

South Somerset District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **South Somerset District Council** held on **Thursday 17 January 2019** in the Council Chamber - Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

(7.30 - 8.10 pm)

Present:

Members: Councillor Tony Capozzoli (Chairman)
Councillor Ric Pallister (Vice-Chairman)

Clare Paul	Val Keitch	Dean Ruddle
Jason Baker	Andy Kendall	Sylvia Seal
Marcus Barrett	Jenny Kenton	Gina Seaton
Neil Bloomfield	Mike Lewis	Peter Seib
Dave Bulmer	Sarah Lindsay	Garry Shortland
Hayward Burt	Tony Lock	Angie Singleton
John Clark	Paul Maxwell	Alan Smith
Nick Colbert	Graham Middleton	Sue Steele
Adam Dance	David Norris	Rob Stickland
Sarah Dyke	Sue Osborne	Andrew Turpin
Nigel Gage	Tiffany Osborne	Linda Vijeh
Carol Goodall	Stephen Page	Nick Weeks
Anna Groskop	Crispin Raikes	Colin Winder
Peter Gubbins	David Recardo	Derek Yeomans
Henry Hobhouse	Jo Roundell Greene	

Officers:

Alex Parmley	Chief Executive
Netta Meadows	Director (Strategy & Support Services)
Martin Woods	Director (Service Delivery)
Angela Watson	Monitoring Officer
Paul Fitzgerald	Section 151 Officer
Barbie Markey	Acting Housing & Welfare Manager
Ian Potter	Lead Specialist (Vulnerable Customers)
Jo Gale	Scrutiny Specialist
Angela Cox	Democratic Services Specialist

At the beginning of the meeting the Chairman asked everyone present to stand and observe a minute of silence, in memory of the late Lord Paddy Ashdown, past MP for the Yeovil Constituency.

76. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 1)

The Chairman asked that, in the absence of the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Ric Pallister act as Vice-Chairman for the meeting. Members were in agreement with this.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cathy Bakewell, Mike Beech, Mike Best, Amanda Broom, Gye Dibben, John Field, Kaysar Hussein, Mike Lock, Graham Oakes, Wes Read, Gerard Tucker, Martin Wale and William Wallace.

77. Minutes (Agenda Item 2)

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 13th December 2018, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as correct records of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

78. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

79. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 4)

A resident of Yeovil asked if the Council had any civil contingency plans in case of civil unrest following Brexit?

The Leader of Council confirmed that the Council was currently refreshing its contingency plans and would work in partnership with the police and other emergency services if the situation arose.

80. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 5)

The Chairman advised that the presentation by the Acting Housing and Welfare Manager on the SSDC Rough Sleeper Service would be recorded for future training purposes.

He also reminded Members that the next Council meeting would be held on Tuesday 26th February 2019 starting at 7.30pm.

81. Chairman's Engagements (Agenda Item 6)

The list of Chairman's engagements were noted.

82. Presentation on the SSDC Rough Sleeper Service (Agenda Item 7)

The Acting Housing and Welfare Manager provided a short presentation on the homeless service in South Somerset and the support available to vulnerable homeless people. She explained about the Pathways Hostel and the Tenant Accreditation Scheme which they operated to help homeless people to understand maintaining their tenancy, budgeting, shopping and other issues to help them access their own accommodation. She also explained the outreach worker who was part of the National Streetlink scheme and the referrals they received from staff at Lufton depot who were working early morning in town. She concluded that it was not always easy to accommodate her client group because of pets, violence or drug habits and not all wished to go into the Pathways hostel or other housing but everyone deserved a home.

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture, Housing and Welfare thanked the Acting Housing and Welfare Manager for her dedication to the vulnerable people she assisted.

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee advised that regular updates on the homeless service were provided at the Portfolio Holder briefing sessions.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Chairman thanked the Acting Housing and Welfare Manager for attending and for her informative presentation.

Noted.

83. Council Tax Support Scheme 2019/20 (Agenda Item 8)

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Legal Services introduced the report and advised that this was an annual review conducted through a Scrutiny Task and Finish Group. He advised that there were two proposed changes to the 2019/20 scheme: to introduce a minimum weekly award of £0.50, and to introduce a £5.00 per week income change tolerance. He said they were not proposing to change the minimum payment of 15% as research from the National Policy Institute showed that increasing it impacted on collection rates. He proposed the recommendations be accepted.

Councillor Michael Lewis welcomed the year on year reduction in the number of Council Tax Support recipients and seconded the recommendations.

There was no debate and Members unanimously confirmed the proposed amendments to the 2019/20 Council Tax Support Scheme.

RESOLVED: That Full Council agreed:-

- a. the introduction of a minimum award value of £0.50 a week in line with Housing Benefit;
- b. the introduction of a £5 a week tolerance on income increases and decreases before it affects a Council Tax Support award;
- c. that personal allowances and premiums are updated in line with those for Housing Benefit;
- d. that non-dependent deductions are updated in line with the annual percentage increase in Council Tax;
- e. that the non-dependent income bands are increased by the same percentage as those applied to the national Council Tax Support scheme for pensioners;
- f. that the hardship scheme budget be set at £30,000 for the 2019/20 financial year;
- g. to note the recommendations of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group attached at Appendix 1;
- h. to note the scheme has been amended to reflect changes to the

Prescribed Requirements;

- i. that the 2019/20 Council Tax Support Scheme is adopted (published as a separate appendix);
- j. to note that the proposed Council Tax Support Scheme has been reflected within the overall Council Tax Base.

Reason: To confirm the proposed amendments to the Council Tax Support scheme for the 2019/20 financial year.

(Voting: unanimous in favour)

84. Appointment a new Member to represent SSDC on the Armed Forces Community Covenant (Agenda Item 9)

The Leader of Council proposed that Councillor Andrew Kendall be appointed to represent SSDC on the Armed Forces Community Covenant for the remainder of the Council year.

There was no other proposal and therefore Councillor Andrew Kendall was appointed to represent SSDC on the Armed Forces Community Covenant for the remainder of the Council year.

RESOLVED: That Full Council agreed to appoint Councillor Andrew Kendall to represent SSDC on the Armed Forces Community Covenant for the remainder of the Council year.

Reason: To agree to appoint a new a new Member to represent SSDC on the Armed Forces Community Covenant for the remainder of the Council year.

85. Changes to the Council's Constitution following the Local Government Boundary Commission Review - New Ward arrangements between Area North and East Committees (Agenda Item 10)

The Leader of Council introduced the report and advised that following the outcome of the Local Government Boundary Review (LGBR) a new three member ward had been created for Northstone / Ivelchester / St Michael's which had presented a problem as it crossed the SSDC administrative boundaries of Areas North and East. There was a need for the entire ward to be within one Area Committee for the purposes of Area Committee working and it was therefore proposed that the new ward be within Area East.

The Specialist – Democratic Services asked that the decision be amended to allow the Monitoring Officer to make the necessary changes to all other Ward names in the Council's Constitution as set out in the Electoral Changes Order.

Several Members expressed their disappointment that the geographically large ward had been created without prior notification or consultation and at the conclusion of the debate, Members agreed to confirm the recommendations of the report.

RESOLVED: That Full Council agreed to:-

- a. delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer to make the necessary changes to the Council's Constitution for the newly created Northstone / Ivelchester / St Michael's Ward (NIST) be wholly within Area East Committee for the purpose of Area Committee working from May 2019 and all other Ward name changes as set out in the Electoral Changes Order.
- b. agree that a briefing paper be issued to the Parish Councils within the new Ward to explain their amalgamation and the implications of representation in a 3 member Ward.

Reason: To confirm the amendment of the Council's Constitution for the new Northstone, Ivelchester, St Michaels Ward be encompassed within Area East for the purpose of Area working from May 2019 and all other Ward name changes as set out in the Electoral Changes Order.

(Voting: unanimous in favour)

86. Report of Executive Decisions (Agenda Item 11)

The report of executive decisions was noted.

87. Audit Committee (Agenda Item 12)

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

In response to a question, the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning (Place Making) confirmed that the Local Plan Review 2016-2036 Preferred Options for Consultation had been presented to the Area Committees and would be presented to District Executive on 7th February where there would be the opportunity to make further changes.

The report of the Audit Committee was noted.

88. Scrutiny Committee (Agenda Item 13)

Councillor Sue Steele, Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, presented the report of the Committee. In response to a question regarding the reporting of the Rural Allocations Policy, she advised that she would seek advice from the Strategy and Commissioning team.

The report of the Scrutiny Committee was noted.

89. Motions (Agenda Item 14)

There were no Motions submitted by Members.

90. Questions Under Procedure Rule 10 (Agenda Item 15)

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.

91. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 16)

Members noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Full Council would take place on **Tuesday, 26th February 2019** 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