

Meeting AN 03M 13/14
Date 26.06.13

South Somerset District Council

Draft Minutes of a meeting of the **Area North Committee** held in the Village Hall, Norton Sub Hamdon on **Wednesday 26 June 2013**.

(2.00pm – 4.12pm)

Present:

Members: Shane Pledger (Chairman)

Pauline Clarke
Roy Mills
Terry Mounter
David Norris

Patrick Palmer
Jo Roundell Greene
Sue Steele

Sylvia Seal (from 2.05pm)
Paul Thompson
Derek Yeomans

Officers:

Teresa Oulds
Pauline Burr
Adron Duckworth
Greg Venn
Becky Sanders

Neighbourhood Development Officer (North)
Neighbourhood Development Officer (North)
Conservation Manager
Conservation Officer
Democratic Services Officer

NB: Where an executive or key decision is made, a reason will be noted immediately beneath the Committee's resolution.

19. Minutes (Agenda item 1)

The minutes of the meetings held on 16 May 2013 and 22 May 2013, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read and, having been approved as a correct record, were signed by the Chairman.

20. Apologies for Absence (Agenda item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Graham Middleton and Barry Walker.

21. Declarations of Interest (Agenda item 3)

Councillor Shane Pledger declared a personal interest in agenda item 16, Historic Buildings at Risk, as he was the owner of one of the properties.

22 Date of Next Meeting (Agenda item 4)

Members noted that the next meeting of Area North Committee would be at 2.00pm on Wednesday 24 July 2013 at the Millennium Hall, Seavington.

23. Public Question Time (Agenda item 5)

Mrs L Maunder, secretary to the Norton Sub Hamdon Community Land Trust, reported that after nearly eight years, construction was hoped to start in July on the affordable housing scheme. She wished to thank all staff and councillors concerned for their support, particularly ward member, Councillor Sylvia Seal.

Cllr G Townrow, of Curry Mallet Parish Council wished to thank SSDC Democratic Services for arranging Chairman's training for 17 parish councils the previous week.

24. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda item 6)

The Chairman reported he had attended an event at High Ham for the unveiling of the village scrapbook to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee. A copy of the book would be available to view at the SSDC Bridge Barns office.

He also reminded members to let officers know if a members tour was of interest later in the summer, and to give suggestions of projects to visit.

25. Reports from Members (Agenda item 7)

There were no reports from members.

26. Presentation on Community Payback and the 'Walk Langport' Project (Agenda Item 8)

The Neighbourhood Development Officer (North) explained to members that unfortunately Joy Roberts from the Community Payback Team of the Avon and Somerset Probation Trust had had to tender her apologies for the meeting. She introduced Val Saunders from Langport Town Council who gave a thorough presentation about the Walk Langport project including:

- The local situation and how the project came about
- Funding
- Tasks the Community Payback Team could undertake
- Project outcomes
- Plans for the future

During a short discussion, members raised several comments including:

- Sources of possible funding needed to be forwarded to the town council in order to progress the future plans of the project.
- Surprise that the County Council had not been approached for funding as some of the paths were along the River Parrett Trail.
- The Environment Agency appeared to be keen to sell Cockle Moor, but if the town council were to make a bid they would also be liable for the maintenance costs of the site in the future.

Members commended the work of Val Saunders and the Community Payback Team and thanked her for her presentation.

27. Presentation from Kingsbury Episcopi Community Shop Project (Agenda Item 9)

The Neighbourhood Development Officer (North) introduced Sue Boer and Pauline Warren from the Kingsbury Episcopi Community Shop project, which has been open for just over a year. They gave an informative presentation about the shop which included details about:

- A reminder of how the project started
- The type of stock on sale and how local businesses had donated or loaned equipment such as fridges, freezers, scales and a till.
- Volunteers, volunteer training and young volunteers
- Using local suppliers, producers and distributors where possible
- Hub for local information, parcel collection, and box office for local events
- Plans for the future
- Turnover statistics and figures
- Young people doing work experience of at least three months were provided with a reference

Ward member, Councillor Derek Yeomans commented that the project was an exemplar of a dedicated village, volunteers and all the people involved in setting up the shop.

During a short discussion members highly commended the work achieved. The Chairman thanked Sue Boer and Pauline Warren for their informative presentation.

28. Somerset Levels and Moors Task Force (Executive Decision) (Agenda Item 10)

The Neighbourhood Development Officer (North) introduced the report as shown in the agenda. She highlighted that:

- the financial contribution was for admin support, and would help get the task force up and running
- the task force had the support of the Minister for Natural Environment and Fisheries
- Several months previously, Area North Committee had agreed issues with flooding was a North priority

During discussion members raised several comments including:

- A body was needed to bind all the appropriate organisations together
- Pleasing to see that the Minister recognised that flooding had caused some damage
- Need to keep up pressure on items that were discussed at the flooding summit and how the water affects businesses and villages that continually get flooded
- Actions and outcomes from the body needed to be seen.
- Regular reporting and feedback would be required
- Concern that funding and resources for the task force appeared to be short term
- Needs to be more than just a 'talking shop'

Members were unanimously supportive of agreeing the financial contribution and that an update report should be made as soon as practicable. Councillors Sue Steele and Patrick Palmer were proposed as the member representative, and on being put to the vote, Councillor Sue Steele was appointed (Councillor Sue Steele 6 votes, Councillor Patrick Palmer 5 votes).

RESOLVED: It was resolved that:

- (1) A contribution of £1000 be made to Somerset County Council (as accountable body for the Somerset Water Management Partnership and Levels and Moors Task Force) towards the administrative costs of the Levels and Moors task Force allocated from the Area North Reserve.

(Voting: Unanimous)

- (2) Councillor Sue Steele be the appointed member to the Executive Board of the Somerset Levels and Moors Task Force, and the appointment be added to the Area North list of outside bodies.

(Voting: 6 in favour, 5 against)

- (3) An update report be presented once the Task Force is formally established and the draft vision document is available, and the item added to the Area North Forward Plan.

(Voting: Unanimous)

Reason: To consider a request for a financial contribution towards the proposed Somerset Levels & Moors Task Force, and to nominate a councillor for appointment to the future executive board.

*Charlotte Jones, Area Development Manager
charlotte.jones@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462251*

29. Community Right to Bid – Nomination Received for Assets of Community Value (Agenda Item 11) (Executive Decision)

The Neighbourhood Development Officer (North) introduced the report as shown in the agenda and reminded members that were being asked to consider making a recommendation to District Executive that land known as Cocklemoor in Langport should be placed onto the SSDC Register of Assets of Community Value.

During a brief discussion, a member queried the process that the Area Committees are asked to make a recommendation to District Executive about Community Right to Bid nominations, and felt that if nominations met the required criteria, reports to the Area Committees should be for noting only.

During a brief discussion, some members queried some specific details regarding the map supplied with the report, and which areas were in the ownership of the Environment Agency.

Members were unanimously supportive that the land known as Cocklemoor in Langport should be added onto the SSDC Register of Assets of Community Value.

RESOLVED: That Area North Committee recommend to District Executive that the land known as Cocklemoor in Langport be placed onto the SSDC Register of Assets of Community Value.

(Voting: Unanimous in favour)

*Charlotte Jones, Area Development Manager
charlotte.jones@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462251*

30. Area North 2012/13 Outturn Report (Agenda item 12) (Executive Decision)

The Neighbourhood Development Officer introduced the report as shown in the agenda which provided an update to members of the actual spend against budget for the financial year 2012/13 for the services over which Area North Committee has financial control. In the absence of the Area Development Manager (North) she encouraged members to get in contact with officers if they had any specific queries.

In response to a member query about the SLA payments to Information Centres as indicated in Appendix C, the Neighbourhood Development Officer (North) commented that she would ask the Area Development Manager (North) to provide a comment.

Members were content to approve all the recommendations.

- RESOLVED:**
- (1) that the 2012/13 financial outturn position of the Area North budgets be noted;
 - (2) that the position of the Area North Reserve as at 31st March 2013 be noted;
 - (3) that the slippage of £129,270 on the Area North Capital Programme be carried forward
 - (4) that the position of the Play & Youth capital investment programme in Area North be noted;
 - (5) that the position of the Area North Community Grants budget, including details of grants authorised under the Scheme of Delegation by the Area Development Manager in consultation with the ward members, be noted.

Reason: To review the 2012/13 financial outturn position of the Area North budgets as part of the monitoring of the Area North Development Revenue Budgets, Area North Capital Programme and Area North Reserve.

(Voting: unanimous)

*Nicola Brine, Management Accountant
nicola.brine@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462612*

31. Area North Committee – Forward Plan (Agenda item 13)

There were no updates to the forward plan. Regarding the item about the Community Youth Project, a member requested that the report included financial information and the impact of the reduction in support from the County Council.

Members briefly raised the subject of a member's tour. It was suggested and agreed not to have a tour but to arrange a visit, prior to a committee meeting, to one or two community projects which had been supported by Area North, or to visit a completed planning development approved by the committee. This was suggested for August as there were no planned agenda reports.

RESOLVED: That the Forward Plan be noted.

*Becky Sanders, Committee Administrator
becky.sanders@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462596*

32. Planning Appeals (Agenda item 14)

The agenda report was noted, which informed members of planning appeals that were lodged, dismissed or allowed.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

*David Norris, Development Manager
david.norris@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462382*

33. CONFIDENTIAL – Exclusion of Press and Public (Agenda item 15)

RESOLVED: That the following item be considered in closed session by virtue of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A under paragraphs:

3, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

6, information which reveals that the authority proposes:

(a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or

(b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.

(Voting: unanimous)

34. Historic Buildings at Risk (Confidential) (Agenda item 16)

The Conservation Manager and Conservation Officer updated members on current cases of historic buildings at risk in Area North.

Members requested a further report in the near future regarding action at a specific property.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted

*Adron Duckworth, Conservation Manager
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Chairman