

CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 JULY 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 H J W Davies
Councillor B Heywood
Councillor E May
Councillor D D Ross
Councillor M A Smith

Councillor A P Hadley
Councillor A F Knight
Councillor P H Murphy
Councillor K J Ross

Officers in Attendance:

Corporate Director (B Lang)
Group Manager – Finance and Central Support (G Carne)
Group Manager – Housing and Community (I Timms)
Planning Manager (A Goodchild)
Finance Officer (P Disney-Walford)
Economic Regeneration and Tourism Manager (C Matthews)
Climate Change and Community Liaison Manager(A Lamplough)
Hinkley Point Implementation Project Officer (S Morgan-Broom)
Meeting Administrator (K Kowalewska)

CAB9 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

CAB10 Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 May 2012

(Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held on 30 May 2012 - circulated with the Agenda.)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held on 30 May 2012 be confirmed as a correct record.

CAB11 **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 K Turner	All	Brompton Ralph	Spoke and voted
Councillor D Westcott	All	Watchet	Spoke and voted

In addition, Councillor D J Westcott declared a prejudicial interest relating to Agenda Item 8 – Request for Allocation of Planning Obligations Monies, as he was a member of the Watchet Cinema Club, and he left the Chamber during the discussion of this item.

CAB12 **Public Participation**

No member of the public had requested to speak.

CAB13 **Forward Plan**

The purpose of this item was to approve Forward Plan No. 2 – August 2012 to August 2013.

RESOLVED that, subject to the following amendments, Forward Plan No. 2 – August 2012 to August 2013 be approved:

- (1) the following reports be moved from August to September:
 - Implementing Value for Money Strategy
 - Budget Strategy Communications Plan
- (2) Goviers Lane Crossing report be moved from August to October.
- (3) Review of Customer Access report be moved from August to January 2013.

CAB14 **Cabinet Action Plan**

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

There were no resolutions/recommendations from the meeting held on 30 May 2012 that required monitoring.

CAB15 **Purchase and Sale of Properties at Clanville Grange, Minehead**

(Report No WSC 72/12, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to advise Cabinet of the need for Council to approve a supplementary capital estimate for the purchase of a property at Clanville Grange, Minehead.

The report was presented by the Lead Member for Resources and Central Support who reported that the Council had an obligation to buy

back a property at Clanville Grange from the owner. She informed that the Council acknowledged the revenue risk within the budget of having to buy back one or two properties per year but had not recognised the capital risk, therefore provisions would be made in time for next year's budget.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendation in the report which was duly seconded by Councillor S J Pugsley.

RESOLVED that Cabinet recommend Council to approve a supplementary capital estimate for the sum of £92,500 to purchase a property at Clanville Grange.

CAB16 **Request for Allocation of Planning Obligations Monies**

(Report No WSC 89/12, 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 report was presented by the Lead Member for Resources and Central Support who stressed the importance that the allocation of approved funding had to match the legal planning obligations agreement, and, if it did not meet the legal requirements, the Council could be at risk of being challenged and would have to repay the monies to the developer, therefore any bids submitted for approval had to be relevant and related to mitigate the impact of the development in question.

The Lead Member asked Members to note that there was an amendment to the funding requested by Washford Memorial Hall and the amount should now be £10,000.

She drew Members' attention to the two funding requests contained in the report that were felt did not meet the requirements of the planning obligations criteria and were therefore not proposed for approval.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendation in the report and it was seconded by Councillor C Morgan.

During the course of the debate, the following points were raised:

- It was great news that as a result of allocating section 106 monies, sustainable and laudable projects could move forward.
- The Deputy Planning Manager was actively pursuing and negotiating with developers to collect any payment shortfalls which were due to the Council.
- St Decumens Road should be amended to read St Decuman's Road in the appendix to the report.
- The section 106 agreements that are negotiated contain a clause stating that the money would be paid to West Somerset Council or

the successor authority, therefore the money held or due to the Council is secure.

- The section 106 monies are available to all community groups, including parish and town councils, who wish to submit a bid.
- Williton Parish Council undertook extensive consultation with children and parents before considering the new play equipment.

Issues regarding the declined requests for market marquees in Watchet and cinema chairs for Watchet Cinema Club were discussed, and a suggestion by the Chairman of Council to hold a Members Seminar to discuss internal Officer and Member groups and related processes was noted.

RESOLVED that the allocation of funds for the projects described below, for inclusion in the current year's capital programme, be agreed:

- £10,000 to Washford Memorial Hall to provide solar panels on the roof of the building.
- £1,000 to Watchet Town Council to enhance and provide additional recreational facilities in the Memorial ground.
- £7,527.26 to Watchet Cinema Club for the provision of cinema equipment and blackout curtains.
- £24,270 to Williton Parish Council to enhance and refurbish the Recreation Field through the provision of additional play equipment.

CAB17 Hinkley Point C Section 106 Agreement – Financial Governance Arrangements

(Report No WSC 90/12, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to consider financial governance issues relating to the Hinkley Point C Section 106 Agreement.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support advised that it was incredibly important that the funds were invested and spent wisely in line with the Section 106 Agreement as there was a risk of having to pay back the monies if not spent correctly. It was noted that the risks in relation to a project of this size are vast.

She highlighted that the monitoring and processing of the monies would have to dovetail with the day to day running of the Council and would have to be absorbed in the processes and controls already within the Council.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendations in the report which were seconded by Councillor S J Pugsley; she then introduced the Group Manager Resources and the Finance Officer who presented the report.

It was reported that within West Somerset Council there were already good sound financial management practices and good monitoring arrangements and these would be adapted and expanded to fit the

huge scale and complexity of the Hinkley Point development. Other bodies who have had experience in managing large externally funded programmes were being consulted to make sure arrangements were in place that were fit for purpose. The Finance Officer clarified the meaning of financial governance to be the monitoring of spend, progress on projects, managing under- and over-spends, identifying potential problems and taking the appropriate actions, managing risks and the investment of monies.

The Finance Officer drew Members' attention to the table contained in the report which highlighted the principles of the financial governance framework and this would help to develop processes and guidance for officers. She informed that a quarterly monitoring statement would be produced and presented to Cabinet showing the current financial position of the section 106 projects and how they were developing.

Members were advised that the financial governance arrangements had been debated at the recent Audit Committee and their comments were incorporated in the report.

RESOLVED (1) that the proposed governance arrangements set out in the report with regard to the management of Hinkley Point C section 106 contributions be approved.

RESOLVED (2) that the production of a further report on proposed financial governance processes that would be presented to the Audit Committee in September 2012, following consultation with, and review by, the South West Audit Partnership be noted.

The meeting closed at 6.01 pm