

WEST WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the: **WEST WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL (EXTRAORDINARY MEETING)**

Held on: **WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 2007**

Held at: **COUNCIL OFFICES, BRADLEY ROAD, TROWBRIDGE**

Present: Councillors Batchelor (Chairman), Brown, Bryant, Carbin, Chivers, J Clegg, M Clegg, Content, Cox, Cunliffe-Jones, Davis, Fortescue, Manasseh, March, Newbury, Oakman, Oldrieve, Osborn, Payne, Rosier, Swabey, Viles and While.

Officers: Chief Executive (AP), Principal Lawyer (AA-P), Senior Planning Policy Officer (KJ) and Democratic Support Officer (KF)

21. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Blakemore, Bower, Burnan OBE, Clark, Conley, Farkas, Hames, Hawker, James, Knight, Lovell, Mounde, Phillips OBE and Repton.

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Rosier declared a personal interest in agenda item 4 as he is a regular user of First Great Western.

23. POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

Cllr Sarah Content presented a report that redefined polling districts and polling places, the report also called for a review of polling districts and polling places after the next elections.

It was therefore

RESOLVED:

That Council:

- **Agreed the revised polling districts and places descriptions as recommended by Cabinet.**
- **Approved the creation of a working group to review polling places and polling stations following the May elections and to be made up of a representative from each political group and ungrouped members.**

24. IMPROVING PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH FIRST GREAT WESTERN

Powerpoint presentation - Glenda Lamont (Customer Services Director, First Great Western) and Andrew Griffiths (Regional Manager Central, Severn & Solent, First Great Western).

Glenda Lamont then went through the questions that had been submitted to her by the Members prior to the meeting (the questions and answers are attached to these minutes).

Verbal presentation – Keith Walton (Severnside Community Rail partnership).

Keith Walton explained to Members that the rail partnerships were set up to encourage the use of local stations and to make them a safe and attractive environment for rail users and that the core costs were funded by the local authorities and First Great Western. He went on to explain some of the partnership's aims and objectives, these included:

- Regular and frequent trains and have organised a consultation exercise to try to achieve this.
- Easier, simple timetables that the public can understand.
- To promote greater awareness of off-peak services and to encourage students to use rail services.
- To make un-staffed stations a more friendly and safer experience for rail users – station support groups.
- Community initiatives at local stations – station gardens, CCTV and general cleaning up.

Powerpoint presentation – Gordon Edwards (Travel Watch South west)

The Chairman thanked all the speakers for their input in the night's debate, it was agreed that copies of the questions that the members of the public who had attended the meeting had raised would be circulated via the MIS to Members and forwarded to First Great Western.

It was therefore

RESOLVED:

- **That the Chief Executive writes to the Dept of Transport expressing Members dissatisfaction at the level of provision by First Great Western, highlighting the cuts on the Melksham service and the issues relating to the A350.**
- **That the Chief Executive writes to the Chief executive of the First Group voicing Members dissatisfaction with the service offered by First Great Western.**
- **That the Chief Executive writes to the Minister concerned voicing Members dissatisfaction with the service offered by First Great Western.**

- **That this Council works together with all local MP's to improve the local rail services.**

(7.00pm – 9:25pm)

These minutes were prepared by Kevin Fielding Democratic Support Officer who can be contacted on direct telephone line 01225 770322 or email kfielding@westwiltshire.gov.uk