

**SEDGEMOOR DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Sedgemoor District Council held at the Hollinsworth Hall,  
Canalside, Huntworth Lane, Bridgwater on Wednesday 29 March 2023 at 2.30pm.**

**Councillors** Alan Bradford (Chairman of Council)

**Present:**

Sue Barber, Alexia Bartlett, Anthony Betty, Brian Bolt, Hilary Bruce, Mike Caswell, Peter Clayton, John Cook-Woodman, Julie Cordiner, Polly Costello, Barrie Crow, Ian Dyer, Mike Facey, Bob Filmer, Paul Fineran, Andrew Gilling, Alex Glassford, Graham Godwin-Pearson, Tony Grimes, Phil Harvey, Alistair Hendry, Will Human, Janet Keen, Stuart Kingham, Liz Leavy, Rachel Lilley, Alan Matthews, Duncan McGinty, Lisa Methley, Mike Murphy, Julie Pay, Kathy Pearce, Bill Revans, Charlie Riches, Diogo Rodrigues, Liz Scott, Gill Slocombe, Brian Smedley and Gary Wong.

**47. APOLOGIES  
(Agenda Item 1)**

Apologies received from Cllrs Lance Duddridge, Li Gibson, Mark Healey, Tony Heywood, Liz Perry, Leigh Redman.

**48. MINUTES**

Members received the Minutes of the last meetings held on 11 October 2022 and 14 December 2022 and agreed that they were a correct record subject to an amendment on the 14 December 2022 meeting as Councillor Hilary Bruce was in attendance at the meeting.

**49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST  
(Agenda Item 3)**

**Agenda Items relating to Somerset County Council:**

The following members declared an Other Registrable Interest as they are members of Somerset County Council: Cllrs Bolt, Bruce, Clayton, Cook-Woodman, Duddridge, Filmer, Grimes, Healey, Murphy, Redman, Rodrigues and Smedley.

**Agenda Item 10 – HRA Budget Request for new Council homes**

Councillors Janet Keen and Kathy Pearce declared an Other Registrable Interest as they are on the board of Homes in Sedgemoor.

**50. CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS  
(Agenda Item 4)**

The Chairman led the Council in a minute's silence in memory for former Councillor Anne Fraser who had recently passed away, the Group Leaders and Deputy Leader all spoke on her service, commitment and help whilst she was a Councillor of Sedgemoor District Council.

The Chairman then presented a cheque to Rusty Road to Recovery which was his chosen charity during his term of office, the amount was for £1,345.12 and was raised through a number of events and raffles for which the Chairman thanked everyone for their support.

The Chairman then informed the Council of a number of events he had attended since the last meeting, these included:

- Holocaust Memorial service
- Army Presentation evening
- Somerset County Council Chair's Awards Evening
- Staff Bake Off & Quiz for the end of Sedgemoor events
- Thanksgiving Service held for current and former Councillors
- Axbridge Civic Service
- Presentation of grants to voluntary groups and to the Village Halls
- Official opening of Allstars Bowling at Northgate
- County-wide Thanksgiving Service at Wells Cathedral
- Service at Taunton for Somerset West and Taunton
- Sedgemoor District Council celebration event at Canalside for staff and Councillors
- Lastly there will be a time capsule and commemorative tree planted at Apex Park on 31 March 2023.

The Leader of the Council took the opportunity to thank the Chairman for his hard work over his term of office and to remind everyone that the recording of the celebration given by Clinton Rogers could be found on the intranet.

**51. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME  
(Agenda Item 5)**

No members of the public had registered to speak at this meeting.

**52. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EXECUTIVE & OTHER COMMITTEES  
(Agenda Item 6)**

**52.1 Bridgwater Tidal Barrier**

Recommendation from Executive held on 8 February 2023, there was no discussion and no questions were raised.

Proposed: Leader

Seconded: Cllr G Slocombe

The recommendations were unanimously supported.

**Resolved:**

- That the updated funding position including the use of CIL receipts to be noted and agreed and the Council's Infrastructure Funding Statement to be updated accordingly
- The Council re-endorses its support for the Bridgwater Tidal Barrier and associated down stream banks including a commitment to use all reasonable endeavours to secure appropriate match funding and continued partnership working with EA.
- That the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Infrastructure and Transport write to the Environment Agency setting out the Council's support.

**53.2 Capital Budget Update 2022/2023**

Recommendation from the Executive held on 8 February 2023. No questions were raised.

Proposed: Leader

Seconded: Cllr G Slocombe

The recommendations were unanimously supported.

**Resolved:**

To agree the revised capital budget requirements for 2022/23.

**53.3 Gender Pay Statement**

Recommendation from Audit and Standards Committee held on 13 February 2023. No questions were raised.

Proposed: Cllr Julie Pay

Seconded: Cllr Will Human

The recommendations were unanimously supported.

**Resolved:**

1. Approve, under the Equalities Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities), the Gender Pay Statement.
2. Publish the details by 30 March 2023 in accordance with the Regulations.

**53.4 Charity Street Collection Policy**

Recommendation from Licensing and General Purposes Committee held on 18 January 2023. There were no questions raised.

Proposed: Cllr Polly Costello

Seconded: Cllr Barrie Crow

The recommendations were unanimously supported.

**Resolved:**

To amend the Council's Charitable Collections Policy with the **removal** of article 21 (which forbids street collections in the town centres of Burnham-On-Sea, Cheddar or Bridgwater during the last week of the month).

**54. EXECUTIVE QUESTION TIME  
(Agenda Item 7)**

**Leader of Council (Cllr Duncan McGinty)**

No questions raised

**Deputy Leader & Inward Investment & Growth (Cllr Gill Slocombe)**

No questions raised

**Infrastructure & Transport (Cllr Mike Caswell)**

No questions raised

**Customer Access & Digital Delivery (Cllr Lance Duddridge)**

Due to technology issues no report had been received. However, Members were invited to email the Portfolio Holder if they had any questions relating to matters within his portfolio.

**Housing (Cllr Andrew Gilling)**

No questions raised

**Commercial & Asset Management (Cllr Mark Healey MBE)**

No questions raised

**Communities & Wellbeing (Cllr Janet Keen)**

No questions raised

**55. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN QUESTION TIME  
(Agenda Item 8)**

**Development Committee (Cllr Bob Filmer)**

No questions raised, the Leader of the Council thanked the Chairman of the committee Councillor Bob Filmer and the Portfolio Holder Councillor Gill Slocombe on their work over the years.

**Licensing & General Purposes Committee (Cllr Polly Costello)**

No questions raised.

**Corporate Scrutiny Committee (Cllr Brian Smedley)**

No questions raised.

**Community Scrutiny Committee (Cllr Hilary Bruce)**

No questions raised.

**56. MEMBERS QUESTION TIME  
(Agenda Item 9.1)**

None.

**57. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE  
(Agenda Item 9.2)**

The Leader confirmed that the meeting had been held to agree a number of issues before Sedgemoor District Council ended.

Cllr Bill Revans responded to a question from Cllr Human in respect of comments made ex-District Councillors on planning applications still in being processed and he confirmed that the Constitution of Somerset Council will treat those comments as from current Councillors.

**58. EXEMPT REPORTS**

**The public and press were requested to leave the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that it involves information which related to the financial or business affairs of the Council defined as exempt by paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).**

**59. HRA REQUEST FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW COUNCIL HOMES**

This was a recommendation from the Executive held on 20 March 2023, there were no questions raised.

Proposed: Leader

Seconded: Cllr Andrew Gilling

The recommendation was supported unanimously.

**RESOLVED:**

Conditional upon Somerset Council's agreement after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 and the granting of planning permission, to approve the scheme proposals and financial business case and recommend to Full Council to commit a budget for the construction of 11 new council homes as set out in this report.

**60. REQUEST FOR REDUNDANCIES**

Management Team in consultation with the portfolio holder approved the two redundancy requests detailed in this report under delegated authority. The amounts stated within the report is not within the budget and therefore is requested as a supplementary estimate. Although the redundancy requests were agreed by management team, the costs for one of the posts exceed £100,000 and in line with the Localism Act guidance this must be approved by Full Council.

Proposed: Leader

Seconded: Cllr Gill Slocombe

There were no questions and the recommendations were supported unanimously.

**RESOLVED:**

Members are requested to note the redundancies detailed in the report and approve:

- A supplementary estimate as requested within the exempt report to fund the costs of redundancy.
- Approve the redundancy for the specific post which exceeds £100,000 in line with the Localism Act guidance.

**Members voted to return to open session for the last item on the agenda.**

**61. CLOSING SPEECHES**

The Leaders of the 3 political groups, the Deputy Leader of Council, Chief Executive and Chairman of the Council all gave speeches on the life and times of the local authority and experiences of both the councillors and staff who had been part of the council. There were also thanks to the staff and best wishes for the future, especially to those continuing with the new authority.

The meeting ended at 15. 50pm.

**CHAIRMAN**