

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 16th January, 2020

Present:- **Councillors** Rob Appleyard, Tim Ball, Sarah Bevan, Alison Born, Shelley Bromley, Neil Butters, Vic Clarke, Sue Craig, Paul Crossley, Gerry Curran, Chris Dando, Tom Davies, Sally Davis, Winston Duguid, Michael Evans, Andrew Furse, Kevin Guy, Alan Hale, Liz Hardman, Joel Hirst, Duncan Hounsell, Shaun Hughes, Eleanor Jackson, Grant Johnson, Dr Kumar, Matt McCabe, Hal MacFie, Ruth Malloy, Paul May, Sarah Moore, Robin Moss, Paul Myers, Lisa O'Brien, Michelle O'Doherty, Bharat Pankhania, June Player, Vic Pritchard, Manda Rigby, Dine Romero, Mark Roper, Richard Samuel, Bruce Shearn, Brian Simmons, Alastair Singleton, Shaun Stephenson-McGall, Sarah Warren, Karen Warrington, Andy Wait, Chris Watt, Ryan Wills, David Wood and Joanna Wright

Apologies for absence: **Councillors** Colin Blackburn, Jess David, Douglas Deacon, Mark Elliott, Steve Hedges, Lucy Hodge and Karen Walker

87 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair invited the Democratic Services Manager to announce the emergency evacuation procedure.

88 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests made.

89 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL OR FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chair reminded Councillors of the Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony on the 27th January at 5.30pm in the Guildhall and encouraged Members to attend.

90 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There were no items of urgent business.

91 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Statements were made by the following members of the public;

Sue Grimes, a resident and Parish Councillor on Publow with Pensford Parish Council, made a statement about the potential detrimental effect of further housing and transport infrastructure on the village of Pensford and the already busy A37. The statement can be read in full in the attachment to the minutes. In response to a question from Councillor Sarah Bevan about particular issues in her area, Ms Grimes responded that Pensford was a gateway into Bristol and a new Park and Ride would destroy the green belt in that area. Councillor Tim Ball explained that further work

would be done on these issues over the coming months and asked if Ms Grimes would be prepared to meet the relevant Cabinet members to discuss this. Ms Grimes responded that she would.

Kim Hicks, a resident of Whitchurch and member of the South Bristol Wrong Road Group, also spoke about her concerns of more housing in and around Whitchurch village. She queried the future of the Joint Local Transport Plan 4 and called for better cooperation for any future planning. The statement can be read in full in the attachment to the minutes. In response to the offer to meet with Cabinet Members already extended by Councillor Tim Ball, Ms Hicks responded that she would be happy to do so.

A statement from Jill Britten, a member of the Whitchurch Village Neighbourhood Plan and Whitchurch Village Action Group, was read by Ms Walsh as Ms Britten was unwell. In it, Ms Britten called for protection of the green belt and listed the reasons this area was not suitable for further large housing projects. She called for any future such plans to be discussed with the communities concerned. The statement can be read in full in the attachment to the minutes. Councillor Tim Ball extended the same invitation to meet to be passed to Ms Britten.

Mary Walsh, one of the founder members of the Whitchurch Village Action Group, made a statement calling for measures to make their village a safer place to live without fear of added pollution and more destruction of the precious Green Belt. She proposed smaller housing developments shared out more equally amongst villages. The statement can be read in full in the attachment to the minutes. Councillor Tim Ball extended the same invitation to meet, which was accepted by Ms Walsh.

Faye Dicker, founder of the South Bristol Wrong Road Group, addressed the Council about the housing proposals and the South Bristol Ring road. She expressed concern that those plans remained on the table. She highlighted positive cooperative work that had taken place with Bristol City Council and called on B&NES to engage in the same positive dialogue. The statement can be read in full in the attachment to the minutes. Councillor Tim Ball extended the same invitation to meet, which was accepted by Ms Dicker.

Alyson Lampard, a member of the Whitchurch Village Neighbourhood Planning team, welcomed the intervention of the inspectors but asked for reassurance that large-scale development will not take place without the appropriate infrastructure in place. She also called for better communication with residents for any future plans. The statement can be read in full in the attachment to the minutes. Councillor Tim Ball extended the same invitation to meet, which was accepted by Ms Lampard.

John Pierce, a Whitchurch Village Councillor, made a statement against the unrealistic plans of the JSP. He described their historic and stable community, surrounded by green belt but dissected by the busy and congested A37. He commented that plans for a ring road to add to the congestion and pollution were viewed with dismay. With regards to housing, Mr Pierce explained that new housing had already been accommodated and acknowledged that there was a national housing shortage, but any growth needed to be sustainable, realistic and based around existing transport networks so as not to further add to the global climate

emergency or local pollution from existing traffic levels. Councillor Tim Ball extended the same invitation to meet, which was accepted by Mr Pierce.

The Chair thanked all the speakers for their contributions which were referred to the relevant Cabinet members.

92 WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT SPATIAL PLAN

The Council considered a report seeking authorisation to withdraw the West of England Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) from examination.

On a motion from Councillor Tim Ball, seconded by Councillor Sally Davis, it was unanimously

RESOLVED to agree that;

1. The West of England Joint Spatial Plan (JSP), as submitted to the Secretary of State for examination in April 2018, should be withdrawn under regulation 27 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and in accordance with section 22(1) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

93 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were no items.

The meeting ended at 6.15 pm

Chair

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services