

MEETING AW.12:1112
DATE 16:05:12

South Somerset District Council

Draft Minutes of a meeting of the **Area West Committee** held at the Henhayes Centre, South Street Car Park, Crewkerne on **Wednesday, 16th May 2012.**

(5.30 p.m. – 6.40 p.m.)

Present:

Members: Cllr. Angie Singleton (in the Chair)

Michael Best	Sue Osborne
David Bulmer (from 5.35 p.m.)	Ric Pallister
John Dyke	Ros Roderigio
Carol Goodall	Kim Turner
Brennie Halse	Andrew Turpin (until 6.15 p.m.)
Jenny Kenton	Linda Vijeh
Paul Maxwell	Martin Wale
Nigel Mermagen	

Officers:

Andrew Gillespie	Area Development Manager (West)
Paul Philpott	Community Development Officer (West)
Becky Sanders	Committee Administrator
Jo Morris	Committee Administrator

Also Present:

Mike Fear Assistant Highway Service Manager, Somerset County Council

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

145. Minutes (Agenda item 1)

The minutes of the meeting held on the 18th April 2012, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read and, having been approved as a correct record, were signed by the Chairman.

146. Apologies for Absence (Agenda item 2)

There were no apologies for absence.

147. Declarations of Interest (Agenda item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

148. Public Question Time (Agenda item 4)

No questions or comments were raised by members of the public.

149. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda item 5)

The Chairman informed members that:

- Andrew Blackburn, Committee Administrator, would be retiring from the Council at the end of July after 43 years of service;
 - The July Area West Committee meeting would commence at the earlier time of 5.00pm to consider the likely confidential report on Historic Buildings at Risk in Area West in order to minimise disturbance to the public;
 - An exhibition showcase of people and businesses of Crewkerne was being held on 24th, 25th and 26th May 2012 at the Old Textile Mill, South Street.
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150. Area West Committee - Forward Plan (Agenda item 6)

Reference was made to the agenda report, which informed members of the proposed Area West Committee Forward Plan.

Members noted that the items on Chard Regeneration Scheme and Stop Line Way listed on the Forward Plan for June would be considered at the August meeting.

RESOLVED: that the Area West Forward Plan be noted as attached to the agenda subject to the above amendment being taken into account.

(Resolution passed without dissent)

*(Andrew Gillespie, Area Development Manager (West) – 01460 260426)
(andrew.gillespie@southsomerset.gov.uk)*

151. County Highway Authority Report and Work Programme 2012/13 (Agenda item 7)

Prior to the Assistant Highways Service Manager presenting his report, two members of the public addressed the Committee. Cllr. Sue White, of Crewkerne Town Council and the Chamber of Trade spoke of the frustration expressed by many traders over the recent road works at South Street, Crewkerne. Reference was made to local businesses losing vital trade as a result of unclear road closure signage, which meant that people were unable to access the main car park. She urged Highways to consult with Town and Parish Councils over the signage used for future works, in particular the works on the A356 at Broadshard. She also raised concerns about the delays in re-establishing the street market in the town.

Nick Cook, a local trader in Crewkerne, also spoke of the problems experienced in the town as a result of unclear road closure signage erected during the week of the road works at South Street, Crewkerne. He questioned who would compensate local traders for their loss of takings.

In response, the Assistant Highway Services Manager noted the comments raised and explained that he would circulate a written statement to the members of the public.

The Assistant Highway Services Manager presented the report which informed members of the work carried out by the County Highway Authority and the proposed works programme for 2012/13. He explained that it had been agreed to change the monthly half hour attendance prior to Committee meetings to quarterly. In addition, highway reports would be presented at the May and November meetings.

He informed members that the surface dressing works would commence in late June. Grass cutting had already commenced and verge cutting of C and D class roads was due to start on 4th June 2012. Reference was made to the list of structural maintenance schemes as outlined in the agenda and members were informed of the schemes completed and in progress.

During discussion members referred to the lessons that needed to be learned from the recent situation in Crewkerne so that such situations could be avoided during highway schemes elsewhere. The following suggestions were put forward by members:

- The need for improved signage so members of the public would be informed well in advance where exactly on the route roads would be closed;
- The importance of Highways liaising and working with Town and Parish Councils over appropriate signage as they had local knowledge of the area;
- Town and Parish Councils to be given the name and telephone number of a local person to contact to report any problems during road works.

The Area Development Manager explained that it may be possible for businesses to apply for Business Rate Reduction depending on their individual circumstances. He agreed to circulate details of the scheme to members of the Committee.

The Assistant Highway Service Manager agreed to chase up the concern raised by Cllr. Sue White in relation to the road closure for Crewkerne Market. He noted members' individual concerns on issues within their areas.

The Chairman thanked the Assistant Highway Service Manager for his report.

NOTED.

*(Mike Fear, Assistant Highway Service Manager, South Somerset Highways - 0845 3459155)
(Countyroads-south@somerset.gov.uk)*

152. Area West - Grants (Agenda item 8)

The Community Development Officer presented the report which updated members on the delivery of projects that have received grants under the Community Grants Scheme.

Members were shown photographs outlining progress made with the following projects:

- Hinton St George Community Shop
- Hinton St George Village Hall and Playing Field
- Misterton WI Hall
- StreetSpace Youth Project

Members noted that the photographs would be displayed on the Council's website to encourage community groups to come forward and apply for grant funding.

The Community Development Officer clarified that the grant scheme was still open for receiving new applications.

Members were supportive of sending letters of congratulation as recommended in the report.

RESOLVED: that letters of congratulation be sent to those organisations named in the report on the progress they have made in delivering their projects.

(Resolution passed without dissent)

*(Paul Philpott, Community Development Officer (West) - 01460 260359)
(paul.philpott@southsomerset.gov.uk)*

153. Reports from Members on Outside Organisations (Agenda item 9)

No reports were made at the meeting by members who represented the Council on outside organisations.

154. Feedback on Planning Applications Referred to the Regulation Committee (Agenda item 10)

There was no feedback to report as there were no planning applications that had been referred recently by the Committee to the Regulation Committee.

NOTED.

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

155. Planning Appeals (Agenda item 11)

The Committee noted the details contained in the agenda report, which informed members of a planning appeal that had been allowed.

NOTED.

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

156. Date and Venue for Next Meeting (Agenda item 12)

Members noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday, 20th June 2012 at 5.30 p.m. at the Shrubbery Hotel, Station Road, Ilminster.

NOTED.

*(Andrew Blackburn, Committee Administrator – 01460 260441)
(andrew.blackburn@southsomerset.gov.uk)*

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Chairman