

SWT Full Council

Tuesday, 6th September, 2022,
6.15 pm



Somerset West
and Taunton

The John Meikle Room - The Deane
House

Members: Hazel Prior-Sankey (Chair), Richard Lees (Vice-Chair), Ian Aldridge, Benet Allen, Lee Baker, Marcus Barr, Mark Blaker, Chris Booth, Sue Buller, Norman Cavill, Simon Coles, Dixie Darch, Hugh Davies, Tom Deakin, Dave Durdan, Kelly Durdan, Caroline Ellis, Habib Farbahi, Ed Firmin, Andrew Govier, Steve Griffiths, Roger Habgood, Andrew Hadley, Barrie Hall, John Hassall, Nicole Hawkins, Ross Henley, Marcia Hill, John Hunt, Dawn Johnson, Marcus Kravis, Sue Lees, Libby Lisgo, Mark Lithgow, Janet Lloyd, Dave Mansell, Andy Milne, Chris Morgan, Simon Nicholls, Craig Palmer, Derek Perry, Martin Peters, Andy Pritchard, Steven Pugsley, Mike Rigby, Francesca Smith, Federica Smith-Roberts, Vivienne Stock-Williams, Andrew Sully, Nick Thwaites, Anthony Trollope-Bellew, Ray Tully, Terry Venner, Sarah Wakefield, Danny Wedderkopp, Brenda Weston, Keith Wheatley, Loretta Whetlor and Gwil Wren

Agenda

1. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting of Full Council

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee.

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive and note any declarations of disclosable pecuniary or prejudicial or personal interests in respect of any matters included on the agenda for consideration at this meeting.

(The personal interests of Councillors and Clerks of Somerset County Council, Town or Parish Councils and other Local Authorities will automatically be recorded in the minutes.)

(Pages 7 - 16)

4. Public Participation

The Chair to advise the Committee of any items on which members of the public have requested to speak and advise those members of the public present of the details of the Council's public participation scheme.

For those members of the public who have submitted any questions or statements, please note, a three minute time limit applies to each speaker and you will be asked to speak before Councillors debate the issue.

We are now live webcasting most of our committee meetings and you are welcome to view and listen to the discussion. The link to each webcast will be available on the meeting webpage, but you can also access them on the [Somerset West and Taunton webcasting website](#).

5. To receive any communications or announcements from the Chair of the Council

6. To receive any communications or announcements from the Leader of the Council

7. To receive any questions from Councillors in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13

8. Constitution Update - Somerset wide Member Code of Conduct

(Pages 17 - 40)

This matter is the responsibility of the Leader of the Council, Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts.

The Committee on Standards in Public Life's report into Local Government Ethical Standards recommended that '*the Local Government Association (LGA) should create an updated model code of conduct, in consultation with representative bodies of councillors and officers of all tiers of local government*'. The Local Government Association (LGA) undertook consultation with local authorities and issued a Model Code of Conduct for Elected Members in May 2021.

Somerset County Council adopted the Model Code with effect from 6 May 2022 to support the transition towards the new Somerset Council. The District Council Monitoring Officers are taking reports to their members with a view to recommending adoption of the Code by end September 2022.

9. Constitution Update - Procedure for dealing with Standards Allegations

(Pages 41 - 66)

This matter is the responsibility of the Leader of the Council, Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts.

The opportunity has been taken to review the Council's arrangements for dealing with Standards Allegations as part of the Local Government Reorganisation work, in collaboration with the Monitoring Officers of the County and District Councils. The report proposes that if this is approved by the Council, that the Monitoring Officer will work with the LGR Governance Workstream to determine when this will be introduced.

10. Access to Information - Exclusion of the Press and Public

During discussion of the following items 11, 12 and 13 (Item 11 ONLY Appendix C & Items 12 & 13 in totality), it may be necessary to pass the following resolution to exclude the press and public having reflected on Article 13 13.02(e) (a presumption in favour of openness) of the Constitution. This decision may be required because consideration of this matter in public may disclose information falling within one of the descriptions of exempt information in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. The Full Council will need to decide whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption, outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Recommend that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the next three items of business (Item 11 Appendix C only) on the ground that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 respectively of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

11. Oake Woolaway Housing Refurbishments

(Pages 67 - 78)

This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Francesca Smith, Portfolio Holder for Housing

This report seeks Full Council approval for the refurbishment and associated works for ten Woolaway homes at Oake which are currently classified as defective non-traditional dwellings. Further approvals are also sought on approving a supplementary budget within the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme and a delegation to the s151 Officer to determine the optimum financing arrangements.

12. Asset Management Lease

(Pages 79 - 94)

This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Mike Rigby, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Planning and Transportation

This confidential report seeks Council approval to enter into a new lease agreement.

13. Heritage at Risk

(Pages 95 - 110)

This matter is the responsibility of Executive Cllr Mike Rigby, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Planning and Transportation

This confidential report contains further information and seeks Council approval for further steps in relation to its Heritage at Risk Programme.

14. Re-admittance of the Press and Public

15. Motion to declare a Learning Disability Emergency

(Pages 111 - 114)

To consider a Motion proposed by Councillor Mark Blaker, seconded by Councillor Loretta Whetlor.

The standard Motions Assessment Pro-forma document will FOLLOW.

16. To consider reports from Executive Councillors

(Pages 115 - 172)

Part I – To deal with written questions to the Executive.

Part II – To receive reports from the following Members of the Executive:-

- a) Councillor Federica Smith-Roberts – Leader of the Council
- b) Councillor Derek Perry – Deputy Leader & Sports, Parks, Leisure and Phosphates
- c) Councillor Benet Allen – Corporate Resources
- d) Councillor Christopher Booth – Community
- e) Councillor Caroline Ellis – Culture
- f) Councillor Dixie Darch – Climate Change
- g) Councillor Mike Rigby – Economic Development, Planning and Transportation
- h) Councillor Francesca Smith - Housing
- i) Councillor Andy Sully – Environmental Services
- j) Councillor Wakefield – Local Government Reorganisation

An Executive Councillor shall submit a report to an Ordinary Meeting of the Council as to current and future business of their portfolio for the information of and comment from the Council. Such reports are for discussion and comment only and no motion shall be put to the meeting as to any such item other than those closure motions described in Standing Order 5.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Pritchard', with a horizontal line underneath.

ANDREW PRITCHARD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Please note that this meeting will be recorded. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being recorded and webcast. You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018. Data collected during the recording will be retained in accordance with the Council's policy. Therefore unless you are advised otherwise, by entering the Council Chamber and speaking during Public Participation you are consenting to being recorded and to the possible use of the sound recording for access via the website or for training purposes. If you have any queries regarding this please contact the officer as detailed above.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to the discussions. There is time set aside at the beginning of most meetings to allow the public to ask questions. Speaking under "Public Question Time" is limited to 3 minutes per person in an overall period of 15 minutes. The Committee Administrator will keep a close watch on the time and the Chair will be responsible for ensuring the time permitted does not overrun. The speaker will be allowed to address the Committee once only and will not be allowed to participate further in any debate. Except at meetings of Full Council, where public participation will be restricted to Public Question Time only, if a member of the public wishes to address the Committee on any matter appearing on the agenda, the Chair will normally permit this to occur when that item is reached and before the Councillors begin to debate the item.

If an item on the agenda is contentious, with a large number of people attending the meeting, a representative should be nominated to present the views of a group. These arrangements do not apply to exempt (confidential) items on the agenda where any members of the press or public present will be asked to leave the Committee Room. Full Council, Executive, and Committee agendas, reports and minutes are available on our website: www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

The meeting room, including the Council Chamber at The Deane House are on the first floor and are fully accessible. Lift access to The John Meikle Room, is available from the main ground floor entrance at The Deane House. The Council Chamber at West Somerset House is on the ground floor and is fully accessible via a public entrance door. Toilet facilities, with wheelchair access, are available across both locations. An induction loop operates at both The Deane House and West Somerset House to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter. For further information about the meeting, please contact the Governance and Democracy Team via email: governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

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