

South Somerset District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **South Somerset District Council** held on **Thursday 11 December 2014** in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil BA20 2HT.

(7.30 - 8.10 pm)

Present:

Members: Councillor Mike Best (Chairman)
Councillor Carol Goodall (Vice-Chairman)

Cathy Bakewell	Pauline Lock	Ros Roderigo
Dave Bulmer	Tony Lock	Jo Roundell Greene
John Calvert	Ian Martin	Sylvia Seal
Tim Carroll	Paul Maxwell	Peter Seib
Tony Capozzoli	Nigel Mermagen	Angie Singleton
Nick Colbert	Graham Middleton	Sue Steele
John Dyke	Roy Mills	Paul Thompson
Jon Gleeson	Terry Mounter	Andrew Turpin
Dave Greene	David Norris	William Wallace
Anna Groskop	Graham Oakes	Colin Winder
Peter Gubbins	Sue Osborne	Derek Yeomans
Brennie Halse	Patrick Palmer	Martin Wale
Henry Hobhouse	Ric Pallister	Lucy Wallace
Tim Inglefield	Shane Pledger	Nick Weeks
Andy Kendall	Wes Read	
Mike Lewis	David Recardo	

Officers

Mark Williams	Chief Executive
Rina Singh	Strategic Director (Place & Performance)
Ian Clarke	Assistant Director (Legal and Corporate Services)
Donna Parham	Assistant Director (Finance & Corporate Services)
Emily McGuinness	Scrutiny Manager

71. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mike Beech, John V Chainey, Pauline Clarke, Tony Fife, Marcus Fysh, Nigel Gage, Jenny Kenton, John Richardson, Gina Seaton, Kim Turner, Barry Walker, Linda Vijeh and Vega Sturgess, Strategic Director.

72. Minutes (Agenda Item 2)

The minutes of the meeting held on the 6th November 2014, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6th November 2014 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

73. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

Councillors Terry Mounter declared a personal but non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 9 (Loan to Drayton Community Venture) as Ward Member and Councillors William Wallace, Derek Yeomans and Anna Groskop declared personal but non-pecuniary interests in Agenda item 8 (Adoption of Housing Strategy Implementation Plan) as members of Somerset County Council.

74. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 4)

Ms Vivien Cornelius asked members of the Council to join with her in wishing Yeovil Town Football Club well in their forthcoming FA Cup matches.

Mr Nick Laurence asked to address the meeting directly preceding Agenda item 9 and this was agreed by the Chairman.

75. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 5)

Councillor Tony Capozzoli thanked Mr Bud Budzynski for the entertainment provided at the function held the previous evening and the Chairman thanked all those involved in organising an enjoyable evening.

76. Chairman's Engagements (Agenda Item 6)

The list of Chairman's Engagements was noted.

77. Non Domestic (Business) Rate Pooling (Agenda Item 7)

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Spatial Planning referred members to the report in the agenda and explained that the proposals outlined a slightly differently configured pool to ones proposed in the past and that the involvement of Bath and North East Somerset and North Somerset Councils greatly reduced any risks involved.

RESOLVED: That Council agreed to:-

1. endorse the urgent decision to participate in the pooling arrangement with other Somerset authorities (Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset, Somerset County Council, Taunton Deane District Council, Mendip District Council, and Sedgemoor District Council, under the Business Rate Retention Scheme, for 2015/16; and,
2. approve that delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director (Finance and Corporate Services) in consultation with the Finance and Spatial Planning Portfolio Holder, to decide

whether to remain in the pool once the government's settlement figures are announced in December 2014.

Reason: To endorse the urgent decision made to enter into a business rates pooling arrangement with other Somerset authorities under the Business Rates Retention scheme.

(Voting: unanimous in favour of recommendation)

78. Adoption of Housing Strategy Implementation Plan (Agenda Item 8)

In the absence of the Leader of Council, as Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Policy, Councillor Tim Carroll introduced this item. He proposed an amendment to the recommendation as contained in the report as follows:

The Council is asked to formally adopt the Housing Strategy Implementation Plan subject to reconsideration of the Temporary Accommodation matters on page 60/61 of the plan due to the recently announced consultation on proposed funding reductions in Supported Housing Grant by Somerset County Council.

At the conclusion of the debate Members were content to agree the revised recommendation.

RESOLVED: That Council formally adopted the Housing Strategy Implementation Plan subject to reconsideration of the Temporary Accommodation matters on page 60/61 of the plan due to the recently announced consultation on proposed funding reductions in Supported Housing Grant by Somerset County Council.

Reason: To formally adopt the Housing Strategy Implementation Plan as a policy of the Council.

(Voting: unanimous in favour)

79. Loan to Drayton Community Venture (Agenda Item 9)

Mr Nick Laurence, elected Chair of the Drayton Community Pub Ltd addressed members outlining the community's vision for the village pub.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Spatial Planning advised that he had no hesitation in recommending to members the amended proposal set out in the report as circulated. Following a short discussion, members voted unanimously in favour of the amended recommendation.

RESOLVED: That Council approved a loan of £130,000 to Drayton Community Pub Ltd, to be repaid over 20 years, from the available capital balances subject to:

- i. a revised business plan being approved by the Assistant Director – Finance and Corporate Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder Finance and Spatial Planning and;

- ii. a first charge being secured on the property.

Reason: To agree a loan of £130,000 to Drayton Community Pub Ltd (an industrial and Provident society for the benefit of the community) to purchase Drayton Arms public house.

(Voting: unanimous in favour)

80. Report of Executive Decisions (Agenda Item 10)

The report of Executive Decisions was noted.

81. Audit Committee (Agenda Item 11)

The report of the Audit Committee was noted.

82. Scrutiny Committee (Agenda Item 12)

The report of the Scrutiny Committee was noted.

83. Motions (Agenda Item 13)

There were no Motions submitted.

84. Questions Under Procedure Rule 10 (Agenda Item 14)

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.

85. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 15)

Members noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Full Council would take place on **Thursday, 15th January 2015** in the Council Chamber, Brympton Way, Yeovil commencing at 7.30 p.m.

.....
Chairman
.....

Date