

SWT Executive - 15 June 2022

Present: Councillor Federica Smith-Roberts (Chair)

Councillors Derek Perry, Benet Allen, Chris Booth, Dixie Darch, Caroline Ellis, Mike Rigby, Francesca Smith, Andrew Sully and Sarah Wakefield

Officers: Chris Hall, Marcus Prouse, Clare Rendell, Katherine Church, Jo O'Hara, Kerry Prisco, Sue Tomlinson, Joe Wharton and Jane Windebank

Also Present: Councillors Ian Aldridge, Janet Lloyd, Dave Mansell and Loretta Whetlor

(The meeting commenced at 6.15 pm)

101. Apologies

No apologies were received.

102. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Executive

(Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 16 March 2022 circulated with the agenda)

Resolved that the minutes of the Executive held on 16 March 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

103. 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 |
| Cllr C Booth | All Items | Wellington and Taunton Charter Trustee | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr D Darch | All Items | SCC | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr C Ellis | All Items | SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr J Lloyd | All Items | Wellington & Sampford Arundel | Personal | Spoke |
| Cllr D Perry | All Items | SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr M Rigby | All Items | SCC & Bishops | Personal | Spoke and Voted |

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| 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 S Wakefield | All Items | SCC | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr L Whetlor | All Items | Watchet | Personal | Spoke and Voted |

Councillor Chris Booth further declared a personal interest on Agenda Item 9 as a committee member for Wellington Town Council.

Councillor Sarah Wakefield further declared a personal interest on Agenda Item 9 as a committee member on Wellington CIC.

104. **Public Participation**

Councillor J Lloyd registered to speak on behalf of Wellington Town Council on Agenda Item 9 and would do so when the item was debated.

105. **Executive Forward Plan**

(Copy of the Executive Forward Plan, circulated with the agenda).

Councillors were reminded that if they had an item they wanted to add to the agenda, that they should send their requests to the Governance Team.

Resolved that the Executive Forward Plan be noted.

106. **Ecological Emergency Vision and Action Plan**

During the discussion, the following points were made:-

- Councillors were very supportive of the report.
- Councillors who had been on the Joint Committee gave feedback on how well the shared working had proved.
- Councillors thanked the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change for their work on the report.
- Councillors were keen to transfer the Action Plan over to the New Council.
- Councillors highlighted that they believed the most common contradiction raised was between grass cutting and cultivation of wildlife to encourage pollinators, which they faced in a lot of their case work.
- Councillors agreed that communications were required on the subject of grass cutting and the perception shift between cost savings and cultivating local wildlife.
- Councillors were happy to see that the comments made at Community Scrutiny Committee were added to the report.

Resolved that the Executive were invited to comment on the recommendations that would be put to Full Council:

- 1.3 The ecological vision and action plan were approved.
- 1.4 Existing governance arrangements identified in the Somerset West and Taunton/Sedgemoor District Council Joint Climate Change Delivery Partnership were maintained and used as a framework for delivery and monitoring of the action plan.
- 1.5 Somerset West and Taunton with Sedgemoor District Council lead the creation and delivery of ecological recovery.
- 1.6 Annual reporting would be undertaken in conjunction with CNCR reporting.

107. **Report of the Task and Finish Group on Council Housing Zero Carbon Retrofit**

During the discussion, the following points were raised:-

- Councillor D Mansell gave some background information on the report as the Chair of the Task and Finish Group. He highlighted that the report addressed several concerns, fuel poverty being one. He praised the cross-party approach to the work and that there had been good involvement from officers.
The Assistant Director for Development and Regeneration advised that he hoped to bring the Draft Strategy to a member briefing by the Autumn.
- Councillors agreed that the Strategy was a necessary piece of work.

Resolved that the Executive:-

- 2.2 Noted the report of the Task and Finish Group on Council Housing Zero Carbon Retrofit and thank Councillors on the Group for their efforts.
- 2.3 Requested officers to consider the recommendations in the report, in particular, during the forthcoming development of the Low Carbon Retrofit Strategy and Delivery Plan. Officers would also reflect on the report as they prepared a significant Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 2 bid to be submitted late summer 2022.
- 2.4 Requested that the Draft Strategy returned through the Democratic Path (via Community Scrutiny) by January 2023 for Full Council in March 2023.

108. **Access to Information - Exclusion of the Press and Public (Appendices only)**

Resolved that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the next items of business (Agenda Item 9 – Appendix 1 and 4 only, Agenda Item 10 – Appendix 2 and 3 only) on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 respectively of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

109. **Wellington Land Acquisition (The Green Spaces)**

During the discussion, the following points were made:-

- Councillors were happy to support the acquisition report.
- Councillors spoke as representatives from Wellington Town Council (WTC) and highlighted how pleased they were that Somerset West and Taunton Council was purchasing the piece of land, which would provide more allotments for the residents of Wellington. WTC had previously tried to purchase more land and had used some of the Community Infrastructure Levy funding to acquire some fields. The Clerk from WTC had also sent in a letter which had been circulated to the members of the Executive.
- Councillors queried why the land had been fragmented on one of the maps in the agenda pack.
The Heritage Project Manager advised the pieces of land had been split due to the water courses that ran through the area.
- Councillors queried why the ponds had not been included and whether there were any options to purchase them to protect their future use.
The Heritage Project Manager advised that the ponds belonged to Tonedale Mill and if the ownership of the Mill changed, then they could look into the options that might be available.

Resolved that the Executive sought approval for the recommendations set out the Confidential Appendix 1 to go on to Full Council.

110. **North Taunton Woolaway Project - Vacant Possession of Site**

Resolved that the Executive approved the purchase of the private dwellings as set out in Confidential Appendix 2.

(The Meeting ended at 7.05 pm)