

## South Somerset District Council

**Minutes of a meeting of the Area West Committee held at the Virtual Meeting - Virtual Meeting using Zoom meeting software on Wednesday 16 September 2020.**

(5.30 - 6.52 pm)

**Present:**

**Members:** Councillor Jason Baker (Chairman)

Mike Best	Paul Maxwell
Dave Bulmer	Sue Osborne
Brian Hamilton	Robin Pailthorpe
Val Keitch	Linda Vijeh
Jenny Kenton	Martin Wale



**Officers:**

Jo Morris	Case Officer (Strategy & Commissioning)
Michelle Mainwaring	Case Officer (Strategy & Commissioning)
Becky Sanders	Case Officer (Strategy & Commissioning)
Dan Bennett	Property and Development Project Manager
Tim Cook	Locality Team Manager
Adrian Moore	Locality Officer
Turnbull	Locality Officer
Kirsty Larkins	Director (Strategy and Commissioning)

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

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**327. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Agenda Item 1)**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020 were approved as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tricia O'Brien, Oliver Patrick and Garry Shortland.

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

Councillor Linda Vijeh declared an interest in Agenda Item 7 – Community Grant to Broadway and Horton Cricket Club, as the ward member for Broadway and Horton.

Councillor Brian Hamilton declared an interest in Agenda Item 8 – Community Grant to Ilminster Tennis and Bowling Club, as a member of Ilminster Town Council.

Councillors Val Keitch and Linda Vjeh declared interests in Agenda Item 8 - Community Grant to Ilminster Tennis and Bowling Club, as members of the Club.

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

Members noted that the next meeting of the Area West Committee was scheduled to be held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020 at 5.30pm using Zoom virtual meeting software.

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**331. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 5)**

There were no questions from the public.

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**332. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 6)**

There were no announcements from the Chairman.

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**333. Community Grant to Broadway and Horton Cricket Club (Executive Decision) (Agenda Item 7)**

(There was a change to the order of the agenda and this item was taken after Agenda Item 8)

The Locality Officer introduced the report and advised that Broadway & Horton Cricket Club were requesting funding towards the purchase of two practice cricket nets. Members noted that a representative from the Cricket Club was present at the meeting to answer members' questions.

The Locality Manager updated that should the recommendation be approved, there would be £115,262 left remaining in the Area West capital programme.

During the discussion, many members expressed their support for the application. Members felt that the project provided a valuable resource, assisted in the promotion of health and well-being of people in the local area and were pleased to note that the club had a number of longstanding members as well as many youth members. Members commented that the amount of funding being requested was fairly modest in relation to the other secured funding and applauded the club for the amount of funding achieved towards the project.

In response to member questions, the representative from Broadway and Horton Cricket Club confirmed that a large amount of the project involved laying an underground multiple layer deep surface under the nets. He also clarified that the nets could only be used in the summer months.

At the conclusion of the debate, members unanimously supported the recommendation outlined in the report.

That a grant of £4,567 be awarded to Broadway and Horton Cricket

Club, the grant to be allocated from the Area West Community Grants Programme and subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants.

**Reason:** To consider awarding a grant towards the purchase of twin cricket nets at Broadway and Horton Cricket Club.

(Voting: unanimous in favour)

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**334. Community Grant to Ilminster Tennis and Bowling Club (Executive Decision) (Agenda Item 8)**

(There was a change to the order of the agenda and this item was taken prior to Agenda Item 7).

The Locality Officer presented the report. He advised that Ilminster Tennis and Bowling Club were requesting funding towards resurfacing three tennis courts. Members noted that a representative from the Club was present at the meeting to answer members' questions.

During consideration of the item, members made a number of comments which included the following:

- The amount of work undertaken by the club with young people was excellent;
- The club was a fantastic community asset in Ilminster;
- The club was looking to develop access for disability groups;
- One member expressed some reservation as the club was a private facility requesting public funds. The club last resurfaced the tennis courts in 2007 and had the past 13 years to prepare for the resurfacing;
- The club was a really important local facility although not entirely public they offered a public service;
- Youth development was extremely important;
- The club offered events to the local community such as a monthly quiz and the club was available to hire for functions and fixtures;
- Provision of good quality playing surfaces should be encouraged to be able to promote sport and to get people fit and active.

In response to questions raised, the representative from the Club confirmed that the club had a sink fund and had prepared for the resurfacing of the courts as best they could. He mentioned that the club was a non-profit making business with operating costs as any other business. He said that it was a private members club but allowed visitors and guests and ran various open days. He advised that the club wanted to develop its youth section and that the facility was essential in developing the future of the club. Without the support of the Town Council and the District Council, the club would struggle to keep the facility as best as it could possibly be which would be a shame for the whole community. The club representative confirmed that junior members were offered free membership for the first year and the club was looking to develop opportunities for disability tennis. He also clarified that the club was fully inclusive and that any member of the public could join.

The Locality Officer said that 13 years with the same surface was a good achievement with how much it had been used and it had always been properly maintained.

The Case Officer – Strategy and Commissioning advised Councillors Val Keitch and Linda Vijeh as members of the Club that in view of public perception and because of the recommendation being a financial decision that they should leave the room for the vote. At this point in the proceedings Councillors Val Keitch and Linda Vijeh left the meeting and returned after the vote was taken.

It was then proposed and seconded to approve the application as outlined in the report. A vote was taken which was unanimously carried.

**RESOLVED:** That a grant of £12,500 be awarded to Ilminster Tennis and Bowling Club, the grant to be allocated from the Area West capital programme and subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants.

**Reason:** To consider a grant to Ilminster Tennis and Bowling Club towards resurfacing three Tennis Courts.

*(Voting: unanimous)*

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### **335. Area West - Area Chapter 20/21 Update & Finance report (Executive Decision) (Agenda Item 9)**

The Locality Manager presented the report and advised that some projects had been delayed due to Covid-19 and others approached differently. The annual play days could not be delivered due to the current restrictions in place so free activity boxes and booklets were given out across the district.

He referred to the funding request towards the Chard Reservoir Trail which would enable un-guided walks to take place and promote the environment and facilities at Chard Reservoir. He also asked members to note the development of a food and drink directory.

The Locality Manager advised that he was aware of a project in Chard in relation to the implementation of a CCTV scheme that would require resources from across the Council and was likely to come forward as part of the MTIG scheme.

During the discussion, the Locality Manager responded to members' questions and comments on points of detail in relation to the distribution of play activity boxes and the food and drink directory. He confirmed that the other Area Committees were being asked to support a contribution towards the food and drink directory.

A member commented on the good work delivered by the Blackdown Hills AONB and expressed their support for the project.

A members expressed his thanks to the officers involved in delivering the projects especially in the current challenging times.

At the conclusion of the debate, members were content to note the report and endorse the allocation of spend as outlined in the recommendation.

**RESOLVED:** (1) That members noted the report;

(2) That an allocation of spend on the following projects be endorsed:

- £2,000 from the Area Discretionary/Project revenue budget to support the development of a food and drink directory.
- £4,000 from the Area Discretionary/Project revenue budget to support a new children's nature trail leaflet.
- £6,000 from the Area reserves budget to support Blackdown Hills AONB Somerset Connections project.

**Reason:** To consider allocating funding towards supporting the development of a food and drink directory, a new children's trail leaflet and the Blackdown Hills AONB Somerset Connections project.

*(Voting: unanimous)*

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### **336. Chard Regeneration Scheme Update (Agenda Item 10)**

The Property and Development Project Manager introduced the report which gave an update on the progress of the Chard Regeneration Scheme. He advised that due to the impact of Covid-19 and the closure of the site work was around two to three weeks behind schedule which was a minimal delay. He highlighted that there was a national shortage of plaster which could potentially cause further delays. The Property and Development Project Manager said that the staircase and first floor of the building was now in place with large timber beams over the pool hall and the excavation of the pool complete.

With regard to the Chard High Street Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) Project, the Property and Development Project Manager informed members that the Project Manager would be joining SSDC in October. She would be looking to talk to some of the building outlets on the High Street about the grant project for refurbishing shop fronts.

He concluded that the cultural programme strand of the HAZ project had been put on hold due to Covid-19.

During the discussion members made the following comments:

- It was good to see progress on the scheme happening at a rapid pace;
- Expressed gratitude to the construction workers for the work being undertaken;
- The local community could see the project taking shape and several people in the town had expressed their appreciation;
- Architecturally there were some stunning buildings along the High Street in Chard that should be shown off to their best ability.
- Possible opportunity within the HAZ project to make the Grade 1 Manor Court House Building a priority.

The Chairman thanked the Property and Development Project Manager for his update report.

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

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### **337. Area West Committee Forward Plan (Agenda Item 11)**

A member queried when the Historic Buildings at Risk report would be submitted to Area West Committee. In response, the Director – Strategy and Commissioning advised that the officer was aware of the request and was currently working on a report.

A request was made for an update report on the Market Towns Investment Group.

A report on the Chard Eastern Development Area Master Plan was requested to be added to the Forward Plan.

Members were informed that the Somerset and Avon Policy Constabulary attended Area West Committee on an annual basis in January.

**RESOLVED:** That the Area West Committee Forward Plan be noted.

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### **338. Planning Appeals (Agenda Item 12)**

Members noted the report which gave details of an appeal that had been allowed.

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

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Chairman