

# South Somerset District Council

*Notice of Meeting*



## Area West Committee

*Making a difference where it counts*

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

**5.30 pm**

**Merriott Village Hall  
51 Broadway  
Merriott  
Somerset TA16 5QH**

(location plan overleaf - disabled access is available at this meeting venue)



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The public and press are welcome to attend.

**Please note: There are no planning applications**

If you would like any further information on the items to be discussed, please ring the Agenda Co-ordinator, Jo Morris on Yeovil (01935) 462462  
email: [jo.morris@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:jo.morris@southsomerset.gov.uk)

This Agenda was issued on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013

*Ian Clarke, Assistant Director (Legal & Corporate Services)*

**This information is also available on our  
website: [www.southsomerset.gov.uk](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk)**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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## **Area West Membership**

**Chairman:** Angie Singleton

**Vice-Chairman:** Paul Maxwell

Michael Best

David Bulmer

John Dyke

Carol Goodall

Brennie Halse

Jenny Kenton

Nigel Mermagen

Sue Osborne

Ric Pallister

Ros Roderigo

Kim Turner

Andrew Turpin

Linda Vijeh

Martin Wale

## **South Somerset District Council – Corporate Aims**

**Our key aims are:** (all equal)

- Jobs – We want a strong economy which has low unemployment and thriving businesses
- Environment – We want an attractive environment to live in with increased recycling and lower energy use
- Homes – We want decent housing for our residents that matches their income
- Health and Communities – We want communities that are healthy, self-reliant and have individuals who are willing to help each other

## **Scrutiny Procedure Rules**

Please note that decisions taken by Area Committees may be "called in" for scrutiny by the Council's Scrutiny Committee prior to implementation. This does not apply to decisions taken on planning applications.

## **Consideration of Planning Applications**

Consideration of planning applications will commence no earlier than 7.00 pm, following a break for refreshments, in the order shown on the planning applications schedule. The public and representatives of parish/town councils will be invited to speak on the individual planning applications at the time they are considered. Anyone wishing to raise matters in relation to other items on the agenda may do so at the time the item is considered.

## **Highways**

A representative from the Area Highways Office will attend the Committee quarterly in February, May, August and November. They will be available half an hour before the commencement of the meeting to answer questions and take comments from members of the Committee. Alternatively, they can be contacted through Somerset Highways direct control centre on 0845 345 9155.

## **Members Questions on Reports prior to the Meeting**

Members of the Committee are requested to contact report authors on points of clarification prior to the Committee meeting.

## **Information for the Public**

The Council has a well-established Area Committee system and through four Area Committees seeks to strengthen links between the Council and its local communities,

allowing planning and other local issues to be decided at a local level (planning recommendations outside council policy are referred to the district wide Regulation Committee).

Decisions made by Area Committees, which include financial or policy implications are generally classed as executive decisions. Where these financial or policy decisions have a significant impact on council budgets or the local community, agendas will record these decisions as “key decisions”. Members of the public can view the council’s Executive Forward Plan, either online or at any SSDC council office, to see what executive/key decisions are scheduled to be taken in the coming months. Non-executive decisions taken by area committees include planning, and other quasi-judicial decisions.

At Area Committee meetings members of the public are able to:

- attend and make verbal or written representations, except where, for example, personal or confidential matters are being discussed;
- at the Area Committee Chairman’s discretion, members of the public are permitted to speak for up to up to 3 minutes on agenda items; and
- see agenda reports.

Meetings of the Area West Committee are held monthly at 5.30 p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month in venues throughout Area West (unless specified otherwise).

Agendas and minutes of Area Committees are published on the Council’s website [www.southsomerset.gov.uk](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk)

The Council’s Constitution is also on the web site and available for inspection in council offices.

Further information about this Committee can be obtained by contacting the agenda co-ordinator named on the front page.

## **Public Participation at Committees**

This is a summary of the Protocol adopted by the Council and set out in Part 5 of the Council’s Constitution.

### **Public Question Time**

The period allowed for participation in this session shall not exceed 15 minutes except with the consent of the Chairman of the Committee. Each individual speaker shall be restricted to a total of three minutes.

### **Planning Applications**

Comments about planning applications will be dealt with at the time those applications are considered, rather than during the Public Question Time session.

Comments should be confined to additional information or issues, which have not been fully covered in the officer’s report. Members of the public are asked to submit any additional documents to the planning officer at least 72 hours in advance and not to present them to the Committee on the day of the meeting. This will give the planning officer the opportunity

to respond appropriately. Information from the public should not be tabled at the meeting. It should also be noted that, in the interests of fairness, the use of presentational aids (e.g. PowerPoint) by the applicant/agent or those making representations will not be permitted. However, the applicant/agent or those making representations are able to ask the Planning Officer to include photographs/images within the officer's presentation subject to them being received by the officer at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. No more than 5 photographs/images either supporting or against the application to be submitted. The Planning Officer will also need to be satisfied that the photographs are appropriate in terms of planning grounds.

At the Committee Chairman's discretion, members of the public are permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes each and where there are a number of persons wishing to speak they should be encouraged to choose one spokesperson to speak either for the applicant or on behalf of any supporters or objectors to the application. The total period allowed for such participation on each application shall not normally exceed 15 minutes.

The order of speaking on planning items will be:

Town or Parish Council Spokesperson  
Objectors  
Supporters  
Applicant and/or Agent  
District Council Ward Member  
County Council Division Member

If a member of the public wishes to speak they must inform the committee administrator before the meeting begins of their name and whether they have supporting comments or objections and who they are representing. This must be done by completing one of the public participation slips available at the meeting.

In exceptional circumstances, the Chairman of the Committee shall have discretion to vary the procedure set out to ensure fairness to all sides.

The same rules in terms of public participation will apply in respect of other agenda items where people wish to speak on that particular item.

### **If a Councillor has declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) or a personal and prejudicial interest**

In relation to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, a Councillor is prohibited by law from participating in the discussion about the business on the agenda that relates to this interest and is also required to leave the room whilst the relevant agenda item is being discussed.

Under the new Code of Conduct adopted by this Council in July 2012, a Councillor with a personal and prejudicial interest (which is not also a DPI) will be afforded the same right as a member of the public to speak in relation to the relevant business and may also answer any questions, except that once the Councillor has addressed the Committee the Councillor will leave the room and not return until after the decision has been made.

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# Area West Committee

## Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013

### Agenda

#### *Preliminary Items*

1. **To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013**
2. **Apologies for Absence**
3. **Declarations of Interest**

In accordance with the Council's current Code of Conduct (adopted July 2012), which includes all the provisions relating to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), personal and prejudicial interests, Members are asked to declare any DPI and also any personal interests (and whether or not such personal interests are also "prejudicial") in relation to any matter on the agenda for this meeting. A DPI is defined in The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012 No. 1464) and Appendix 3 of the Council's Code of Conduct. A personal interest is defined in paragraph 2.8 of the Code and a prejudicial interest is defined in paragraph 2.9. In the interests of complete transparency, Members of the County Council, who are not also members of this committee, are encouraged to declare any interests they may have in any matters being discussed even though they may not be under any obligation to do so under any relevant code of conduct.

#### *Planning Applications Referred to the Regulation Committee*

The following members of this Committee are also members of the Council's Regulation Committee:

Cllr. Mike Best  
Cllr. Ros Roderigo  
Cllr. Angie Singleton

Where planning applications are referred by this Committee to the Regulation Committee for determination, in accordance with the Council's Code of Practice on Planning, Members of the Regulation Committee can participate and vote on these items at the Area Committee and at Regulation Committee. In these cases the Council's decision-making process is not complete until the application is determined by the Regulation Committee. Members of the Regulation Committee retain an open mind and will not finalise their position until the Regulation Committee. They will also consider the matter at Regulation Committee as Members of that Committee and not as representatives of the Area Committee.

#### **4. Public Question Time**

This is a chance to ask questions, make comments and raise matters of concern.

Parish/Town Councils may also wish to use this opportunity to ask for the District Council's support on any matter of particular concern to their Parish/Town.

Anyone wishing to raise matters in relation to items on the agenda may do so at the time the item is considered.

**5. Chairman's Announcements**

*Items for Discussion* *Page Number*

6. Area West Committee - Forward Plan..... 1

7. Area West – Reports from Members on Outside Bodies..... 4

8. Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)..... 6

9. South Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau..... 12

10. Planning Appeals..... 13

11. Date and Venue for Next Meeting ..... 16

**Confidential**

12. Historic Buildings at Risk (Executive Decision)Error! Bookmark not defined.

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**This does not apply to decisions taken on planning applications.**