

South Somerset District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **Area North Committee** held by video-conferencing using Zoom meeting software on **Wednesday 14 April 2021**.

(2.00 - 2.55 pm)

Present:

Members: Councillor Adam Dance (Chairman)

Malcolm Cavill
Mike Hewitson
Tim Kerley
Clare Paul

Crispin Raikes
Mike Stanton
Gerard Tucker



Others:

Sue Osborne
Linda Vijeh

Officers:

Stephanie Gold
Adrian Moore
Debbie Haines
Michelle Mainwaring
Becky Sanders

Specialist (Scrutiny & Member Development)
Locality Officer
Locality Team Leader
Case Officer (Strategy & Support Services)
Case Officer (Strategy & Support Services)

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

175. Apologies for absence (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Neil Bloomfield, Louise Clarke, Tiffany Osborne and Dean Ruddie.

176. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 2)

Whilst not an interest, the Chairman noted for transparency that both he and Councillor Crispin Raikes were also members of South Petherton Parish Council who had also given a grant to RamaLife (item 7 on the agenda).

177. Date of next meeting (Agenda Item 3)

Members noted the next meeting of Area North Committee was scheduled for 2pm on Wednesday 26 May 2021, with the meeting arrangements to be confirmed.

178. Public question time (Agenda Item 4)

There were no questions from members of the public present at the meeting.

179. Chairman's announcements (Agenda Item 5)

The Chairman advised that following the death of HRH Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, the previous week, a two minute silence would be observed to recognise his life, service and in memory and honour of the Duke.

A two minutes silence was observed by those present in the meeting.

180. Reports from members (Agenda Item 6)

There were no reports from members.

181. Community Grant to Rama Life CIC Community Minibus - Get Petherton Moving! (Executive Decision) (Agenda Item 7)

The Locality Officer presented the report which asked members to consider awarding a grant of £12,500 towards community transport. He advised that Jenn Hodge from Rama Life was present to answer any questions.

During discussion the Locality Officer and Jenn Hodge responded to points of detail and some of their comments included:

- The minibus to be purchased was second-hand and had been refurbished by the manufacturer.
- Running costs were covered – there was an agreement with the Parish Council for support with some costs annually plus there was predicted income.
- More detail about the financing plan.
- It was hoped to create a sinking fund for big repairs if needed.
- The specifications of the minibus meant it could be driven with an ordinary driving licence.
- Detail about how the company had been set up and history, and a background of the experience of working with young people and the philosophy behind it.
- Outreach work and advertising would be taken in steps and initially by social media and then look to do in person when Covid restrictions permitted.
- Rama Life and the minibus would be running as slightly separate things, and provided an overview of how funded. Sponsorship would be encouraged.
- Plans for a bus had been ongoing for many years and management of the project had always been the issue with it progressing. Rama Life, on paper, looked like there were contributing little financially towards the minibus. However they were doing all the management and providing the time.

At the end of debate, members expressed their support for the project and congratulated Ms Hodges for being a talented fundraiser and taking the project through. A members suggested it would be good to get some feedback from the group in perhaps a years time to learn what had been achieved. It was proposed to approve the grant as detailed in the report, which was unanimously supported.

RESOLVED: That Area North Committee approved that a grant of £12,500 be awarded to Rama Life CIC, the grant to be allocated from the Area North Community Grants Programme, towards the provision of a fully accessible, affordable Community Minibus for community transport, subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (Appendix A).

Reason: To consider a capital grant and revenue grant request for funding towards the purchase of a Community Minibus to assist in providing community transport.

(Voting: Unanimous)

182. Presentation on the Role of Scrutiny (Agenda Item 8)

The Specialist (Scrutiny & Member Development) introduced one of the Vice- Chairmen of Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Sue Osborne, who provided a presentation on the role of Scrutiny.

Some of the points covered in the informative presentation included:

- The main activities of the Scrutiny Committee.
- Principles of good Scrutiny in local authorities and how it works at SSDC.
- The Scrutiny Work Programme.
- Examples of recent Scrutiny activity including workshops and Task & Finish Groups.

There was no discussion or any questions raised. The Chairman thanked the Vice-Chairman of Scrutiny Committee for the comprehensive presentation.

183. Area North Committee Forward Plan (Agenda Item 9)

There was no discussion and members were content to note the Forward Plan.

184. Planning Appeals (Agenda Item 10)

Members noted the report that detailed the planning appeals which had been lodged, dismissed or allowed.

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Chairman