members' attention to their recommendations. It was reassuring to note that JMT were meeting on a quarterly basis to review performance and the Leader went on to thank officers for the excellent presentation of the report.

Councillor K H Turner proposed the recommendation contained in the report which was seconded by Councillor A H Trollope-Bellew.

On consideration of the report the following points were raised:

- It was worth mentioning that services had remained uninterrupted and officers were praised for continuing to maintain targets during this period of change during the JMASS project.
- The OneTeam newsletter was a really informative platform and Members acknowledged the hard work undertaken and thanked everyone involved.

**RESOLVED** that the progress in delivering the corporate priorities for 2014/15 be noted.

**CAB72      Financial Monitoring Report 2014-15 (April-September 2014)**

(Report No. WSC 163/14 – a revised report was circulated prior to the Meeting.)

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with details of the Council's expected financial outturn position in 2014/15 for both revenue and capital budgets, together with information relating to predicted end of year reserve balances.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the item in detail, advising that officers were dealing with the Council's finances slightly differently than in previous years. She reported that a significant underspend was being predicted and drew Members' attention to where the budget underspend was occurring.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendations of the report which were duly seconded by Councillor K M Mills.

**RESOLVED (1)** that the current financial standing of the Council together with the estimated position at the end of the financial year be noted.

**RESOLVED (2)** that it be recommended to Council that £95,158 be transferred to General Fund Reserves in respect of the following:

- NDR Administration £75,158
- Interest Costs £20,000

**RESOLVED (3)** that it be recommended to Council that £49,985 is transferred to the Business Rates Smoothing Reserve to set aside the updated forecast retained business funding surplus in the year.

**RESOLVED (4)** that it be recommended to Council that a budget transfer (virement) of £40,000 of in year underspends is approved, to provide funds necessary to support essential asset condition surveys in respect of key compliance matters along with stock condition information that will support the development of a robust asset management plan to assist with future decision making and prioritisation of works.

**CAB73**     **The Somerset Levels and Moors Levels Flood 20 Year Action Plan – Proposed Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA)**

(Report No. WSC 162/14, circulated with the Agenda and an update to the report and revised recommendations were tabled at meeting.)

The report set out progress to date towards establishing a Somerset Rivers Authority, and sought endorsement or proposals for the SRA for further development. The report set out the purpose of the proposed SRA, its scope and role, arrangements for its funding and governance, and a proposed way forward.

The Leader of Council presented the report and provided an update advising that since publication of the Cabinet agenda, discussions had been ongoing between the government (Defra and DCLG) and Somerset local authorities and partners about the creation of the Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA). In particular these discussions had centred on the provision of interim funding to enable the new body to operate in 2015/16. He further explained that Government had agreed to provide interim funding of £1.9million towards the £2.7million requested and that Somerset County Council and local partners would contribute the remaining £800,000 in order that the SRA could be established by 31 January 2015. The Leader drew attention to the proposed contributions to be made by the local authorities and partners and reported that the Council's finance team had advised that a contribution from WSC of £5,000 could be found from in-year underspends.

It was noted that the longer-term funding arrangements were still under discussion and remain unresolved. One proposal was to set up a separate precepting body and in order to satisfy flooding issues in West Somerset the interests of the district would have to be protected if a levy was to be introduced.

Somerset local authority Leaders had been invited by the Secretary of State to sign the Somerset Rivers Authority Memorandum of Understanding and this would take place in London during the early part of next week.

The Leader went on to explain the rationale and purpose of setting up the SRA which would involve enhanced maintenance of river channels, important ordinary watercourses and river flood banks across the whole of Somerset. An important issue he wished Members to be highly aware of was that within the SRA's scope of work coastal flood risk would not be

included, and WSC had not endorsed this because the risk of coastal flooding was very important in West Somerset.

The Leader proposed the amended recommendations which were duly seconded by Councillor S J Pugsley.

The Director of Growth and Development emphasised the interim funding would fund a range of flood risk management activities across all districts in the county but the degree of work was yet to be established.

The formation of the SRA was widely supported and during the discussion the following points were made:

- It was hoped that a separate precepting body would not be established due to the significant implications for council tax payers.
- Clarification was sought as to whether there were other parts of England where householders had levies imposed upon them in order to fund flood maintenance.
- The need to monitor where and how money was spent.
- It would be the riparian owners who would take direct responsibility for the maintenance of rhynes etc., not the SRA.
- The Leader updated Members on a meeting of the West Somerset Flood Board, which was still in its formation stage. Its aims were to coordinate flood activities and future flood plans across the district, as well as linking to parish flood groups.

**RESOLVED (1)** that progress to date in the development of the Somerset Rivers Authority be endorsed, and that a further report would follow in due course.

**RESOLVED (2)** that authority be delegated to the Leader to nominate a member of the Cabinet to sit on the proposed new SRA from 31 January 2015. This may be the Leader or the relevant cabinet member, depending on the positions taken by other Somerset local authorities.

**RESOLVED (3)** that £5,000 be contributed towards the interim funding required by the SRA; that it be noted that longer term funding and operation on the SRA (beyond any interim funding period) is subject to further development and agreement between local partners and Government, and that a further report would follow in due course.

#### **CAB74     Fees and Charges 2015/16**

(Report No. WSC 165/14, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to consider the proposed fees and charges for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, prior to submission to Council on 17 December.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the item and proposed the recommendation in the report which was duly seconded by Councillor C Morgan.

**RESOLVED** that the proposed Fees and Charges for 2015/16 be recommended to Council on the following basis:

The following fees are unchanged:

- Hackney Carriage Licences (Existing)
- Private Hire Licences
- Acupuncture/Tattooing/Skin Piercing/Semi-Permanent Skin-Colouring Licences
- Scrap Metal Dealers Licensing
- Animal Welfare Licences
- Street Trading Licences
- Gambling Licences
- Land Search Fees
- Housing Inspections for Immigration Purposes
- Court Summons and Liability Orders for Council Tax and NNDR
- Building Control Charges

The following changes are proposed:

**New charges for:**

- Caravan site licences and;
- Various additional hackney carriage licences (see Appendix B to the report)

**Increased charges for:**

- Harbour Mooring and Slipway Fees increase in line with inflation
- Pleasure Boat Dues increase in line with inflation
- Green Waste Charges various
- Private Water Supplies increase in line with inflation
- Pre-Planning Advice

**CAB75 Hinkley Point C Update – Procurement of Feasibility Study into the Victory Hall and Village Facilities, Stogursey**

(Report No. WSC 178/14, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to seek Cabinet approval to appoint 2MD Regeneration and Vivid Regeneration to undertake a feasibility study, costing up to £15,000, into the Victory Hall and village facilities in Stogursey pursuant to the Leisure contribution received as part of the Site Preparation Works Section 106 agreement at Hinkley Point C.

The Lead Member for Environment - Hinkley presented the item and provided Members with the background information. He went on to propose the recommendation of the report which was seconded by Councillor K H Turner.

Further information was sought on the background and experience of 2MD Regeneration and Vivid Regeneration and the New Nuclear Programme Manager advised that the company had undertaken a lot of work in Bristol and Somerset mainly in connection with community facilities, and had been tasked to look at match funding opportunities. He further advised on how the monies relating to the leisure contribution would be administered.

**RESOLVED** that the allocation of £15,000 for the appointment of 2MD Regeneration and Vivid Regeneration to undertake a feasibility study into the Victory Hall and village facilities in Stogursey be approved.

The meeting closed at 5.45 pm