

## South Somerset District Council

**Minutes** of a meeting of the **Area North (Informal)** held by video-conference using Zoom meeting software on **Wednesday 15 December 2021**.

(2.00 pm - 2.30 pm)

### **Present:**

**Members:** Councillor Adam Dance (Chairman) (from 2.07pm)

Neil Bloomfield	Clare Paul
Louise Clarke	Crispin Raikes
Tim Kerley	Mike Stanton
Tiffany Osborne	Gerard Tucker



### **Others:**

Linda Vijeh

### **Officers:**

Adrian Moore	Locality Officer
Nicola Hix	Director (Support Services & Strategy)
Michelle Mainwaring	Case Officer (Strategy & Support Services)
Becky Sanders	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.*

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#### **42. Minutes (Agenda Item 1)**

*(Councillor Mike Stanton in the Chair due to late attendance by the Chairman, Councillor Adam Dance).*

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 September 2021 were approved as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman.

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#### **43. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 2)**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Malcolm Cavill, Mike Hewitson and Dean Ruddle.

The Chairman, Councillor Adam Dance was late joining the meeting due to technical issues.

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#### **44. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)**

Councillor Neil Bloomfield declared a personal interest as he was also a member of Somerset County Council.

**45. Date of next meeting (Agenda Item 4)**

Members noted the next meeting of Area North Committee was scheduled for Wednesday 26 January 2022 at 2.00pm, with meeting arrangements to be confirmed nearer the time.

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

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

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

The Chairman reminded everyone present that in order to enable members to continue holding remote, virtual meetings, Full Council agreed in April and July to amend Part 3 of the Council's Constitution to allow its remote meetings to function as consultative meetings and delegate decisions to the Chief Executive.

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**48. Reports From Members (Agenda Item 7)**

As appointed representatives on the Huish Episcopi Leisure Centre Board, Councillors Crispin Raikes and Tim Kerley provided a verbal update. They noted the Centre had been struggling due to the pandemic and so had moved to a private supplier. At the current time the directorship role in the future was unknown, and there was a need to come up with a way to protect our interests for the community. They would keep members updated.

*(Councillor Adam Dance in the Chair from 2.07pm.)*

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**49. Community Grant to Muchelney Parochial Church Council (Executive Decision) (Agenda Item 8)**

The Locality Officer presented the report which asked members to consider the awarding of a grant of £12,500 towards the 'Phase 1 Project': New All Ability Accessible Toilet at Muchelney Church. He advised members that three representatives for the project, Elizabeth Nightingale, Richard Tulloch and Dorothy Onslow were present in the meeting to address members and answer any questions.

The project representatives each spoke about the merits of the project and some of their comments included:

- Value of the grant, if approved, would be two-fold as other funders may be willing to support the project when a threshold of funding has already been secured.
- Project has been ongoing for several years as much work had been needed with design and permissions to get to this stage. The project will be of benefit to the community and is the first phase of a larger project to open up the church to wider use.
- The facilities would be for the whole community and not solely for use by the church.

Ward member, Councillor Mike Stanton, expressed his strong support for the well needed project and noted the group had worked very hard over the years to bring it forward to this stage. He proposed approval of the grant.

During a brief discussion members expressed their full support for the proposal and praised the group on their efforts. The Locality Officer and Director (Strategy and Support Services) responded to some points of detail raised, including:

- Grants could be awarded to churches where projects were opening facilities to the wider community.
- Due the Local Government Reorganisation it was unclear at the current time what the future arrangements were likely to be regarding grant funding for community projects. The Director noted she would make some enquiries.
- The planning approval relating to the project was believed to still be within time limits.

The proposal to approve the grant as per the officer recommendation was seconded, and on being put to the vote was carried unanimously. The Chairman congratulated the group on their achievements to date.

**RESOLVED:** That Area North Committee recommend to the Chief Executive that a grant of £12,500 be awarded to Muchelney Parochial Church Council, the grant to be allocated from the Area North capital programme and subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (appendix A).

**Reason:** To consider the awarding of a grant towards the 'Phase 1 Project': New All Ability Accessible Toilet at Muchelney Church.

*(Voting: Unanimous)*

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**50. Area North Forward Plan (Agenda Item 9)**

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

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**51. Planning Appeals (for information) (Agenda Item 10)**

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

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Chairman