

Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4 December 2007 at the Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham.

Present:

Chairman.....Councillor C Crisp

Councillors DB Allen, C Berry, AM Bucknell, CJ Caswill, RL Cinnamond, A Clements, PCB Coleman, PR Darby, JP Doubell, SK Doubell, PJ Doyle, GR Greenaway, MEM Groom, JL Hall, J Hartless, MP Hatton, IJ Henderson, JR Henning, AK Hill, PJ Hutton, J Lay, RB MacGregor, SB Meadowcroft, S Meadows, S Parker JA Phillips, N Phillips, HR Plenty, CV Ramsey, C Reid, P Roberts, WF Roberts, R Sanderson, JR Scragg, SJ Still, TR Sturgis, RL Tonge, VA Vines, AM Wannell, C Wannell and J Whincup.

Officers Present: D Burbidge (Chief Executive), K Conlin (Licensing Officer), (P Jeremiah (Legal Manager) and M Todd (Senior Policy and Democratic Services Officer).

C54. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors CMR Boase, S Bodman, R Causer, H Greenman, T Jones, E Marston, A Pier, JA Scott, ML Singlehurst, J Thomson and A Trotman.

C55. Minutes

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 October 2007 were considered.

Resolved that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 October 2007 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

C56. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

C57. Chairman's Announcements

(a) Christmas Raffle

The Chairman announced that she would be hosting a Christmas Prize Draw and refreshments in the Committee Rooms on Friday 21 December during the lunch period. The raffle would be raising funds for the Chairman's Charity which, this year, was the League of Friends of Chippenham Hospital.

(b) Fundraising

The Chairman thanked Councillors R Sanderson and A Phillips for their help in raising funds for her charity.



(c) The People's Millions

The Chairman was pleased to announce that the recent Calne bid for the "People's Millions" had been successful. The town would receive an £80,000 grant towards the refurbishment of Castlefields Park.

(d) Free Christmas Parking

The Chairman informed Members that the Council had agreed to suspend parking charges for the two weekends prior to Christmas. Parking would be free in all North Wiltshire District Council Car Parks on 15, 16, 22 and 23 December. It was hoped that this would benefit both the public and local traders.

C58. Public Question Time/Receipt of Petitions

Mr Mike Every from Cirencester asked the Council whether it was aware that Royal Mail was proposing to close a number of Post Offices in the North Wiltshire area. He asked what action the Council had taken about these proposals.

Councillor V Vines, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Economy, responded by stating that the Council had yet to see the specific proposals for Post Office Closures. The Chief Executive explained that a consultation process would begin on 11 December and that the Council would have an opportunity to comment at this stage. Councillor Vines and the Chief Executive had already met with Post Office representatives to discuss this issue.

The Leader of the Council stated that the Authority would do all that it could to protect rural Post Offices and that Members were very concerned about the proposed closures. The Council remained fully engaged with the consultation process and awaited the outcome of the review.

C59. Question Time

(a) Councillor SK Doubell – Minute No. E106 – Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007

Councillor Doubell stated that some constituents had experienced problems using their bus passes at certain times of day. Were steps being taken to rectify this problem?

Councillor Vines, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Economy, responded by stating that officers were currently looking into this matter and doing all they could to close any loopholes.

(b) Councillor J Scragg – Minute No. E106 – Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007

Councillor Scragg stated that some other Local Authorities had written to those people eligible for concessionary bus travel asking them to apply for passes. Would North Wiltshire District Council be doing this?

Councillor Vines, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Economy, stated that the Council had made arrangements with its consultants to send passes directly to all existing pass holders. For those people who were eligible but did not currently have a pass application forms would be available in mid

March. A communications toolkit had been received from the Department of Transport and the Communications Team would be looking at promotion opportunities.

(c) Councillor P Coleman – Minute No. E106 – Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007

Councillor Coleman stated that since the introduction of free bus travel for older people the number of bus users had increased by 20%. Should the Council therefore give a higher priority to bus users and provide better facilities for them?

Councillor Vines, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Economy, responded stating that he was pleased that more people were using the buses although this was not always easy in some rural areas. He stated that more publicity could be given to the bus services available.

(d) Councillor SK Doubell – Minute No. CH29 – Area Boards in North Wiltshire

Councillor Doubell asked whether each Area would be able to develop a pilot Area Board with its own individual slant.

Councillor A Bucknell, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Democracy, responded by stating that there was likely to be a common core throughout the Area Boards with some localisation.

Councillor Doubell then asked a supplementary question as to how the success of Area Boards would be scrutinised.

Councillor Bucknell stated that, although the District Council was taking this project forward, the Boards would ultimately be led by Wiltshire County Council. It could be that the Implementation Executive would monitor the success of the Boards.

(e) Councillor J Scragg – Minute No. E100 – Recommendations from the Car Parking Working Group

Councillor Scragg asked what the final figures were at the end of the consultation period on residents' car parking.

Councillor Berry, Portfolio Holder for Built Environment, stated that not enough people had responded to enable the Council to go ahead with the residents' parking scheme in Chippenham. Officers would now break down the figures on a street by street and area by area basis to find out whether there was a case for a smaller scale scheme to be introduced.

(f) Councillor C Reid – Minute No. E100 – Recommendations from the Car Parking Working Group

Councillor Reid asked when residents' parking would be expanded to the rest of the District?

Councillor Berry, Portfolio Holder for Built Environment, stated that this would take time and that the Council was first looking at the Chippenham area followed by the Wootton Bassett area. Only after this would other areas be considered.

(g) Councillor P Coleman – Minute No. E100 – Recommendations from the Car Parking Working Group

Councillor Coleman asked whether local Members could have been more involved with the proposals for a residents' parking scheme. He also queried whether it was right to assume that if people did not respond to the consultation they were against the scheme.

Councillor Berry, Portfolio Holder for Built Environment, stated that all Members were welcome to attend meetings of the Car Parking Working Group if they wished to be more involved. He agreed that it was important to look closely at responses to the consultation.

C60. The Gambling Act 2005 (Temporary Use Notices) Regulations 2007

Consideration was given to Report No. 7 which proposed the level of fees to be set in relation to Temporary Use Notices under the Gambling Act 2005.

Resolved that the level of fees set out in Appendix 1 of the report be adopted to take effect from 1 December 2007.

C61. Members' Allowances Scheme – Municipal Year 2008/09

Consideration was given to Report No. 8 which set out proposals for a Members' Allowances Scheme for the Municipal year 2008/09.

Resolved that

- (1) The Council adopts a Members' Allowances Scheme for the Municipal Year 2008/2009 as set out in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 to the report.
- (2) Members be permitted to claim the travel allowance of 5p per passenger per mile with immediate effect.

C62. Quarterly Report on Special Urgency Decisions

Consideration was given to Report No. 9 informing the Council of any Key Decisions taken by the Executive in circumstances of special urgency since 4 September 2007.

Resolved that the report be noted.

C63 Implementation Executive and Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Consideration was given to an item which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered as a matter of urgency in accordance with Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972. The matter was considered to be urgent due to the need to formally appoint members to the Implementation Executive and Overview and Scrutiny Joint Committee before the next Council meeting.

A report was circulated which asked members to make appointments (with substitutes) to the Implementation Executive and the Overview and Scrutiny Joint Committee.

Resolved that:

- (1) Councillors R Tonge and A Bucknell be appointed to the Implementation Executive with Councillors C Berry and V Vines as substitute members.
- (2) Councillor C Caswill be appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Joint Committee with Councillor C Reid as substitute member.

C64. Questions on Notice from Councillors – Council Procedure Rule 14.2

The following questions were received from Councillor SK Doubell and answered by Councillor TR Sturgis, Portfolio Holder for Waste and Sustainability.

Green Waste Collection.

- Following the abolition of the free green waste collection on Pewsham in September, how many of the 1100 bins collected have signed up to the paid for collection?

Response

There were just over 1,500 bins being collected as part of the original trial. Currently nearly 600 of these smaller bins have been converted to the paid for service whilst it is estimated that approximately, a further 300 have changed to using the larger 240 litre, chargeable bins. (We will consider writing, in early spring, to those that have chosen not to convert to the chargeable service to encourage them to do so). Overall there are now 7,000 garden waste bins being collected and there are 500 bins ready for the expected take-up in the spring.

- Bins that have no paid stickers are still being left on the pavement to the detriment of the area and the residents, what actions does the lead member intend to take to stop this?

Response

Crews have been instructed not to empty those bins that are not participating in the chargeable Garden Waste Collection Scheme. The crews are also being asked to report back where bins that are not part of the chargeable scheme remain on the pavement so that we can write to residents to encourage them to join the scheme, or for us to make arrangements to remove the bins if they are no longer required.

- Is he aware that during the few frosty days to date, that many green waste bins across the whole District were left more than half full, due to the

contents freezing in them. Bearing in mind that winter has not yet begun, what steps are being taken to deal with this?

Response

I am aware of the problem relating to the difficulty in removing the garden waste from bins when frozen. A simple cost effective tool has been fabricated to provide the crews with a means of overcoming this problem. The effectiveness of this solution will be kept under review.

Plastic and Cardboard Collection Colerne

Can the lead member report on the outcome to date of the trial in Colerne of the plastic and cardboard collection:

- How often are the plastic and cardboard containers emptied?

Response

A Hills Waste vehicle visits the site every day except Sunday. The plastic and cardboard containers are emptied on alternate days.

- What problems have been encountered, and how have they been resolved?

Response

Hills have not encountered any unexpected issues in servicing the site.

- Has the kerbside collection of the tins, paper, and glass recyclables increased as a result of those containers being removed from the bring site, and if so by what percentage has it increased?

Response

The kerbside collection of tins, paper and glass recyclables has increased by just under 12^{1/2}% in the Colerne area. However because of the low weight but high volume of the cardboard and plastics now being collected from the Colerne bring site this has meant a significant increase (more than 700%) in the number of visits that Hills vehicles have had to make to the site, this obviously has an impact upon cost (and carbon footprint). At the appropriate time there will need to be an evaluation of the impact of the Colerne trial before any budget bids are made. This will have to consider size of containers, value of recylate, reduction in bio-degradable waste going to landfill and the carbon footprint alongside with the costs.

Supplementary Question

Councillor S Doubell then asked a supplementary question as to whether a daily collection at Colerne was sustainable.

Response

Councillor T Sturgis stated that the size of the containers would have to be evaluated and that discussions would now take place to decide on the best way forward.

C65. Notices of Motion – Council Procedure Rule 15

Consideration was given to Report No. 11 which gave details of a Motion submitted by Councillor P J Doyle in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15. This Motion stood adjourned from the last meeting under Council Procedure Rule 45.2.

Councillor Doyle agreed to defer the motion until the next meeting of the Council to enable the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider this matter.

Resolved that the Notice of Motion be deferred until the next ordinary Council meeting.

The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 7.55pm.

There was one member of the public present.