

South Somerset District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **South Somerset District Council** held on **Thursday 22 February 2018** in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

(7.30 pm - 8.15 pm)

Present:

Members: Councillor Mike Best (Chairman)
Councillor Tony Capozzoli (Vice-Chairman)

Clare Aparicio Paul	Andy Kendall	David Recardo
Cathy Bakewell	Jenny Kenton	Dean Ruddle
Neil Bloomfield	Mike Lewis	Sylvia Seal
Amanda Broom	Sarah Lindsay	Gina Seaton
Dave Bulmer	Mike Lock	Peter Seib
Hayward Burt	Tony Lock	Angie Singleton
John Clark	Paul Maxwell	Alan Smith
Adam Dance	Graham Middleton	Sue Steele
Sarah Dyke	Graham Oakes	Rob Stickland
Nigel Gage	Sue Osborne	Gerard Tucker
Carol Goodall	Tiffany Osborne	Andrew Turpin
Peter Gubbins	Stephen Page	Linda Vijeh
Henry Hobhouse	Ric Pallister	William Wallace
Kaysar Hussain	Crispin Raikes	Colin Winder
Val Keitch	Wes Read	Derek Yeomans

Officers:

Alex Parmley	Chief Executive
Netta Meadows	Director (Strategy & Commissioning)
Angela Watson	Monitoring Officer
Paul Fitzgerald	Section 151 Officer
Nicola Hix	Lead Specialist (Finance)
Charlotte Jones	People, Performance & Change Lead
Angela Cox	Democratic Services Specialist

106. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jason Baker, Marcus Barrett, Mike Beech, Nick Colbert, Gye Dibben, John Field, Anna Groskop, David Norris, Jo Roundell Greene, Garry Shortland, Martin Wale and Nick Weeks.

107. Minutes (Agenda Item 2)

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2018, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

108. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

Councillor John Clark declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 8: 2018/19 Revenue and Capital Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan, recommendation e, relating to the capital bid for funding for the Westfield Community Centre, Yeovil due to his involvement in the bid. He confirmed that he would abstain from voting on this item.

109. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 4)

Mr M Keating asked if SSDC condoned the abstaining from voting of Liberal Democrat Councillors at the Somerset County Council meeting the previous day on the provision of schools across Somerset.

The Leader of Council responded that it was not a matter for SSDC.

Mr G Czapiewski asked if the requirement to license trailers and twin-axel trailers delivering waste to Household Waste Recycling Centres had increased fly-tipping in the area? He also asked for an indication of the cost of clearing fly-tipping for 2015/16, 2016/17 and a forecast for 2017/18 and whether there had been any resultant increase in recycling? He further asked if there had been any prosecutions for fly-tipping.

The Leader of Council noted that he had already been in email correspondence with Mr Czapiewski and said that his questions would be directed to the Somerset Waste Partnership for a full response at a meeting to be held the following day. He listed the number of fly-tipping incidences which had occurred each year since 2011 and acknowledged there had been an increase which coincided with the introduction of licenses for trailers taking waste to the Household Waste Recycling Centres.

110. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 5)

The Leader of Council advised that SSDC would be phasing out the use of single use plastics where it was within the Council's control and they would be encouraging other organisations to do the same.

The Leader of Council also referred to a recent email message received by all Members and confirmed that SSDC had a policy in place which banned the releasing of Chinese lanterns and helium balloons from SSDC land. He said the Duchy of Cornwall land in the area had a similar policy in place.

111. Chairman's Engagements (Agenda Item 6)

The list of Chairman's engagements were noted.

112. SSDC Council Action Plan 2018-19 (Agenda Item 7)

The Leader of Council advised that although the Council Plan remained largely the same, the Annual Action Plan had been considered by all Members and refreshed and covered those projects specific to the year. He was hopeful the Yeovil Innovation Centre extension would be completed within the year and confirmed the regeneration of Chard and Wincanton were a priority.

During discussion, it was noted that it had been agreed to add a reference to agriculture to the Council Plan at the District Executive meeting. The Leader of Council noted the difficulty in listing a sector rather than an identifiable business and after some debate it was agreed to add reference to land based and rural businesses to the Annual Action Plan.

At the conclusion of the debate, Members were content to approve the Council Plan, Annual Action Plan and key performance indicators for 2018-19 (Appendix A,B, and D) (as amended) and to note the remaining recommendations of the report.

RESOLVED: That Full Council agreed to:-

- a. approve the Council Plan, Annual Action Plan and key performance indicators for 2018-19 (Appendix A,B, and D) (as amended);
- b. note the detailed measures, targets and milestones for each Priority Project (Appendix C);
- c. note the monitoring arrangements as set out in section 5.3 of section 5.3 of the report.

Reason: To approve the South Somerset District Council (SSDC) Council Plan and Annual Action Plan 2018-19, together with a revised set of Key Performance Indicators.

(Voting: unanimous in favour)

113. 2018/19 Revenue and Capital Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan (Agenda Item 8)

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Legal Services thanked the finance team for preparing a clear budget report and for answering Members questions at the Scrutiny Committee meeting. He advised that a balanced budget was proposed with no cuts to services despite significant funding cuts. He referred to the efficiencies gained in Transformation and the income from the commercial strategy. He proposed the £5 increase in Council Tax for the year and noted that SSDC provided over 50 services to the community for £3.08 per week which he said was value for money.

Councillor Neil Bloomfield asked what the impact would have been on the budget if the Council had not agreed a 1.9% reduction in Council Tax in 2015? The Leader of Council said that a written reply would be provided.

In response to questions from Members, the Section 151 Officer advised that in the Treasury Management report on page 126 of the Agenda, there was a projection of the Council's need to borrow. Depending on the progress of capital investment, if cash reserves were used first then SSDC would need to borrow to support capital spending in 2019.

At the conclusion of the debate, the recommendations were proposed and seconded and a named vote was taken. Members were content to approve the Revenue Budget for 2018/19 and the Council Tax increase and remaining recommendations of the report.

RESOLVED: That Full Council agreed to:-

- a. approve the Net Revenue Budget for 2018/19 of **£16.483m**, as set out in the Budget Requirement Estimates (paragraph 22, Table 3a) and detailed in Appendix A for the District Executive and four Area Committees;
- b. approve the 2018/19 Council tax increase of £5, increasing the annual Band D basic rate by 3.18% to £162.48; and notes this total basic rate comprises £160.63 for SSDC services and £1.85 for the Somerset Rivers Authority;
- c. approve the transfer of £468k from earmarked reserve balances to assist with the shortfall on the Transformation budget, as detailed in Table 10, paragraphs 52 and 53, and note the remaining balances;
- d. approve the additions to the Capital Programme for new capital bids of £1.987m as shown in Appendix E;
- e. note the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement and Capital Prudential Indicators as attached at Appendix H.

Reason: To approve the proposed Budget and Council Tax for 2018/19.

(Voting: 46 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention)

		For	Against	Abstain
1	CLARE APARICIO PAUL	x		
2	JASON BAKER	Absent		
3	CATHY BAKEWELL	x		
4	MARCUS BARRETT	Absent		
5	MIKE BEECH	Absent		
6	MIKE BEST	x		
7	NEIL BLOOMFIELD	x		
8	AMANDA BROOM	x		
9	DAVE BULMER	x		
10	HAYWARD BURT	x		
11	TONY CAPOZZOLI	x		
12	JOHN CLARK			x
13	NICK COLBERT	Absent		
14	ADAM DANCE	x		

		For	Against	Abstain
15	GYE DIBBEN	Absent		
16	SARAH DYKE	x		
17	JOHN FIELD	Absent		
18	NIGEL GAGE	x		
19	CAROL GOODALL	x		
20	ANNA GROSKOP	Absent		
21	PETER GUBBINS	x		
22	HENRY HOBHOUSE	x		
23	KAYSAR HUSSEIN	x		
24	VAL KEITCH	x		
25	ANDY KENDALL	x		
26	JENNY KENTON	x		
27	MICHAEL LEWIS	x		
28	SARAH LINDSAY	x		
29	MIKE LOCK	x		
30	TONY LOCK	x		
31	PAUL MAXWELL	x		
32	SAM MCALLISTER	Absent		
33	GRAHAM MIDDLETON	x		
34	DAVID NORRIS	Absent		
35	GRAHAM OAKES	x		
36	SUE OSBORNE	x		
37	TIFFANY OSBORNE	x		
38	STEPHEN PAGE	x		
39	RIC PALLISTER	x		
40	CRISPIN RAIKES	x		
41	WES READ	x		
42	DAVID RECARDO	x		

		For	Against	Abstain
43	JO ROUNDELL GREENE	Absent		
44	DEAN RUDDLE	x		
45	SYLVIA SEAL	x		
46	GINA SEATON	x		
47	PETER SEIB	x		
48	GARRY SHORTLAND	Absent		
49	ANGIE SINGLETON	x		
50	ALAN SMITH	x		
51	SUE STEELE	x		
52	ROB STICKLAND	x		
53	GERARD TUCKER	x		
54	ANDREW TURPIN	x		
55	LINDA VIJEH	x		
56	MARTIN WALE	Absent		
57	WILLIAM WALLACE	x		
58	NICK WEEKS	Absent		
59	COLIN WINDER	x		
60	DEREK YEOMANS	x		

114. Council Tax Setting 2018/19 (Agenda Item 9)

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Legal Services advised that at paragraph 9 in the report, a minor error had been identified in column G in the table. The figure should read 1,859.98 and not 1,859.99. This had been corrected on the website.

In response to a question the Monitoring Officer confirmed that Council Standing Orders 16.4A stated that, immediately after any vote was taken at a budget decision meeting of the Council there must be recorded in the minutes of that meeting the names of the Members who cast a vote for or against the decision or who abstained from voting.

A recorded vote was taken and Members unanimously approved the formal council tax resolutions and individual tax settings for 2018/19.

RESOLVED: That Full Council agreed to:-

- a. approve the formal council tax resolutions referred to in paragraphs 6 to 15;
- b. approve the individual tax settings as follows:
- i. that the **Somerset County Council; Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset and Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority** has stated that amounts shown in paragraphs 9 to 12 respectively of this report in precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Act 1992 (as amended), for each of the categories of dwelling:
 - ii. that the **total amount** of council tax for each band of property in the South Somerset area for 2018/19 be as given in the table below:

A-	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
906.92	1,088.30	1,269.69	1,451.09	1,632.46	1,995.23	2,358.00	2,720.77	3,264.92

NB The above figures exclude all **town/parish precepts** and assume that the figures provided by Somerset County Council and Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue are approved at their full Council meetings on 21st February and 16th February 2018 respectively. If any changes are required they will be reported to the meeting. Police & Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset approved their figures on the 1st February 2018

- iii. that, having calculated the totals of each precepting authority's amounts (including town and parish precepts), The Council (in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Act 1992) (as amended) hereby sets the amounts shown at **TOTAL** in the table shown at Appendix A as the council taxes for the financial year 2018/19 for each category of dwelling.
- c. note that if the formal Council Tax Resolution is approved, the total Band D Council Tax as follows:

	2017/18 £	2018/19 £	Increase %
South Somerset District Council	157.48	162.48	3.18
Somerset County Council	1,082.36	1,115.99	5.99
Somerset County Council (Adult Social Care)	42.43	76.17	
Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset	181.81	193.81	6.60
Devon And Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority	81.57	84.01	2.99%
	1,545.65	1,632.46	5.62%
Town and Parish Council (average)	87.73	87.15	-0.66%

	1,630.38	1,719.61	5.47%
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Reason: To approve the final council tax resolutions for 2018/19.

(Voting: unanimous in favour)

		For	Against	Abstain
1	CLARE APARICIO PAUL	x		
2	JASON BAKER	Absent		
3	CATHY BAKEWELL	x		
4	MARCUS BARRETT	Absent		
5	MIKE BEECH	Absent		
6	MIKE BEST	x		
7	NEIL BLOOMFIELD	x		
8	AMANDA BROOM	x		
9	DAVE BULMER	x		
10	HAYWARD BURT	x		
11	TONY CAPOZZOLI	x		
12	JOHN CLARK	x		
13	NICK COLBERT	Absent		
14	ADAM DANCE	x		
15	GYE DIBBEN	Absent		
16	SARAH DYKE	x		
17	JOHN FIELD	Absent		
18	NIGEL GAGE	x		
19	CAROL GOODALL	x		
20	ANNA GROSKOP	Absent		
21	PETER GUBBINS	x		
22	HENRY HOBHOUSE	x		
23	KAYSAR HUSSEIN	x		
24	VAL KEITCH	x		
25	ANDY KENDALL	x		

		For	Against	Abstain
26	JENNY KENTON	x		
27	MICHAEL LEWIS	x		
28	SARAH LINDSAY	x		
29	MIKE LOCK	x		
30	TONY LOCK	x		
31	PAUL MAXWELL	x		
32	SAM MCALLISTER	Absent		
33	GRAHAM MIDDLETON	x		
34	DAVID NORRIS	Absent		
35	GRAHAM OAKES	x		
36	SUE OSBORNE	x		
37	TIFFANY OSBORNE	x		
38	STEPHEN PAGE	x		
39	RIC PALLISTER	x		
40	CRISPIN RAIKES	x		
41	WES READ	x		
42	DAVID RECARDO	x		
43	JO ROUNDELL GREENE	Absent		
44	DEAN RUDDLE	x		
45	SYLVIA SEAL	x		
46	GINA SEATON	x		
47	PETER SEIB	x		
48	GARRY SHORTLAND	Absent		
49	ANGIE SINGLETON	x		
50	ALAN SMITH	x		
51	SUE STEELE	x		
52	ROB STICKLAND	x		
53	GERARD TUCKER	x		

		For	Against	Abstain
54	ANDREW TURPIN	x		
55	LINDA VIJEH	x		
56	MARTIN WALE	Absent		
57	WILLIAM WALLACE	x		
58	NICK WEEKS	Absent		
59	COLIN WINDER	x		
60	DEREK YEOMANS	x		

115. **SSDC Constitution (Agenda Item 10)**

The Monitoring Officer advised that since the loss of Ian Clarke there was a shortage of officers authorised to sign contracts and deeds on behalf of the Council. She proposed appointing the 3 Directors and herself as well as the Chief Executive to act as Proper Officers for the Council.

There was no debate and Members were content to approve the appointment of Proper Officers for the Council as proposed.

RESOLVED: That Full Council agreed that the following posts be appointed to act as Proper Officers for the Council and be authorised to execute certain documents under the Council's seal in addition to the Chief Executive:

- Director – Strategy & Commissioning
- Director – Service Delivery
- Director – Commercial Services
- Lead Specialist – Legal

Reason: To appoint certain officers as Proper Officers for the Council and also to ensure that certain documents are executed under the Council's seal.

(Voting: unanimous in favour)

116. **Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy 2018/19 (Agenda Item 11)**

The Chairman of the Audit Committee advised that the Treasury Management Strategy Statement detailed how SSDC currently borrowed money and the Council's treasury advisers, Arlingclose, had conditioned future commercial property investment.

In response to a question, the Leader of Council and the Chief Executive confirmed that the vendor of one property investment had insisted upon commercial confidentiality for a

period after the purchase date as it may have affected other business they were transacting.

At the conclusion of the debate, Members were content to approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy for 2018/19.

RESOLVED: That Full Council approved the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy for 2018/19 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

Reason: To approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy for 2018/19.

(Voting: 43 in favour, 0 against, 4 abstentions)

117. Membership of Committees - Appointment of New Councillor to Scrutiny Committee (Agenda Item 12)

The Portfolio Holder for Democratic Services advised that due to work commitments, Councillor Paul Maxwell had stepped down from the Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Mike Lock was proposed to replace him.

There was no debate and Members were content to approve the appointment of Councillor Mike Lock to the Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED: That Full Council, in accordance with Section 16 (1) Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the duty therein to give effect to the wishes of the political group to which seats on any committee are allocated, confirmed that:-

1. Councillor Mike Lock be appointed to the Scrutiny Committee.

Reason: To confirm a change to the Scrutiny Committee appointments following the appointment of Councillors to various committees and working groups at Council on 18th May 2017.

(voting: unanimous in favour)

118. Report of Executive Decisions (Agenda Item 13)

The report of Executive Decisions was noted.

119. Audit Committee (Agenda Item 14)

Councillor Derek Yeomans, Chairman of the Audit Committee, presented the report of the Committee.

The report of the Audit Committee was noted.

120. Scrutiny Committee (Agenda Item 15)

Councillor Sue Steele, Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, presented the report of the Committee. She welcomed Councillor Mike Lock to the Committee.

The report of the Scrutiny Committee was noted.

121. Motions (Agenda Item 16)

There were no Motions submitted by Members.

122. Questions Under Procedure Rule 10 (Agenda Item 17)

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.

123. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 18)

Members noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Full Council would take place on **Thursday, 15th March 2018** in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil **commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

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Chairman

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Date