

South Somerset District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **South Somerset District Council** held on **Thursday 5 March 2015** in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil BA20 2H.

(7.30 - 8.35 pm)

Present:

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

Cathy Bakewell	Jenny Kenton	John Richardson
Dave Bulmer	Pauline Lock	Ros Roderigo
John Calvert	Tony Lock	Jo Roundell Greene
Tim Carroll	Ian Martin	Sylvia Seal
Tony Capozzoli	Paul Maxwell	Gina Seaton
Pauline Clarke	Nigel Mermagen	Peter Seib
Nick Colbert	Graham Middleton	Sue Steele
John Dyke	Roy Mills	Linda Vijeh
Marcus Fysh	Terry Mounter	Martin Wale
Nigel Gage	David Norris	Barry Walker
Jon Gleeson	Graham Oakes	Lucy Wallace
Anna Groskop	Sue Osborne	William Wallace
Peter Gubbins	Patrick Palmer	Nick Weeks
Brennie Halse	Ric Pallister	Colin Winder
Henry Hobhouse	Wes Read	Derek Yeomans
Andy Kendall	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)
Martin Woods	Assistant Director (Economy)
Paul Wheatley	Principal Spatial Planner
Charlotte Fry	Technical Policy Planner
Keith Lane	Policy Planner
Jo Manley	Policy Planner
Jo Wilkins	Policy Planner
Angela Watson	Legal Services Manager
Charlotte Jones	Area Development Manager (North)
Emily McGuinness	Scrutiny Manager
Becky Sanders	Democratic Services Officer

121. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mike Beech, John V Chainey, Tony Fife, Dave Greene, Tim Inglefield, Mike Lewis, Shane Pledger, Angie Singleton and Paul Thompson.

122. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 2)

Councillor Patrick Palmer declared a personal interest in agenda item 6, Adoption of the South Somerset Local Plan, as he had interest in the land mentioned on paragraph 8.42 on page 113. He stated he had sought advice and would not leave the room unless that particular point was debated.

123. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 3)

Mr R Meecham, representing Brympton Parish Council, asked what was the cost of producing the Local Plan to date, and what were the risks and implications if the Plan was not adopted at this meeting? In response, the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Spatial Planning stated that the issues would be discussed further under agenda item 6.

Mr A Quantrell thanked officers and members of the Council for their painstaking work in developing the Local Plan and bringing it forward to this meeting. He urged members to adopt the Plan without delay to facilitate planned and sustainable development across the district.

Ms A Lock stated that both she and her organisation (CCDRA) fully supported the recommendations contained within the Local Plan and endorsed the plan for sustainable development and said that adopting this plan represented one of the most important decisions ever taken by the authority.

Mr M Hoyton asked members not to take this decision until after the forthcoming General Election rather than rush through such an important issue for political expediency. He said that there were a number of inconsistencies within the Plan and that insufficient time had been allowed for public debate.

124. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 4)

The Chairman informed members that this was likely to be the last Council Meeting prior to the Elections in May 2015.

125. Retail Relief from Business Rates (Agenda Item 5)

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Spatial Planning introduced the item stating that the recommendations as set out in the agenda asked for authority to extend discretionary rate relief. The recommendations were subsequently moved and seconded and it was unanimously agreed to confirm them.

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (a) agreed to use its discretionary powers to award Transitional Relief in accordance with Government guidance;
- (b) noted that the Retail Relief limit has been increased from £1,000 to £1,500 for 2015/16;
- (c) noted that the enhanced Small Business Rates Relief Scheme

has been extend for a further year;

(d) noted the government's views on rate relief for childcare providers.

Reason: To agree the implementation of the Business Rates Transitional Rate relief for the 2015/16 and 2016/17 financial years and to inform members of an increase in the Retail Relief in relation to Business Rates for the 2015/16 financial year.

(Voting: Unanimous in favour)

126. Adoption of the South Somerset Local Plan (2006 - 2028) (Agenda Item 6)

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Spatial Planning outlined the comprehensive and thorough process undertaken in order to bring this Plan before members including numerous opportunities for both elected members and residents to consider and comment on the content.

Members were informed that the adoption of the Local Plan represented an opportunity for South Somerset District Council as a Local Planning authority to take a leading role in delivering sustainable development for our communities. Members were informed that following an initial consideration by the Inspector, several amendments were identified and the Plan now before members had been revised accordingly to reflect the Inspector's comments. Following these revisions, the Inspector found the Plan sound and available for adoption.

The Portfolio Holder went on to explain that two risk matrices had been prepared, showing the considerable risks faced by the authority should members vote not to adopt the Plan.

The Portfolio Holder concluded by thanking all members of the Spatial Planning team for their hard work and dedication in preparing the Local Plan,

In response to questions from members, the Portfolio Holder – Finance and Spatial Planning and the Principle Spatial Planner responded that:

- it is estimated that to date £2.7 million has been spent on producing the Plan.
- The Environment Agency have been involved in all aspects of developing the Plan and no major issues had been identified;
- The Local Plan should be seen as starting point and not as a definitive answer.
- Once the authority was in receipt of the Inspector's report, we are beholden to adopt the Plan.
- One member asked that in future documentation, Ilchester is correctly referred to a village.
- It was agreed that the report commissioned into aircraft movement associated with Yeovilton would be circulated to those members who request a copy.

The recommendations were moved en bloc and after being duly seconded, were put to the vote. The vote was carried 44 in favour, 0 against, with 5 abstentions.

Councillor Patrick Palmer asked that it be noted that he had abstained due to his interest as declared.

RESOLVED: That Council agreed to:

1. accept the conclusions of the Inspector's Report and approve the necessary Main Modifications to make the South Somerset Local Plan (2006 – 2028) sound (**Appendix A**); and
2. approve the Additional Modifications (**Appendix C**);
3. adopt the South Somerset Local Plan (2006 – 2028) (**Appendix B**).
4. approve the Adoption Statement (**Appendix D**), Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement (**Appendix E**), and revised Policies Maps (**Appendix F**); and
5. delegate responsibility to the Assistant Director for Economy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Spatial Planning to make any final minor text amendments which may be necessary to enable the Adopted South Somerset Local Plan (2006 – 2028) and Policies Map to be published.

Reason: To consider the conclusions of the Inspectors report and note how the 12 Main Modifications and Additional Modifications amend the South Somerset Local Plan (2006-2028) and to formally adopt the South Somerset Local Plan (2006-2028).
(Voting: 44 in favour, 0 against, 5 abstentions)

127. Appointment of Representative to the Somerset Waste Board (Agenda Item 7)

The recommendation to appoint a replacement nominated member from South Somerset District Council to the Somerset Waste Board for the remainder of the municipal year was moved and seconded.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Tim Carroll be appointed as nominated member of the Somerset Waste Board for the remainder of the municipal year 2014/15.

Reason: To appoint a replacement nominated member from South Somerset District Council to the Somerset Waste Board for the remainder of the municipal year 2014/15.
(Voting: 45 in favour, 0 against, 3 abstentions)

128. Motions (Agenda Item 8)

The following motion was submitted by Councillor Tim Carroll:

That this Council acknowledges:

- a) That Global warming and finite resources are issues that affect us all.
- b) That a reduction in our Carbon footprint must be an achievable aim

- c) That minimisation of energy bills for our residents is a high priority
- d) To facilitate the opportunity of easier switching between power providers through the provision of strictly impartial advice is an important element to the residents of SSDC.
- e) That to continue to follow an ethical policy as far as Carbon reduction as already by the Council's expanding use of PV arrays on Council buildings.

To further these aims, Council resolves that:

In principle, it supports the initiative to further explore the potential benefits of a local Community Energy Company within the area of South Somerset.

During discussion the following points were made:

- This approach is being adopted successfully by other local authorities
- If carried, this motion only committed South Somerset District Council to investigate the potential benefits, there was no commitment of resources at this stage;
- It was anticipated that a social enterprise body would be the most appropriate vehicle for delivery;
- By carrying this motion, members would be signalling to interest groups within our communities that South Somerset District would be supportive of appropriate community bids in this area;

The Motion was duly seconded and put to the vote. Following the vote, the motion was carried.

(Voting: 38 in favour, 1 against and 9 abstentions)

129. Questions Under Procedure Rule 10 (Agenda Item 9)

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.

130. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 10)

The Chairman informed members that this was likely to be the last meeting prior to the elections in May and that the reserve dates of 19th March and 16th April would only be engaged if there was any urgent business to progress.

The next meeting of the Council is therefore scheduled for Thursday 21st May at 7.30 p.m.

Councillor Vijeh thanked Councillor Mike Best for his contribution as Chairman of the Council.

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Chairman

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Date