

## South Somerset District Council

**Minutes** of a meeting of the **South Somerset District Council** held on **Thursday 19 January 2017** in the Council Chamber, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

(7.30 pm - 8.35 pm)

**Present:**

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

Clare Aparicio Paul	Tim Inglefield	Wes Read
Jason Baker	Val Keitch	David Recardo
Cathy Bakewell	Andy Kendall	Dean Ruddle
Marcus Barrett	Jenny Kenton	Sylvia Seal
Mike Beech	Mike Lewis	Gina Seaton
Neil Bloomfield	Mike Lock	Peter Seib
Amanda Broom	Tony Lock	Sue Steele
Dave Bulmer	Paul Maxwell	Rob Stickland
John Clark	Graham Middleton	Gerard Tucker
Nick Colbert	David Norris	Andrew Turpin
Adam Dance	Graham Oakes	Linda Vijeh
John Field	Sue Osborne	Martin Wale
Nigel Gage	Tiffany Osborne	William Wallace
Carol Goodall	Stephen Page	Nick Weeks
Peter Gubbins	Ric Pallister	Colin Winder
Kaysar Hussain	Crispin Raikes	Derek Yeomans

**Officers:**

Alex Parmley	Chief Executive
Ian Clarke	Director (Support Services)
Donna Parham	Assistant Director (Finance & Corporate Services)
Ian Potter	Revenues and Benefits Manager
Jo Gale	Scrutiny Manager
Katy Menday	Countryside Manager
Becky Russell	Countryside Ranger
Angela Cox	Democratic Services Manager

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### 83. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sarah Dyke, Anna Groskop, Henry Hobhouse, Sarah Lindsay, Sam McAllister, Jo Roundell Greene, Garry Shortland, Angie Singleton, Alan Smith and Rina Singh, Deputy Chief Executive.

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### 84. Minutes (Agenda Item 2)

The minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

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## **85. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)**

There were no declarations of interest made.

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## **86. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 4)**

Ms V Cornelius referred to the 2008 signed Section 106 Highways Agreement linked to the 2006 planning permission for the Lyde Road Key Site which included works to the Mudford Road / Lyde Road Junction and Mudford Road / Combe Street Lane Junction in addition to the current works to the Sherborne Road / Lyde Road Junction. She asked if the Mudford Road Junctions upgrades were still scheduled to happen and if so, when?

The Leader of Council thanked Ms Cornelius for submitting her question in advance of the meeting but regretted that he had not received a response to the questions from the Highways section of Somerset County Council. He said as soon as a response was received, he would forward it to her.

(Subsequent to the meeting, the following response was received from SCC: The developer remains obligated through the Section106 agreement to deliver the Mudford Road/Lyde Road and Mudford Road/ Combe Street Lane junction works and as such we are awaiting a firm commitment to a delivery programme. The developer contacted the highway authority in Autumn last year indicating that they were working towards a start at Mudford Road/Lyde Road following the completion of their ongoing works at Lyde Road/Sherborne Road.)

Mr M Hewitson, a Community Pharmacist and member of the National Pharmacy Association spoke in support of the Motion at Agenda item 13. He said there were 30 Community Pharmacies in Somerset providing a range of services which allowed people to remain in their own homes. He referred to the number of GPs close to retirement in Somerset, particularly in the Chard and Ilminster areas and he asked if Councillors would consider holding their surgeries in Community Pharmacies.

Mr B Budzynski referred to major drainage work to be carried out on Sherborne Road, near to Pittards, which were delayed because of the effect upon Christmas shopping in the town. He asked if there was any plan to reschedule the work as the current works on Sherborne Road were impacting on Mudford Road.

The Leader of Council said he understood the work would be carried out on half the road at any one time and he offered to raise the issue at a meeting he was scheduled to attend with strategic officers from Somerset County Council in early February.

(Subsequent to the meeting, the following response was received from SCC: We are currently planning highway drainage improvement works to Sherborne Road which have provisionally been programmed to commence during the summer and are currently scheduled to last for 3 weeks.)

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## **87. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 5)**

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Gerard Tucker to his first Full Council meeting and congratulated him on his election.

He also advised that Chief Constable Andy Marsh would be attending the next Full Council meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

The Leader of Council advised that the Council had been allocated £263,220 by the Government to offset the impact of second homes in the south west. The money was to be spent on community led schemes and this would be discussed at his upcoming Portfolio Holder briefing on 10<sup>th</sup> February.

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**88. Chairman's Engagements (Agenda Item 6)**

The list of Chairman's Engagements was noted.

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**89. Presentation on the V3: InVolve, Visit, Volunteer project at Yeovil Country Park (Agenda Item 7)**

The Countryside Manager and the Community Ranger provided Members with a presentation on the three year V3: InVolve, Visit, Volunteer project at Yeovil Country Park. They outlined the numerous and varied activities which they had held at the park for different groups of people and some of the forthcoming projects.

In response to questions, they confirmed there was an ongoing survey of wildlife in the park and the heritage interpretation also included biodiversity information.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Chairman and Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture both thanked the Countryside Manager and the Community Ranger for attending and providing an interesting presentation of the project.

**RESOLVED:** That Council noted the report and presentation on the delivery of the V3 Project at Yeovil Country Park.

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**90. Council Tax Support Scheme for 2017/18 (Agenda Item 8)**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Legal Services introduced the report and thanked the members and officers of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group who had reviewed the scheme. He also drew attention to the public sector equalities duties which were considered in drawing up the scheme and the 4 new proposals considered, of which one was supported. He proposed that the recommendations be agreed on block.

There was no debate and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Rob Stickland. When put to the vote, the recommendations were unanimously agreed by Members.

**RESOLVED:** That Council agreed:

- a. that personal allowances and premiums are uprated in line with those for Housing Benefit;
- b. that non-dependent deductions are uprated in line with the annual percentage increase in Council Tax;
- c. that the non-dependent income bands are increased by the same

percentage as those in the Prescribed Requirements relating to pensioners;

- d. that proposal 2 be approved;
- e. that proposals 1, 3 and 4 be rejected;
- f. that the hardship scheme budget be set at £30,000 for the 2017/18 financial year;
- g. to consider the Equalities Impact Assessment at Appendix 1 in approving (d);
- h. to consider the public consultation responses in the Equalities Impact Assessment and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group report in approving (d) and (e);
- i. to consider the interaction of Universal Credit and Tax Credits with the CTS scheme in approving (d);
- j. to note the recommendations of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group attached at Appendix 3;
- k. to note the scheme has been amended to reflect changes to the Prescribed Requirements;
- l. that the 2017/18 Council Tax Support Scheme (circulated under separate cover as Appendix A) is adopted;
- m. to note that the proposed Council Tax Support Scheme has been reflected within the overall Council Tax Base.

**Reason:** To confirm the Council Tax Support scheme (CTS) for the 2017/18 financial year.

*(Voting: unanimous in favour)*

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**91. Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy 2016/17 - Mid year review (Agenda Item 9)**

Councillor Derek Yeomans, as Chairman of the Audit Committee, introduced the report and drew Members attention to the alterations to the Strategy document as highlighted in yellow in the agenda papers.

There was no debate and Members unanimously approved the revised Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy for 2016/17.

**RESOLVED:** That Council approve the revised Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy for 2016/17.

**Reason:** To confirm the revised mid-year Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy for 2016/17.

*(Voting: unanimous in favour)*

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**92. Report of Executive Decisions (Agenda Item 10)**

The report of Executive Decisions was noted.

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**93. Audit Committee (Agenda Item 11)**

Councillor Derek Yeomans, Chairman of the Audit Committee, introduced the report and noted that at their last meeting, both the Internal and External Auditors said the post of Section 151 Officer should be within the Management Team.

In response to a question, the Assistant Director (Finance and Corporate Services) confirmed that Council's treasury management advisers, Arlingclose, would be providing their training on borrowing for income generating schemes free of charge.

The report of the Audit Committee was noted.

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**94. Scrutiny Committee (Agenda Item 12)**

Councillor Sue Steele, Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, thanked Members for their work on the Task and Finish Groups currently in operation. She noted that the Scrutiny Manager post was now reduced to two days per week which would limit the amount of Task and Finish Group work in the future.

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

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**95. Motions (Agenda Item 13)**

Councillor Amanda Broom introduced her Motion which was seconded by Councillor Peter Seib. She said the Motion affected the partners and spouses of many Somerset residents and the method of the introduction of the Government's decision to raise the State Pension Age had not allowed many people sufficient time to re-plan for their retirement. She felt it would be fairer if transitional payments were made to those most affected.

During a brief discussion, some Members felt they should declare an interest as the raising of the State Pension Age had directly affected them. The Director (Support Services) clarified that as the Motion also affected the wider population, there was no need for Members to declare any interest.

The Motion was put to the vote and carried (voting: 30 in favour, 0 against, 20 abstentions).

**RESOLVED:** That Council agreed to call upon the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6th April 1951, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA).

**Reason:** To support Somerset residents and women born in the 1950's who are affected by the transitional state pension arrangements for women.

*(Voting: 30 in favour, 0 against, 20 abstentions)*

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Councillor Graham Oakes introduced his Motion which was seconded by Councillor Sylvia Seal. He said he became aware of the issue following a planning application at Area South Committee. He felt it was a Government decision to save money which had an unintended consequence when people were being encouraged to use their pharmacies rather than hospitals. The closure of pharmacies would affect the most vulnerable in the community. He asked that Members support his Motion.

During discussion, several Members voiced their support for the Motion and on being put to the vote, it was carried (voting: 42 in favour, 2 against, 6 abstentions).

**RESOLVED:** That Council agreed to:

1. request that the Chief Executive and Leader of Council write to the Secretary of State for Health, calling on the Government to abandon the proposed cuts to Community Pharmacy service, rather than just simply to postpone them, and to make a commitment to maintain a fully-funded community pharmacy service.
2. request that the Chief Executive and Leader of Council also write to the MPs for Yeovil and Somerton & Frome, along with the Chair of the Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group asking them to make similar representations on this matter to the Secretary of State for Health.

**Reason:** To support the continuation of NHS funding for community pharmacies.

*(Voting: 42 in favour, 2 against, 6 abstentions)*

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**96. Questions Under Procedure Rule 10 (Agenda Item 14)**

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.

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**97. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 15)**

Members noted that the next scheduled meeting of Full Council would take place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 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