

## South Somerset District Council

**Minutes** of a meeting of the **Area West Committee** held at **The Guildhall, Chard** on **Wednesday 16 November 2016**.

(5.30 - 6.25 pm)

**Present:**

**Members:** Councillor Carol Goodall (Chairman)

Marcus Barrett	Angie Singleton
Mike Best	Andrew Turpin
Dave Bulmer	Linda Vijeh
Val Keitch	Martin Wale
Sue Osborne	

**Officers:**

Helen Rutter	Assistant Director (Communities)
Zoe Harris	Area Development Lead (West)
Jo Morris	Democratic Services Officer
Dylan Martlew	Neighbourhood Development Officer

**Also Present:**

Chris Weeks	Assistant Highway Service Manager, Somerset County Council
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*NB: Where an executive or key decision is made, a reason will be noted immediately beneath the Committee's resolution.*

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**67. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 19th October 2016 (Agenda Item 1)**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2016, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read, and having been approved were signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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**68. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 2)**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jason Baker, Amanda Broom, Paul Maxwell, Jenny Kenton, Garry Shortland and Ric Pallister.

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**69. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)**

There were no declarations of interest.

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## **70. Date and Venue for Next Meeting (Agenda Item 4)**

Members noted that the next meeting of the Area West Committee would be held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 5.30pm at the Henhayes Centre, Crewkerne.

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## **71. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 5)**

The Committee was addressed by Pauline Laughton. She stated that in August 2015 Chard Town Council were to look into the replacement of litter bins with a more eco friendly disposal perhaps also with cigarette disposal facility. She advised that Councillor Jason Baker and Ed Ringwood were going to look into the matter and asked if there was any update on the matter.

Councillor Dave Bulmer provided a response and agreed to take the issue back to Chard Town Council.

The Committee was also addressed by David Laughton. He requested an update with regard to the parking charges review and asked whether it had been completed and when would any decisions be made?

The Chairman advised that she would email Mr Laughton with a response.

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## **72. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 6)**

There were no announcements from the Chairman.

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## **73. Area West Committee - Forward Plan (Agenda Item 7)**

Reference was made to the report, which informed members of the proposed Area West Committee Forward Plan. The Assistant Director (Communities) suggested bringing forward the presentation from the Citizens Advice Bureau to the January meeting.

Cllr. Martin Wale, the SSDC representative on the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel would provide an update report at the January meeting.

Members asked when the update on the Chard Regeneration Scheme would be given. The Assistant Director (Communities) would contact the relevant Officer and liaise with the Area West Chairman with a view to bringing it forward as soon as possible.

In response to a member question, the Area Development Lead (West) provided an update on the latest position with regard to the Making It Local funding. She advised that the programme had reopened for new applications.

**RESOLVED:** That the Area West Committee Forward Plan be noted as attached to the agenda subject to the above amendments.

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#### **74. County Highway Report to Area West Committee (Agenda Item 8)**

The Assistant Highway Service Manager presented the report which informed members of the work carried out by the County Highway Authority at the halfway stage through the financial year and what schemes are remaining on the work programmed for the rest of the year.

The Assistant Highway Service Manager noted members' comments and concerns about local issues within the area which included:

- A member asked whether the results of a survey undertaken about dropped kerbs could be incorporated into the work to be commenced at Forton Road, and Bradfield Way, Chard;
- A member asked about the status of progressing a 40mph speed limit from Two Ash Lane, Tatworth to the County border;
- Members advised that the place name signs in Tatworth and Crewkerne had been removed and sought clarification on their reinstatement;
- With regard to the resurfacing of Ditton Street, Ilminster, the ward member was advised that there would be consultation with the Town Council on the commencement date;
- A member asked if the status of road marking schemes could be added to future reports;
- A member expressed his appreciation for the resurfacing works undertaken along the High Street in Chard;
- A member advised that she had received a request from a member of the public asking if signs could be put up for motorbikes further away from the start of new road surfaces.

The Assistant Highway Service Manager advised that local parishes had been invited to collect salt bags on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

The Chairman thanked the Assistant Highway Service Manager for attending the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

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#### **75. Chard Business Hub Project (Agenda Item 9)**

With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, the Neighbourhood Development Officer (West) presented his progress report to members. He highlighted that the governance arrangements for the Project Board had been established and the terms of reference enabled decisions to be made between meetings. He explained that the branding for the Hub had been agreed and some promotional events arranged to raise awareness and gauge feedback on what potential users may require.

He informed members that he was working on building business partnerships with a view to bringing events to the Hub and was also in the process of working on developing the website and recruiting a marketing consultant. In terms of the premises, he advised that furniture had been moved into the space but there was still a lot of work to be undertaken with Property Services. Members were informed that an application for funding was presented to the Strategic Regeneration Board but at the time no funding was available for this type of project. He advised that progress was being made on the delivery of the

project. He explained that the amber status was due to slower than anticipated progress and the Project Board wishing to see briefs and competitive quotes for key areas of work, which meant some increase in timescale and costs. He stated that he was working on the business and financial plans. The provisional launch was being planned for early summer 2017.

The Neighbourhood Development Officer responded to members' questions on points of detail. Responses included the following:

- Whilst the project is run as an SSDC project there would be no rental charges;
- Various community groups would be invited to attend the promotional events. The events would also be advertised through social media;
- At the time of applying to the Strategic Regeneration Board, there was no funding available for infrastructure projects but the situation had now changed and funding had been set aside for feasibility work to progress new 'Investing in Infrastructure' projects. The Assistant Director (Communities) agreed to raise the issue at the next Area West Regeneration Board meeting with regard to reapplying retrospectively for funding.

Members thanked the Neighbourhood Development Officer (West) for his work on the project.

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## **76. Area West Budget - Half Year Progress Report (Executive Decision) (Agenda Item 10)**

The Assistant Director (Communities) presented the report and advised that the Area West finances were quite tight and therefore members were being asked to return stalled project money to balances to free up support for other priority projects.

In response to a member comment, the Area Development Lead (West) advised that works were taking place to progress the Forton Community Centre Project. She agreed to bring back further information on the project as part of the Area West Development Plan report due to be considered at the December meeting.

With regard to the funding support to the Local Tourist Information Centres, a member queried whether the Area West Committee would receive a breakdown about how the money was spent. Members were advised that the funding for Chard LIC had not yet been awarded and a report on the performance of the local Information Centres would be considered in March.

Members noted that funding would be found to enable free parking on 17<sup>th</sup> December throughout Area West carparks.

Members unanimously supported the recommendations of the report.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the current position on community grants and other project budgets held by Area West be noted;
  2. That the current Area West Capital and Reserve be noted;
  3. That the sum of £1,748 no longer required for Chaffcombe Village hall be returned to capital balances;
  4. That the £20,000 set aside for Ilminster Community Office be unring-fenced and made available for capital community projects.

**Reason:** To seek Committee approval to return stalled project money to balances to free up support for other priority projects.

(Voting: unanimous)

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**77. Area West - Reports from Members on Outside Bodies (Agenda Item 11)**

**Crewkerne Heritage Centre & Museum**

Members noted the report submitted by Cllr. Marcus Barrett updating members on Crewkerne Heritage Centre & Museum.

**Chard Museum**

Members noted the report submitted by Cllr. Amanda Broom updating members on Chard Museum.

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**78. Planning Appeals (Agenda Item 12)**

Members noted the appeals received and allowed as outlined in the agenda.

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Chairman