

## SWT Special Full Council - 25 October 2022

Present: Councillor Hazel Prior-Sankey (Chair)

Councillors Richard Lees, Ian Aldridge, Lee Baker, Mark Blaker, Sue Buller, Norman Cavill, Simon Coles, Dixie Darch, Tom Deakin, Dave Durdan, Kelly Durdan, Caroline Ellis, Habib Farbahi, Ed Firmin, Steve Griffiths, Andrew Hadley, John Hassall, Nicole Hawkins, Marcia Hill, Dawn Johnson, Sue Lees, Mark Lithgow, Janet Lloyd, Andy Milne, Derek Perry, Andy Pritchard, Steven Pugsley, Mike Rigby, Francesca Smith, Federica Smith-Roberts, Vivienne Stock-Williams, Andrew Sully, Anthony Trollope-Bellew, Ray Tully, Sarah Wakefield, Danny Wedderkopp, Brenda Weston, Keith Wheatley, Loretta Whetlor and Gwil Wren

Officers: Lesley Dolan, Paul Fitzgerald, Chris Hall, Marcus Prouse, Clare Rendell, Amy Tregellas, Ann Rhodes and Jo Comer

(The meeting commenced at 6.15 pm)

### 61. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors B Allen, M Barr, C Booth, H Davies, A Govier, R Habgood, B Hall, R Henley, J Hunt, M Kravis, L Lisgo, D Mansell, C Morgan, S Nicholls, C Palmer, M Peters, N Thwaites and T Venner.

### 62. Declarations of Interest

Members present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Councillor or Clerk of a County, Town or Parish Council or any other Local Authority:-

| Name            | Minute No. | Description of Interest                          | Reason   | Action Taken    |
|-----------------|------------|--|----------|-----------------|
| Cllr I Aldridge | All Items  | Williton   | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr L Baker    | All Items  | SCC, Cheddon Fitzpaine & Taunton Charter Trustee | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr N Cavill   | All Items  | SCC & West Monkton                               | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr S Coles    | All Items  | SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee                    | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr D Darch    | All Items  | SCC  | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr T Deakin   | All Items  | SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee                    | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr C Ellis    | All Items  | SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee                    | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr H Farbahi  | All Items  | SCC  | Personal | Spoke and Voted |

|                        |           |                               |          |                 |
|------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Cllr A Hadley          | All Items | SCC                           | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr Mrs Hill          | All Items | Taunton Charter Trustee       | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr D Johnson         | All Items | SCC                           | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr R Lees            | All Items | Taunton Charter Trustee       | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr S Lees            | All Items | Taunton Charter Trustee       | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr M Lithgow         | All Items | Wellington                    | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr J Lloyd           | All Items | Wellington & Sampford Arundel | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr D Perry           | All Items | SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr H Prior-Sankey    | All Items | SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr S Pugsley         | All Items | SCC                           | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr M Rigby           | All Items | SCC & Bishops Lydeard         | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr F Smith           | All Items | SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr F Smith-Roberts   | All Items | SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr A Sully           | All Items | SCC                           | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr A Trollope-Bellew | All Items | Crowcombe                     | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr R Tully           | All Items | West Monkton                  | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr S Wakefield       | All Items | SCC                           | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr D Wedderkopp      | All Items | Taunton Charter Trustee       | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr B Weston          | All Items | Taunton Charter Trustee       | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr K Wheatley        | All Items | Wellington                    | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr L Whetlor         | All Items | Watchet                       | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr G Wren            | All Items | SCC & Clerk to Milverton PC   | Personal | Spoke and Voted |

63. **Public Participation - To receive only in relation to the business for which the Extraordinary Meeting has been called any questions, statements or petitions from the public in accordance with Council Procedure Rules 14,15 and 16**

Mr Kelvin Tutill, Chair of West Monkton and Cheddon Fitzpaine Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, spoke on agenda item 7 in support of the Plan's adoption.

64. **To receive any communications or announcements from the Chair of the**

## Council

The Chair of the Council made the following announcements:-

- The Chair of the Council advised Councillors of the addition of an urgent item to the agenda, which had been added under the guidance of Item 16 – Special Urgency in the Access to Information Procedure Rules within the Constitution.
- She reminded Councillors that the deadline for nominations for the Civic Awards was 30 November 2022.
- The Chair of the Council and the Mayor of the Taunton Charter Trustees accepted a book of condolences presented from the previous Mayor who had accepted it on behalf of the people of Lisieux on her recent twinning trip.

65. **To receive any communications or announcements from the Leader of the Council**

The Leader of the Council made no announcements.

66. **To receive only in relation to the business for which the Extraordinary Meeting has been called any questions from Councillors in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13**

No questions had been received in relation to Procedure Rule 13.

67. **West Monkton and Cheddon Fitzpaine Neighbourhood Development Plan to be Made (formal adoption)**

During the discussion, the following points were raised:-

- Councillors were very happy to support the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Councillors agreed that the work had been carried out in collaboration with the Working Group in a really good manner.
- Councillors highlighted that the Plans needed to be fit for purpose moving forward, which the proposed Neighbourhood Plan seemed to be.
- Councillors queried the 80% who had voted in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan and whether there was a minimum amount of voters required for the referendum to be valid.  
*The Senior Planning Policy Officer advised that the legislation stated that the decision would be made based on the majority vote of those who had chosen to vote.*
- Councillors thanked all the officers and those who were part of the Working Group for all their hard work.
- Councillors agreed it was a very impressive piece of work.

**Resolved** that Full Council approved that following the outcome of the referendum which was held on 22 September 2022, the West Monkton and Cheddon Fitzpaine Neighbourhood Development Plan be formally 'made'

(adopted) pursuant to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 Section 38A as part of Somerset West and Taunton Council's statutory development plan.

68. **Urgent Changes to the Constitution**

During the discussion, the following points were made:-

- Councillors queried why the item had been brought at such late notice. *The Legal Officer advised that a letter had been sent by Somerset County Council (SCC) which had to be responded to within the week.*
- Councillors highlighted that the recruitment of senior management had been delayed due to the recruitment of the Chief Executive Officer at SCC and so was only just starting now.
- Councillors understood the concern raised for the short notice, however, they supported the action required.
- Councillors agreed that given the circumstances, it was a valid change to the Constitution.

**Resolved** that Full Council approved:-

- a) To authorise the above amendment (detailed in section 1.6 of the report) to the Constitution.
- b) Given the urgency of the matter, to give authority to the Chief Executive Officer to consent to the relevant notice from the County Council forthwith, and;
- c) To take any further actions that might be necessary between now and 1 April 2023 required on an urgent basis in compliance with The Somerset (Structural Changes) Order 2022 and the Duty to co-operate in the setting up of the new Somerset Council.

(The Meeting ended at 6.40 pm)