

South Somerset District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **South Somerset District Council** held on **Thursday 21 September 2017** in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil BA20 2HT.

(7.30 pm - 8.00 pm)

Present:

Members: Councillor Tony Capozzoli (Chairman)

Clare Aparicio Paul	Andy Kendall	Gina Seaton
Jason Baker	Mike Lewis	Peter Seib
Marcus Barrett	Tony Lock	Angie Singleton
Amanda Broom	Paul Maxwell	Alan Smith
Dave Bulmer	Graham Middleton	Sue Steele
Hayward Burt	David Norris	Rob Stickland
John Clark	Graham Oakes	Gerard Tucker
Adam Dance	Sue Osborne	Andrew Turpin
Sarah Dyke	Tiffany Osborne	Linda Vijeh
John Field	Stephen Page	Martin Wale
Carol Goodall	Ric Pallister	William Wallace
Anna Groskop	Crispin Raikes	Nick Weeks
Henry Hobhouse	Wes Read	Colin Winder
Kaysar Hussain	Jo Roundell Greene	
Val Keitch	Sylvia Seal	

Officers

Alex Parmley	Chief Executive
Ian Clarke	Director (Support Services)
Paul Fitzgerald	Section 151 Officer
Sharon Jones	Revenues Team Leader
Jo Boucher	Democratic Services Officer
Kelly Wheeler	Democratic Services Officer

61. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 1)

At the beginning of the meeting, a minutes silence was held in respect of the earthquake in Mexico.

The Chairman asked for nominations for a Member to join him as Vice Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

Members proposed that Councillor Crispin Raikes or Councillor Colin Winder act as Vice Chairman.

On being put to the vote there were 23 votes in favour of Councillor Crispin Raikes and 17 votes in favour of Councillor Colin Winder.

It was therefore resolved that Councillor Crispin Raikes would act as Vice-Chairman.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cathy Bakewell, Mike Beech, Neil Bloomfield, Mike Best, Nick Colbert, Nigel Gage, Peter Gubbins, Jenny Kenton, Sarah Lindsay, Mike Lock, David Recardo, Garry Shortland and Derek Yeomans.

62. Minutes (Agenda Item 2)

The minutes of the meeting held on the 17th August 2017, 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 17th August 2017 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

63. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest made.

64. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 4)

There were no members of the public present.

65. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 5)

The Chairman reminded Members of a Workshop to be held on 2nd October at 6.00pm to discuss the Local Plan Review issues and options consultation.

Councillor Ric Pallister advised members that a progress report on Universal Credit would also be provided at this workshop.

66. Chairman's Engagements (Agenda Item 6)

The list of Chairman's Engagements were noted.

67. Business Rates Relief - New Local Discretionary Relief Scheme (Agenda Item 7)

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Legal Services advised that a revaluation support relief scheme has been introduced to support businesses that had been adversely affected by the Business Rates Revaluation. He suggested that the figures suggested met a good balance in supporting businesses. He further explained that pubs would be included within this scheme.

In response to questions from Members, the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Legal Services confirmed that libraries do pay rates. He further confirmed that the rates charged for public conveniences cannot be amended.

The Revenues Team Leader advised that the scheme was about offering relief to businesses which had been adversely affected by the revaluation and although public conveniences and libraries were struggling, their situation had not been made worse by the revaluation.

At the conclusion of the debate, Members were content to confirm the new local discretionary rate relief, the “Non Domestic Rates Revaluation Support Relief” Scheme, as proposed.

RESOLVED: That Full Council approved a new local discretionary rate relief, The “Non Domestic Rates Revaluation Support Relief” Scheme, effective from 1 April 2017 as detailed in the agenda report.

Reason: To use the Council’s local discount powers to introduce the proposed “Revaluation Support Relief” Scheme to support businesses that have been adversely affected by Business Rates Revaluation on 1 April 2017.

(Voting: unanimous in favour)

68. Section 151 Officer Arrangements (Agenda Item 8)

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Legal Services advised that the proposal was to continue the current arrangements for a Section 151 Officer/Chief Finance Officer.

There was no debate and Members unanimously confirmed that Paul Fitzgerald continue to be the Council’s designated Section 151 Officer.

RESOLVED: That Full Council:-

- a. agreed that Paul Fitzgerald continue to be this Council’s designated Section 151 Officer until such time as either this Council or Taunton Deane Borough Council & West Somerset District Council serves notice on the other to end this arrangement.
- b. agreed that the existing arrangements for and nomination of the Deputy Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Finance Officer who is authorised to act in the absence of the Section 151 Officer continue until further notice.

Reason: To approve the extension of the Council’s existing arrangements for a Section 151 Officer/Chief Finance.

(Voting: 40 in favour, 1 abstention)

69. Appointment of temporary Councillors to Langport Town Council (Agenda Item 9)

The Director for Support Services outlined the issues which had led to the resignation of 7 Langport Town Councillors and the need for SSDC to appoint temporary councillors to

allow them to progress council business until an election could be held and new Town Councillors appointed.

In response to a member's question, he confirmed that an election had been called.

At the conclusion of the debate, Members were content to confirm the temporary appointment of Gerard Tucker, Crispin Raikes and Clare Aparicio Paul to Langport Town Council.

RESOLVED: That Full Council agreed to:-

- a. the appointment of the following persons as temporary members of Langport Town Council until such time as an election can be held and those elected have taken up office:

Mr Gerard Tucker
Mr Crispin Raikes
Mrs Clare Aparicio Paul

- b. authorise the Director (Support Services) to make the necessary Order under Section 91 of the Local Government Act 1972 with effect from 22nd September 2017.

Reason: To approve the temporary appointment of three people to Langport Town Council to allow them to progress urgent business, until an election can be held to appoint new Town Councillors.

(Voting: unanimous in support)

70. Report of Executive Decisions (Agenda Item 10)

The report of Executive Decisions was noted.

71. Audit Committee (Agenda Item 11)

Members noted that there had been no meeting of the Audit Committee during August 2017.

72. Scrutiny Committee (Agenda Item 12)

Councillor Sue Steele, Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, presented the report of the Committee. She noted the excellent work undertaken by both members and officers regarding the recent Business Rates Task and Finish group.

In response to a question, the Leader appreciated concern regarding the current demise and disengagement of operating banks and 24 hour cash machines within rural areas. Whilst he considered the local authority to have little influence regarding this matter he would request that the Area Development teams undertake a mapping exercise on this issue. It was also suggested and agreed that a letter be sent to the local MP and the Regulator.

73. Motions (Agenda Item 13)

There were no Motions submitted by Members.

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

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.

75. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 15)

Members noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Full Council was a reserve date of 19th October 2017. Unless there was any urgent business to progress on this date, the next scheduled meeting of the Full Council would take place on **Thursday, 16th November 2017** in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil **commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

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Chairman

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Date