

South Somerset District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **South Somerset District Council** held on **Thursday 18 August 2016** in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil BA20 2HT.

(7.30 pm - 8.40 pm)

Present:

Members: Councillor Mike Best (Chairman)
Councillor Tony Capozzoli (Vice-Chairman)

Jason Baker	Tim Inglefield	Crispin Raikes
Cathy Bakewell	Val Keitch	David Recardo
Mike Beech	Andy Kendall	Jo Roundell Greene
Neil Bloomfield	Jenny Kenton	Sylvia Seal
Amanda Broom	Mike Lewis	Gina Seaton
Dave Bulmer	Sarah Lindsay	Peter Seib
John Clark	Mike Lock	Alan Smith
Nick Colbert	Tony Lock	Sue Steele
Adam Dance	Paul Maxwell	Rob Stickland
Sarah Dyke	Graham Middleton	Andrew Turpin
John Field	David Norris	Martin Wale
Nigel Gage	Graham Oakes	Nick Weeks
Carol Goodall	Stephen Page	Derek Yeomans
Kaysar Hussain	Ric Pallister	

Officers

Rina Singh	Interim Chief Executive
Donna Parham	Assistant Director (Finance & Corporate Services)
Juber Rahman	South West Counter Fraud Partnership
Charlotte Jones	Performance Manager
Angela Cox	Democratic Services Manager

36. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clare Aparicio Paul, Marcus Barrett, Gye Dibben, Anna Groskop, Peter Gubbins, Henry Hobhouse, Sue Osborne, Tiffany Osborne, Shane Pledger, Wes Read, Dean Ruddle, Garry Shortland, Angie Singleton, Linda Vijeh, William Wallace and Colin Winder, and, Ian Clarke, Assistant Director.

37. Minutes (Agenda Item 2)

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2016, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

38. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest made.

39. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 4)

Mr Bud Budzynski said that following Team GB's successes at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro asked if it was possible to consider painting a post box in Yeovil gold in honour of Heather Stanning who had recently won an Olympic gold medal.

Councillor Sylvia Seal said the Council would make enquiries to see if this was possible.

40. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 5)

The Leader of Council advised that there had been a rise in telephone calls to the SSDC contact centre with a peak on 1st August. There were a variety of reasons as to why the system had been under pressure at a time of the year which has traditionally seen a reduction. One of the main causes was the number of missed refuse collections in the district and this was being addressed by the Waste Partnership. In an effort to better inform the public when demand on the contact centre was particularly high, an automated message would inform customers of the likely waiting time before their call was answered.

The Leader of Council further advised that there were two briefing sessions being held the following Monday to gather Members views on the Transformation project as it related to Area working and how it would operate in the future. He encouraged Members to attend and share their views at the briefing as the outcomes would form part of the Transformation project report to Council on 20th October 2016.

41. Chairman's Engagements (Agenda Item 6)

The list of Chairman's Engagements was noted.

42. Fraud Awareness Presentation to Councillors (Agenda Item 7)

Mr Juber Rahman of the South West Counter Fraud Partnership provided Members with a short training presentation to raise their awareness of the threat of fraud, theft and bribery to the Council.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Chairman thanked Mr Rahman for attending and giving an informative and entertaining presentation.

43. Appointment of Chief Executive Officer (Agenda Item 8)

The Leader of Council thanked the two Strategic Directors (Rina Singh and Vega Sturgess) for their work as Acting Chief Executive for the previous 14 months. He outlined the process which the Appointments Committee had taken to select the candidates and he proposed that Council accepted the recommendation of the

Appointments Committee and appoint Mr Alex Parmley as the Chief Executive Officer and Head of Paid Service for South Somerset District Council.

Councillor Michael Lewis, Leader of the Conservative Group, proposed an additional recommendation that the Chief Executive Officer's employment be subject to employment terms in forthcoming legislation contained within the Small Businesses; Enterprise and Employment Act 2015. This was seconded by Councillor Nick Weeks.

During discussion, varying views were expressed on the acceptance of the proposed additional resolution and, at the conclusion of the debate, a vote was taken. The voting was 14 in favour, 28 against with no abstentions, therefore the proposal was defeated.

The original recommendations were then put to the vote and Members confirmed the recommendation of the Appointments Committee and agreed to appoint Mr Alex Parmley as the Chief Executive Officer and Head of Paid Service for South Somerset District Council.

RESOLVED: That Council accepted the recommendation of the Appointments Committee and that with effect from 1st October 2016 agreed:-

1. to appoint Mr Alex Parmley as the Chief Executive Officer and Head of Paid Service for South Somerset District Council.
2. that all annual pay reviews be linked to the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Executives of Local Authorities Chief Executive's Pay Agreement.

Reason: To confirm the recommendation of the Appointments Committee and appoint a new Chief Executive Officer for South Somerset District Council.

(Voting: 38 in favour, 4 against, 1 abstention)

44. **Draft Proposals of the Community Governance Review of Yeovilton Parish Council (Agenda Item 9)**

The Democratic Services Manager confirmed that the 28% response to the survey was a positive response in favour and that a second short period of public consultation would now commence before the final report was presented to Council.

It was noted that should the Parish Councillors decide to resign and create an election in order to allow the increase in Councillors to take effect, then the cost of that election would be borne by Yeovilton Parish Council and not SSDC.

There was no debate and Members were content to confirm the recommendations of the report.

RESOLVED: That Council agreed to:

1. note the results of the consultation;
2. note that the significant majority of the valid responses received were in favour of the original proposal by Yeovilton Parish Council

and therefore the draft recommendation for further consultation to Council be: “To accept the majority vote from the people of Yeovilton and to agree to increase the number of Parish Councillors to seven”.

3. publish the results of the consultation;
4. note that a further period of consultation on the results of the initial consultation responses would take place;
5. note that a further report would be brought to Council in order that a decision may be made in respect of the final recommendations of the Review.

Reason: To report the outcome of the initial public consultation (Community Governance Review) which has taken place in the parish of Yeovilton on the proposal to increase the number of Parish Councillors (under the provisions of Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007).

(Voting: unanimous in favour)

45. Report of Executive Decisions (Agenda Item 10)

The report of Executive Decisions was noted.

46. Audit Committee (Agenda Item 11)

Councillor Derek Yeomans, Chairman of the Audit Committee, introduced the report and noted that the Senior Auditor had spoken very favourably on the Council's finances at the last Audit Committee meeting.

There were no questions and the report of the Audit Committee was noted.

47. Scrutiny Committee (Agenda Item 12)

Councillor Sue Steele, Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee presented the report and encouraged Councillors to join one of the many Task and Finish groups which were currently running.

There were no questions and the report of the Scrutiny Committee was noted.

48. Motions (Agenda Item 13)

There were no Motions submitted by Members.

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

Councillor Mike Beech submitted the following question under Procedure Rule 10:

Is the contingency for the Westlands project still sufficient?

Councillor Sylvia Seal responded to confirm that a sum of £60,000 had been budgeted for contingencies and to date, none of this had been used.

50. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 15)

Members noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Full Council would take place on Thursday, 1st September 2016 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil commencing at 8.00 p.m.

This meeting would be preceded by a Members Briefing at 6.00pm on the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Plan – the Government’s four year grant offer.

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Chairman

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Date