

WEST SOMERSET COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Council held on 20 August 2018 at 4.30 pm

in the Council Chamber, Williton

Present:

Councillor B Heywood Chairman
Councillor J Parbrook Vice-Chairman

Councillor I Aldridge	Councillor B Allen
Councillor M Dewdney	Councillor G S Dowding
Councillor S Goss	Councillor A P Hadley
Councillor N Hawkins	Councillor I Jones
Councillor R Lillis	Councillor B Maitland-Walker
Councillor K Mills	Councillor C Morgan
Councillor P H Murphy	Councillor P Pilkington
Councillor S Pugsley	Councillor R Thomas
Councillor N Thwaites	Councillor A Trollope-Bellew
Councillor K Turner	Councillor D Westcott
Councillor R Woods	

Officers in Attendance:

Assistant Chief Executive (B Lang)
Electoral Services Manager (E Day)
Housing and Community Projects Officer (H Phillips)
Meeting Administrator (M Prouse)

C28 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillors M Chilcott, A Kingston-James, and T Venner.

C29 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 I Aldridge	All	Williton	Spoke and voted
Cllr S Goss	All	Stogursey	Spoke and voted
Cllr B Maitland-Walker	All	Carhampton	Spoke and voted
Cllr C Morgan	All	Stogursey	Spoke and voted
Cllr P H Murphy	All	Watchet	Spoke and voted
Cllr J Parbrook	All	Minehead	Spoke and voted
Cllr P Pilkington	All	Timberscombe	Spoke and voted
Cllr A H Trollope-Bellew	All	Crowcombe	Spoke and voted

Cllr K H Turner	All	Brompton Ralph	Spoke and voted
Cllr D J Westcott	All	Watchet	Spoke and voted

C30 **Public Participation**

No members of the public spoke at the meeting on any items on the agenda.

C31 **Warding Arrangements for the New Council**

(Report No. WSC 69/18, circulated with the Agenda.)

One of the important steps to be taken to prepare for the establishment of the new Council was for the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to undertake an Electoral Review of the area. This process had reached the stage of the LGBCE producing their draft recommendations for the warding pattern for the new Council based on a size of 59 Councillors and comments were being sought by way of a public consultation process that was running until 27 August 2018.

The LGBCE were seeking proposals for alternative boundaries or ward names which would still meet with their criteria and this report provided the Council with the opportunity of considering whether to make any such comments and, if so, what they should be.

The Lead Member for Executive Support and Democracy presented the report and provided background information. The Lead Member stated that Members would be aware of the considerable amount of work that was done in the past few months to achieve a joint recommendation between WSC and TDBC that was also cross-party. The Boundary Commission largely accepted the submission earlier in the year and this was a tribute in particular to the hard work of the officers and members. Town and Parish Councils with alternative proposals were urged to submit these to the Boundary Commission.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Maitland-Walker.

An Amendment was proposed by Councillor Trollope-Bellew that was related to how the boundaries affected Crowcombe and Stogumber Parish Councils decoupled from the same ward, and this was supplemented with a document which had been circulated to all Members setting out a different configuration. This was seconded by Councillor Dowding.

During the debate on the motion the following points were made:

- Some Members felt that these proposals had already been voted on at a Full Council in April 2018 and to adjust them again may have unintended consequences on other Wards.
- It was stated that the Boundary Commission had requested that the proposals should have as close as electoral equality as possible.

- The variances within the proposed amendment were considerably wider and less equal than the original motions but were still within the ten percent threshold.
- The Boundary Commission would ultimately be the final arbiter.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was declared lost.
The substantive motion was then voted upon.

RESOLVED that representations to the LGBCE be submitted as set out in Appendix A of the report without amendments as a response to their public consultation process in regard to their draft recommendations for the proposed warding arrangements for the new Council.

C32 **Planning Obligations Allocation – Watchet Bowling Club – Indoor Rink, Community Hall and Gym**

(Report No. WSC 67/18, circulated as an urgent item prior to the meeting.)

The purpose of this report was to make proposals for the allocation of monies secured through planning obligations to individual schemes such as the one proposed.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support outlined the details of the report and advised that this had solid community support in Watchet. This was funded with a large amount by Summerfield Developments which had to be used by 30th November 2021. There was monies granted from the CIM Leisure Funding to start the project.

The Lead Member went on to propose the recommendation of the report which was seconded by Councillor Westcott.

During the debate the following points were made:

- This Hall was felt needed as there was not a building in size and scope that could cater in the Watchet area.
- The main amount of funding had been sourced from developer contributions on the 84 new dwellings built at Doniford Road.
- The expected user numbers for the facility would be expected to be around 1000.
- The Full Application went through the Planning Obligations Group and was considered an exemplar application.
- Watchet was a community divided by a Railway line and south of that line there was a need for more facilities and this proposal would satisfy that.
- If the project does not reach completion, the funding would return to WSC.

RESOLVED that the allocation of £135,000 towards the £1,697,000 cost of the new indoor bowling rink, community hall and gym be agreed.

NOTE: Having regard to the special circumstances pertaining in relation to this item – namely the need for the Council to confirm support to enable match funding to be secured – the Chairman was of the opinion that, despite its non-inclusion on the agenda, this item should be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency.

The meeting closed at 5.15 pm