

South Somerset District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **South Somerset District Council** held on **Thursday 17 November 2016** in the Council Chamber, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

(7.30 pm - 8.10 pm)

Present:

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

Clare Aparicio Paul	Kaysar Hussain	Sylvia Seal
Jason Baker	Tim Inglefield	Gina Seaton
Cathy Bakewell	Val Keitch	Peter Seib
Marcus Barrett	Andy Kendall	Garry Shortland
Mike Beech	Mike Lewis	Angie Singleton
Neil Bloomfield	Mike Lock	Sue Steele
Dave Bulmer	Tony Lock	Rob Stickland
Adam Dance	David Norris	Andrew Turpin
Gye Dibben	Graham Oakes	Linda Vijeh
Sarah Dyke	Sue Osborne	Martin Wale
John Field	Tiffany Osborne	William Wallace
Nigel Gage	Crispin Raikes	Nick Weeks
Carol Goodall	David Recardo	Colin Winder
Anna Groskop	Jo Roundell Greene	Derek Yeomans
Peter Gubbins	Dean Ruddle	

Officers:

Alex Parmley	Chief Executive
Rina Singh	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Ian Clarke	Assistant Director (Legal and Corporate Services)
Martin Woods	Assistant Director (Economy)
Paul Wheatley	Principal Policy Planner
Angela Cox	Democratic Services Manager

67. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Amanda Broom, John Clark, Nick Colbert, Henry Hobhouse, Jenny Kenton, Sarah Lindsay, Paul Maxwell, Sam McAllister, Graham Middleton, Stephen Page, Ric Pallister, Wes Read and Alan Smith.

68. Minutes (Agenda Item 2)

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2016, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendment:

Minute 59: Medium Term Financial Strategy and Plan – Four Year Settlement – voting amended to 47 in favour, 2 against, 0 abstentions.

69. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

Councillor Mike Lock declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7, South Somerset Community Infrastructure Levy, as a building contractor who may be subject to the charge in the future.

70. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 4)

There were no questions from members of the public present.

71. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 5)

The Chairman reminded Members of their Christmas meal to be held on Thursday 15th December and encouraged them to attend.

72. Chairman's Engagements (Agenda Item 6)

The list of Chairman's Engagements was noted.

73. South Somerset Community Infrastructure Levy (Agenda Item 7)

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning (Place Making) reminded Members that they had agreed the draft CIL Charging Schedule for consultation in February and again in May following two minor modifications. The Examiner had then confirmed the Schedule with no changes. She thanked the spatial policy officers for their work in bringing the CIL Charging Schedule forward, and the other departments of legal, finance and economic development who had also assisted.

In response to questions from Members, the Principal Spatial Planner advised:-

- Flood mitigation for the Yeovil Sustainable Urban Extensions would be met through the Section 106 Agreements which would accompany these sites.
- The impact of CIL on the viability of development sites had been discussed with developers and they were not overly concerned at the charge. They were in favour of the proposed instalment policy
- The Regulation 123 list was agreed by District Executive and discussed at the Examination by the Inspector. It defined the type of infrastructure which the Council wished to promote but the detail of implementation was still to be agreed.
- The 5% of CIL receipts set for administration was regulated and could not be altered locally.
- The proposed Urban Extensions were exempt from CIL but they would have specific S106 Agreements and if a scheme was expanded then further mitigation would be required and so the S106 Agreement would be upgraded accordingly.

At the conclusion of a short debate, the majority of Members were content to confirm approval of the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule.

RESOLVED: That Council:

1. considered the Examiner's Report in the South Somerset District Council's Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule (**see Appendix A**);
2. approved the final South Somerset Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule (**see Appendix B**) as of the 17th November 2016 and agreed the implementation date of the 3rd April 2017; and
3. delegated responsibility to the Assistant Director for Economy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning to make any final minor text amendments which may be necessary to enable the Charging Schedule to be approved.

Reason: To consider the Examiner's Report and to approve the proposed South Somerset Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule for implementation on 3rd April 2017.

(Voting: 32 in favour, 12 against, 2 abstentions)

74. Final Recommendation of the Community Governance Review of Yeovilton Parish Council (Agenda Item 8)

The Portfolio Holder for Democratic Services advised that this was the final report to confirm the increase in Parish Councillors for Yeovilton Parish Council.

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

RESOLVED: That Council:

1. noted the results of the consultation in the parish of Yeovilton and agree to publish them;
2. agreed that the final recommendation be: "To accept the majority vote from the people of Yeovilton to agree to increase the number of Parish Councillors to seven".
3. agreed to draw up a Reorganisation Order to give effect to this recommendation.
4. agreed to contact the statutory agencies to effect the requested alteration to increase the number of Parish Councillors on Yeovilton Parish Council to seven.

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

(Voting: unanimous in favour)

75. Draft Proposals of the Community Governance Review of Brympton Parish Council (Agenda Item 9)

The Portfolio Holder for Democratic Services advised that although some may have reservations at the low response to the consultation, it was difficult to engage the public to respond to something which would not affect them directly. She noted this was only the initial consultation and a further report would be presented.

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

RESOLVED: That Council:

1. noted the results of the consultation;
2. noted that all of the valid responses received were in favour of the proposal by Brympton Parish Council and therefore the draft recommendation for further consultation to Council be: "To accept the majority vote from the people of Brympton and to agree to increase the number of Parish Councillors to twelve".
3. agreed to publish the results of the consultation;
4. noted 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 Brympton 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: 45 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention)

76. Membership of Committees - Appointment of Councillors to Various Committees and Panels (Agenda Item 10)

In response to a question, the Assistant Director (Legal and Corporate Services) confirmed that the Standards Committee was still in existence.

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

RESOLVED: In accordance with Section 16 (1) Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the duty therein to give effect to the wishes of the political group to which seats on any committee are allocated, the Council confirm that:-

1. Councillor Tiffany Osborne be appointed to the Regulation Committee
2. Councillor Martin Wale be appointed to the Appeals Panel
3. Councillor David Norris be appointed to the Scrutiny Committee
4. Councillor Linda Vijeh be appointed to the Scrutiny Committee
5. Councillor Colin Winder be appointed to the Standards Committee
6. Councillor Nick Weeks be appointed as the SSDC representative to the Somerset Buildings Preservation Trust

Reason: To confirm changes to several Committee and Panel appointments.

(Voting: unanimous in favour)

77. Report of Executive Decisions (Agenda Item 11)

The report of Executive Decisions was noted.

78. Audit Committee (Agenda Item 12)

It was noted that there had been no meeting of the Audit Committee since the last Council meeting.

79. Scrutiny Committee (Agenda Item 13)

Councillor Sue Steele, Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, welcomed Councillor Linda Vijeh to the committee and thanked Members for their work on the Task and Finish Groups currently in operation.

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

80. Motions (Agenda Item 14)

Councillor Mike Beech drew Members attention to the amended wording of his Motion which had been circulated prior to the meeting. He said that he had proposed it as the £640,000 earmarked for the Connecting Devon and Somerset Broadband scheme remained unallocated and he was concerned that rural areas and businesses may miss out on broadband connection otherwise.

The Deputy Leader welcomed the Motion as she said the Council was keen to progress broadband connection across the district.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Legal Services also voiced his support for the Motion and, there being no other debate, Members unanimously confirmed the Motion.

RESOLVED: That Council agreed to continue to retain the £640,000 provisional allocation, requested by Connecting Devon and Somerset, as agreed by Full Council in May 2016 to be allocated to the provision of high speed broadband within South Somerset for the benefit of parishes, home owners and business within the district.

The council further to committed to bringing forward a report by the end February 2017 that provides members with:-

1. The results of the Phase 2 tendering programme and its likely coverage of Superfast Broadband to the residents and communities of South Somerset and
2. Proposals to further support the provision of Superfast broadband in areas that are not likely to be covered. This will include a potential scheme to provide grant assistance to parishes and vouchers to qualifying households and businesses (sub 10 Mbit/s) to enable fast broadband to be rolled out across the district, such that we become a connected district, with all the advantages that brings in terms of attracting/ retaining businesses, home working and the amenity of residents

Reason: To enable fast broadband to be rolled out across the district.

(Voting: unanimous in favour)

81. Questions Under Procedure Rule 10 (Agenda Item 15)

Councillor Derek Yeomans had submitted the following question under Procedure Rule 10:

The radical change entailed in Yarlinton's planned cessation of continued provision and building of social housing will have a major impact on our conjoint cross District present and future housing policies. It will create a long term foreseeable reduction in the availability of accommodation to service our housing waiting list and the probable delegation of the P2i accommodation responsibility to the District Councils. What steps will SSDC be taking to mitigate these problems?

He confirmed that he would be happy to receive a written response to his question and the Deputy Leader agreed to circulate the response to all Members.

Response

Yarlington Housing Group continue to build new social housing, although currently they have only nine properties under construction in this district. For the past twenty years the District has appointed a small group of partner Housing Associations to work on the overall programme in order to avoid over reliance on any one particular Association – the last review was completed early in 2015 in partnership with Mendip District Council. Under the current programme four different housing associations will provide 128 new homes and other schemes are in the pipeline although yet to be confirmed. In addition it is estimated that there are just over 650 vacancies arising from within the existing social housing stock in the district in a typical year.

The changes in the P2i contract have been instigated by the County Council and, despite the best advice from district council officers, are due to commence on 1st January. The County cannot delegate it's responsibilities under the Childrens' Act, this council, alongside the other districts, continues to work with the County on those cases where there is also a potential responsibility under the homelessness legislation. Our officers are currently providing support to the new contractor, Mendip YMCA, to assist them to secure suitable accommodation in an unenviable timeframe.

82. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 16)

Members noted that unless there was any urgent business to conduct in the meantime, the next scheduled meeting of the Full Council due on Thursday, 8th December 2016 would be cancelled.

Therefore, unless notified to the contrary, the next scheduled meeting of the Full Council would take place on Thursday 19th January 2017 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Chairman

Date