

MINUTES of the MEETING of the  
SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
held at Civic Offices, Civic Way, Swadlincote  
on 22nd January 2009  
at 6.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:-**

**Conservative Group**

Councillor Mrs. Hood (Chairman), Councillor Murray (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Atkin, Bale, Bladen, Mrs. Coyle, Mrs. Farrington, Ford, Grant, Harrison, Hewlett, Jones, Lemmon, Mrs. Patten, Mrs. Plenderleith, Roberts, Stanton, Timms, Watson, Mrs. Wheeler and Wheeler.

**Labour Group**

Councillors Bambrick, Dunn, Mrs. Gillespie, Mrs. Lane, Lane, Pabla, Rhind, Richards, Shepherd, Southerd, Taylor, Tilley and Wilkins.

**Independent Member**

Councillor Mrs. Brown.

**APOLOGY**

An apology for absence from the Meeting was received from Councillor Mrs. Mead (Labour Group).

CL/77. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 13th November 2008 (Minutes Nos. CL/62 - CL/74) were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

A Member referred to Minute No. CL/68, Reports of Committees and repeated a request for information on the Extra Care Housing Scheme. This was discussed and it was understood that the requested information had been provided. Related to this, it was questioned why other options had been discounted and the matter not brought before the Council. The Chairman of the Committee requested that the question be submitted in writing to Officers, so that a full response could be provided.

Under the same Minutes, another Member sought the indicative costs of the formal consultation as part of the transfer of the Housing Stock. This would be included in the report back to Members on this process.

CL/78. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Lemmon declared a prejudicial interest in respect of the Exempt report of the Standards Committee Meeting held on 18th December 2008, due to his involvement in a case. Councillor Atkin made similar declarations in respect of the Open and Exempt Minutes of the Standards Committee Meetings of 15th and 18th December 2008. Councillor Mrs. Brown declared

a possible prejudicial interest in respect of the Open and Exempt items on the receipt of committee reports and would wait to see if she needed to exit at the appropriate time.

Note: At 6.15 Councillor Taylor joined the Meeting.

CL/79. **SWADLINCOTE TOWN CENTRE STUDY AND MASTERPLAN PHASE 2: CHANGES TO THE DELPH**

A presentation was made by the Council's Design and Conservation Officer, comprising slides and photographs of the proposals for the second phase of the Masterplan. Members were reminded of the proposals approved originally in 2006 and Phase 1 was implemented by March 2008. Further background was provided as an appendix to the report. Several funding applications were currently under consideration for an ambitious three-year programme of work, encompassing the re-surfacing and other improvements to The Delph, West Street, Bank Passage and Ernest Hall Way. If these applications were successful, a total package of improvements would be implemented using growth point monies as match funding up to the value of £2.9million. This was a great opportunity to change the face of Swadlincote and demonstrate the Council's commitment to implementing the Masterplan. The Council was working again in partnership with Derbyshire County Council as the Highway Authority, with procurement linked to the Midlands Highway Alliance. The financial implications were reported and there were no direct capital costs, as all of the anticipated funding was external. In terms of maintenance, it was unlikely that any additional funding would be required over the next 3-5 year period. The community implications were also reported.

Questions were submitted about reviewing the town centre Traffic Orders, to extend the period that vehicles were not permitted to enter it. Further information was sought on the relocation of a telephone kiosk and it was questioned why an additional area of Wilmot Passage had not been included. A Member suggested a walk of the sites prior to a Council Meeting, later in the year. It was requested that when the financial issues were finalised, a report be submitted to the Finance and Management Committee. Officers confirmed that the scheme was time sensitive, but there was unlikely to be a cost for the District Council. Other Members spoke about the revised design of the town centre and its purpose for events and attracting trade. Several Members confirmed the need to get this scheme right. Reference was then made to the on-street market and the supply of power to market stalls. This issue was being discussed with market traders. The Council's Leader spoke of the process undertaken over the last few months, and the way forward on this initiative. Officers added that this scheme should be welcomed by all, particularly in the current economic climate, as it represented a tremendous investment.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the draft concept plans for Bank Passage and Ernest Hall Way be approved in principle and that the previously approved masterplan proposals for The Delph be amended, as set out in the report.***

CL/80. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reported on her engagements in the period leading up to Christmas, referring particularly to carol services, school visits and a cooking competition organised by the Scouts. Her engagements had included visits to three of the District's oldest residents. She reminded Members of the details for the Civic Dinner, a cheese and wine evening in aid of this year's nominated charities and provided details of the Charity Golf Competition, which would be held in May.

CL/81. **LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader of the Council reported on her attendance at a Crime and Disorder Partnership Meeting at the Government Office for the East Midlands. She also referred to the training courses available and encouraged Member attendance.

CL/82. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

In response to a question, the Chief Executive advised that a record was being prepared to commemorate the recent exchange visits, to mark the 10th Anniversary of twinning with Toyota City. Once this was completed, it would be brought to Members.

CL/83. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES****RESOLVED:-**

***That the Open reports of the following Committees be received and noted and any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted, subject to any matters annotated:-***

***Environmental and Development Services Committee, 20th November 2008 (Minutes Nos. EDS/23 – EDS/33)***

***Development Control Committee, 25th November 2008 (Minutes Nos. DC/53 - DC/56)***

***Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee, 26th November 2008 (Minute No. LAS/10)***

***Housing and Community Services Committee, 27th November 2008 (Minutes Nos. HCS/39 - HCS/46)***

***Finance and Management Committee, 4th December 2008 (Minutes Nos. FM/64 - FM/78)***

***Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 10th December 2008 (Minutes Nos. OS/22 – OS/31)***

***(Minute No. OS/30, Extra Care Housing Project – It was questioned why the request for a review of this area had not been accepted. The Chairman replied that there was a consensus amongst all but one Member that this matter should not be reviewed. It was felt by the questioner that this would have been a valuable area of scrutiny work.)***

**Standards Committee, 15th December 2008 (Minutes Nos. SC/23 – SC/25)**

*(The Chairman welcomed Dudley Williams, Independent Chairman of the Standards Committee to present the Minutes of the Standards Committee Meetings. Councillor Atkin left the Meeting for this item.)*

**Development Control Committee, 16th December 2008 (Minutes Nos. DC/58 – DC/64)**

*(It was suggested that Members undertake a tour of the District to see the outcome of the planning process and the resultant developments. It might also be possible to do a virtual tour.)*

**Note : At 6.55 p.m. Councillor Pabla left the Meeting.**

**Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee, 18th December 2008 (Minutes Nos. LAS/13 - LAS/14)**

**Standards Committee, 18th December 2008 (Minutes Nos. SC/27 – SC/35)**

*(Councillor Atkin left the Meeting for this item.)*

**Area Forums**

**Swadlincote, 6th November 2008 (Minutes Nos. SA/7 – SA/15)**

**Repton, 11th November 2008 (Minutes Nos. RA/10 – RA/18)**

CL/84. **SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

**RESOLVED:-**

*That the sealed documents listed at Annexe “SMB1” to the Signed Minute Book, which have no specific authority, be duly authorised.*

CL/85. **COMPOSITIONS OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PANELS**

**RESOLVED:-**

**(1) That Councillor Roberts replaces Councillor Mrs. Plenderleith on the Finance and Management Committee.**

**(2) That Councillor Southerd replaces Councillor Mrs. Mead on the Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee.**

Note: It was requested that Licensing training be provided for all Members of the Council.

CL/86. **COMPOSITION OF SUBSTITUTE PANELS**

There were no amendments to the composition of Substitute Panels.

CL/87. **REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES****RESOLVED:-**

***That Councillor Mrs. Patten be appointed as the Council's representative on the Hilton Harriers Football Club and its successor organisation.***

CL/88. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BASELINE ASSESSMENT**

It was reported that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held a focus session in May 2008. Amongst the documents considered, was a self-evaluation framework, which aimed to provide a mechanism for the Council to demonstrate the effectiveness of its Overview and Scrutiny function. A draft document had been considered by the Committee and the baseline assessment had then been finalised at its 10th December Meeting. A copy of the document was submitted for the Council's consideration.

A Member referred to the ability of Scrutiny to improve all areas of the Council, rather than having just an external focus.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That Council receives the Baseline Assessment from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.***

CL/89. **LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT/COMPREHENSIVE AREA AGREEMENT UPDATE**

A report was submitted to update Members on the changes relating to the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) of local authorities and the impact of the Derbyshire Local Area Agreement (LAA) on the delivery of local priorities for South Derbyshire. Initially, the report focused on the CAA, which was a new approach, providing the first independent assessment of the prospects for local areas and the quality of life for people living there. It would assess and report on how well public money was spent and ensure that public bodies were accountable for their quality and impact. The CAA would look at how well local services were working together to improve the quality of life for local people, making straightforward, independent information available. The CAA would be based on two assessments, the first being an organisational assessment which looked at managing performance and the use of resources. Secondly, there was a local area assessment for Derbyshire.

The report then looked at the Derbyshire LAA for the period 2008-11, which had been approved formally by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in June 2008. South Derbyshire was a partner in the LAA and the targets that it was responsible for were shown in an annexe to the report, together with the governance arrangements. The two key effects of formal approval of the LAA were also reported. This section of the report also addressed the duty to have regard to LAA targets, delivery planning and the annual review and refresh of the LAA. Other sections comprised communication, consultation and assessment including the Audit Commission criteria.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That Council notes the new framework for the Comprehensive Area Assessment.***
- (2) That Members receive the progress report on the Derbyshire Local Area Agreement, adopted in 2008.***

CL/90. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

**RESOLVED:-**

***That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined under the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as indicated in the reports of Committees.***

**MINUTES**

***The Exempt Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 13th November 2008 were duly received and approved.***

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

***The Exempt reports of the following Committees were received and noted and any recommendations contained therein, approved and adopted:-***

***Standards Committee, 15th December 2008***

***Standards Committee, 18th December 2008***

***Environmental and Development Services Committee, 20th November 2008***

***Development Control Committee, 25th November 2008***

***Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee, 26th November 2008***

***Housing and Community Services Committee, 27th November 2008***

***Finance and Management Committee, 4th December 2008***

***Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 10th December 2008***

***Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee, 18th December 2008***

MRS. A. HOOD

CHAIRMAN

