

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 19th July, 2012

Present:- **Councillors** Simon Allen, Patrick Anketell-Jones, Rob Appleyard, Sharon Ball, Tim Ball, Colin Barrett, David Bellotti, Mathew Blankley, John Bull, Neil Butters, Bryan Chalker, Anthony Clarke, Nicholas Coombes, Paul Crossley, Gerry Curran, Sally Davis, Douglas Deacon, David Dixon, Peter Edwards, Michael Evans, Paul Fox, Andrew Furse, Charles Gerrish, Ian Gilchrist, Francine Haeberling, Alan Hale, Katie Hall, Malcolm Hanney, Liz Hardman, Nathan Hartley, Steve Hedges, Eleanor Jackson, Les Kew, Dave Laming, Malcolm Lees, Marie Longstaff, Barry Macrae, David Martin, Loraine Morgan-Brinkhurst MBE, Paul Myers, Douglas Nicol, Bryan Organ, June Player, Vic Pritchard, Manda Rigby, Caroline Roberts, Nigel Roberts, Dine Romero, Will Sandry, Brian Simmons, Kate Simmons, Jeremy Sparks, Ben Stevens, David Veale, Geoff Ward, Tim Warren, Chris Watt and Brian Webber

Apologies for absence: **Councillors** Gabriel Batt, Cherry Beath, Sarah Bevan, Lisa Brett, Robin Moss, Roger Symonds and Martin Veal

26 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chairman drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure as set out on the agenda.

27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

28 MINUTES - 10TH MAY 2012 & 18TH JUNE 2012 (SPECIAL 1PM) & 18TH JUNE 2012 (SPECIAL 6.30PM)

Councillor Eleanor Jackson raised an issue regarding the use of names and titles in the minutes and called for titles and full names to be used. The issue was referred to the Democratic Services Manager to take up with Group Leaders.

On a motion from Councillor Paul Crossley, seconded by Councillor Francine Haeberling, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of;

- 10th May 2012
- 18th June 2012 (1pm)
- 18th June 2012 (6pm)

be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to a minor amendment to the minutes of 18th June (6pm) to record Councillor Sharon Ball's attendance at the meeting.

29 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OR FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chairman made the following announcements;

1. He asked everyone to turn their phones to off/silent and reminded members of the public that some Councillors were accessing their meeting papers on their iPads.
2. He referred to the agenda timings, and asked everyone to keep contributions relevant and not to repeat comments already made.
3. Indicated that he proposed to waive Council Rule 37 so as not to permit Councillors seconding motions or amendments being able to reserve their right to speak until later in the debate, but to require all seconders, if they wished to speak, to do so when they seconded the motion or amendment. The Council indicated its agreement.

30 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no items of urgent business; however, the Chairman took the opportunity to recognise that this would be the last Council meeting which John Everitt, the Chief Executive, would attend before retirement. He thanked John for his service to the organisation and asked the Council to thank John with a standing acclamation.

31 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Statements to the meeting were made by the following people (where provided, copies will be added to the Minute book and the electronic record);

- Steve Wilcox made a statement regarding affordable housing in villages and called upon the Council to make rural development a priority of the Core Strategy. Councillor Paul Crossley deferred his question to Councillor Tim Ball who made reference to the largest brownfield site in Clutton being barely in use and, if not converted to housing, the alternative being that it would become a full industrial site again. Councillor Ball asked Mr Willcox if he thought this was appropriate, in the context of Clutton Parish Council and Clutton residents trying to cut down on HGV movements through the village. Mr Willcox responded that the industrial site was still active; policy would not permit development until the site had been inactive for 2 years. Councillor Doug Deacon asked whether further development would not lead to urban sprawl in years to come. Mr Willcox responded that was not the case. The green belt had been introduced to prevent Bristol, Bath, Saltford and Keynsham from merging which had not happened and what he was calling for was modest development. Mr Willcox's statement was referred for consideration to the Cabinet Member for Homes and Planning. [A copy of the statement is available on the Minute book.]
- Peter Duppa-Miller made a statement regarding the Corporate Plan and assured Council that the Parish and Town Councils were most eager to continue to work in partnership with the Council to pursue and achieve the objectives of the Corporate Plan. [Mr Duppa-Miller made his statement when

the item was reached. A copy of Mr Duppa-Miller's statement is available on the Minute book.]

- Peter Duppa-Miller made a further statement regarding the new Standards regime. He welcomed the fact that the Council will continue to hold the Register of Interests for, and deal with complaints made against, Parish and Town Councillors. He added that discussions were ongoing regarding the Code of Conduct that Parish and Town Councils would adopt, which would be broadly similar to the B&NES one. [Mr Duppa-Miller made his statement when the item was reached. A copy of Peter's statement is available on the Minute book.]
- Adrian Inker presented a petition of over 560 signatures calling for the introduction of free 2 hour parking in Keynsham Town Centre in order to make it a more attractive destination for shoppers and thereby improving the viability of the local shops. Speaking in support of the petition, Mr Inker added that there had been a street stall in the High street and conversations with residents demonstrated their general concern about the effect of the redevelopment and in particular the loss of free parking spaces behind the Town Hall. Councillor John Bull asked whether Adrian Inker considered it was a good start to reinstate the free 30 minute spaces which had been lost. Mr Inker responded that it was right to do something as soon as possible. The petition was referred to the Cabinet Member for Transport.

32 CORPORATE PLAN 2012 - 2015

The Council considered a report seeking approval for the Corporate Plan 2012 – 2015.

Councillor Paul Crossley introduced the report and commended the report to Council as the vision through to 2015.

On a motion from Councillor Paul Crossley, seconded by Councillor Nathan Hartley, it was

RESOLVED that the Bath & North East Somerset Corporate Plan 2012 – 2015 be approved for publication.

33 ADOPTION OF NEW POWERS UNDER SCHEDULE 3 TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982

The Council considered a report inviting them to consider the written submissions and points raised by those involved in the consultation on the Sexual Entertainment Venue policy, the content of the policy and to adopt legislation to enable greater regulatory control.

In introducing the report, Councillor Dixon pointed out 2 small amendments that would be made to the final version; amending the date in the title to read '2012' and including a condition for 2 SIA registered door staff at premises.

On a motion from Councillor David Dixon, seconded by Councillor Gerry Curran, it was

RESOLVED

1. To adopt Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982;
2. To adopt the Sexual Entertainment Venue policy, provided in Annex B; and
3. To delegate authority to the Licensing Committee to determine applications for new licences.

34 NEW STANDARDS REGIME

The Council considered a report which introduced to Members a new Code of Conduct and rules for registration of interests. Members were invited to adopt the Code. During the debate, Members acknowledged the valuable contribution of the independent Members.

On a motion from Councillor Paul Crossley, seconded by Councillor Nigel Roberts, it was

RESOLVED that the Code of Conduct be approved.

35 2011/12 TREASURY OUTTURN

The Council considered the 2011/12 Treasury Management Annual report, which gives details against the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Plan for 2011/12.

On a motion from Councillor David Bellotti, seconded by Councillor Paul Crossley, it was

RESOLVED

1. To note the 2011/12 Treasury Management Annual report to 31st March 2012, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice; and
2. To note the 2011/12 actual Treasury Management Indicators.

36 RESOURCES PDS PANEL REPORT ON REVIEW OF 2011 LOCAL ELECTIONS

This report presents the findings of the Resources Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel following a review of the recent local government elections. The report was presented by Councillor John Bull, Chair of the Panel.

On a motion from Councillor John Bull, seconded by Councillor Manda Rigby, it was

RESOLVED

1. Electoral Services could identify wards with care/residential homes and contact them to find how if/when any of their residents were planning to vote at their local polling station and then speak to relevant Presiding Officers to ensure that all their additional support needs are met in a timely and appropriate manner.
2. Training for Poll Clerks/Presiding Officers should include how to deal sensitively with voters who require additional support.
3. The Council's website could be utilised to provide a link to the Electoral Commission's 'How to Stand as an Electoral Candidate' permanently rather than just in the run up to an election.
4. The Council, through Electoral Services, should capture feedback from new candidates to find out whether additional information could be provided in future.
5. The Council should seek clarification and guidance from the Council's Monitoring Officer on signing of nominations, which could provide a better understanding for new candidates and help to improve the process.
6. The Council should write to the Electoral Commission asking them to ensure that the verification procedure for any future referendums does not slow up the counting process or declaration of results.
7. At the count, candidates and agents should be told by the Deputy Returning Officer at the counting centre which counting system is going to be used and kept informed of how the count is going at each stage of the process
8. Electoral Services should investigate the options suggested for future polling stations at Keynsham East and Midsomer Norton.
9. Electoral Services should consider whether Timsbury or Wellow have the facilities to host the counts for Bathavon West and Bathavon South
10. Electoral Services to undertake future research in order to identify the different languages spoken in our Local Authority area and the impact that this may have on their voting experience.

37 FREE SHORT -STAY PARKING IN KEYNSHAM

A motion was presented on behalf of the Conservative group regarding free short-stay parking in Keynsham.

On a motion from Councillor Marie Longstaff, seconded by Councillor Kate Simmons, it was

RESOLVED

1. to request that Cabinet investigate and seek to implement, on a trial basis throughout the Keynsham Town Centre redevelopment, two hours' free

parking at Ashton Way car park. Such arrangement to be alongside the creation of a number of chargeable long-stay parking spaces at Ashton Way car park, so as to reduce parking pressure on nearby residential roads and mitigate the cost of free short-stay parking; and

2. to request that, in addition, Cabinet takes immediate action to ensure that the free 30 minute spaces which will be lost as part of the redevelopment of the Town Hall site are reinstated elsewhere in a central part of the town.

[Note 1: The above wording in resolution 2 was proposed by the Labour group and accepted by the mover and seconder of the motion, thereby becoming part of the substantive motion.]

38 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were no items from Councillors.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services

Statements from Peter Duppa-Miller

(Secretary, B&NES Local Councils Association and Clerk to Combe Hay Parish Council)

Agenda item 8 -

I am speaking as the Secretary of the B&NES Local Councils Association.

I refer to the third paragraph of the Introduction of the Corporate Plan 2012 to 2015.

The Local Councils Association wishes to assure Council that the Parish and Town Councils are most eager to continue to work in partnership with the Council to pursue and to achieve the objectives of the Corporate Plan.

Agenda item 10 -

I am speaking as the Secretary of the B&NES Local Councils Association.

Referring to paragraph 3.1 of the report, the Local Councils are most grateful that the Council will hold the relevant Registers of Interests and will deal with any complaints made against Parish and Town Councillors.

Referring to the report's Appendix, which concerns the Code of Conduct and the Registering of Interests, I wish to make the point that discussions with the Monitoring Officer are continuing, in order to establish the exact wording of very similar documents which will be adopted by all the Parish and Town Councils in North East Somerset.

This page is intentionally left blank

On Dec 2nd 2010 at the Full Council meeting I voted in support of the Core Strategy; but spoke passionately about my one reservation; the need to allocate more housing to as many as possible of the 47 villages of Bath and North East Somerset. My concerns were that all villages should have a trickle of development, to sustain villages and prevent decline associated with high prices ageing communities and declining household size.

As the then Ward Councillor of Clutton I gave an example. Clutton has grown from 120 houses at the time of the Earl of Warwick estate sale's in 1920 and 1945, to which were added 130 local authority homes in the late 50's and 60's. Today the village has around 620 houses, an increase of around 360 homes over my lifetime, or 6 houses a year.

If all villages were allowed to expand by 1% then Clutton might receive 6 a year, Stanton Drew 4.5 a year and Chelwood .5 of a house. BaNES have about 25,000 houses in the rural area. If each village was allowed this modest expansion as a maximum, that would equate to 250 a year.

I fear that with a World Heritage Site, 76% Green belt, two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and numerous Conservation Areas, BaNES will never provide enough houses to satisfy the housing need. Brownfield employment sites cannot all be converted to housing. Nor can the Somer Valley communities or Keynsham and Whitchurch be expected to take all the overspill from the rural areas. The day will come when you will run out of sites, now is the time to place rural development as a priority aspect of the Core Strategy, where AoNB and, Green Belt policies do not prevent such development, as this is the only salvation to the problem.

Since the introduction of Town Planning in in 1947, all villages have expanded. Now is the time to commit to some further expansion as a positive contribution to an ever growing problem.

Steve Willcox

This page is intentionally left blank