

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive held on Thursday 7th February 2008 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillor R.L. Tonge in the Chair

Councillors R.M.H. Berry, A.M. Bucknell, R.A. Causer, V.H. Greenman, C.V. Ramsey, and V.A. Vines

Non-Executive Councillors Present:

Councillors C. Crisp, S.K. Doubell, I.J. Henderson, A. Phillips and J. Scragg

Officers Present:

D. Burbidge (Chief Executive), P. Jeremiah (Legal Services Manager), S. McGregor (Section 151 Officer), and L. Pullin (Policy & Democratic Services Assistant)

E167. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N.M. Phillips and T.R. Sturgis.

E168. Public Question Time/Receipt of Petitions

A letter containing the following question received from Mr B. Chunn of The Fiddle, Cricklade was circulated at the meeting in respect of Agenda Item 17 – Request for Affordable Housing Grant at Fiddle Farm, Cricklade.

Question

Please consider whether you have the right to respond to such a request without appearing to prejudice the subsequent chance of a fair and even-handed planning decision with regard to this project.

Response from Councillor V.H. Greenman

The request for Affordable Housing Grant funding is separate from the planning process. The approval of grant funding will have no bearing on the decision regarding planning permission which the Development Control Committee may make in the future. It is likely that the Applicant will wish to have the grant request determined before an application for planning permission is made.

Letter received from Dr and Mrs Sloan of Fiddle Farm, Cricklade

A letter was received on 6th February 2008 from Dr and Mrs Sloan strenuously objecting to the granting of planning permission for the development at Fiddle Farm for a number of planning reasons. No planning application has been submitted to date. A copy of the letter would be forwarded to the Development Control Team and



once a planning application has been received Dr and Mrs Sloan will be informed and can make representations at that time.

E169. Questions from Non-Executive Councillors

There were no questions from Non-Executive Councillors received.

E170. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Executive (budget) held on 31st January 2008 (circulated on 5th February 2008) were considered.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive (budget) held on 31st January 2008 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

E171. Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made:

Executive Members

Name	Item	Type	Nature	Action
Cllr A.M. Bucknell	Agenda Item 17 – Request for Affordable Housing Grant to Provide Affordable Housing at (Market Quarter, Chippenham)	Personal	Westlea Housing Association Board Member	Remained in the Chamber but did not vote on the decision.

E172. Leader's Announcements

The Leader made the following announcements:

1. Calne Phase 3 Update – 7th February 2008

The planning application for the first part of the project, construction of shops and homes, is scheduled to be put to the Development Control Committee on 20th February. The legal terms are now finalised with Woolworths, to be signed by the end of February 2008. The Agreement on terms with Westlea Housing Association is similarly advanced. Tenders will be invited by the 8th February. The project is on programme, with completion dates unchanged from the previous updates received.

2. Nettleton Village Post Office and Shop

Nettleton Village Post Office and Shop has won the Countryside Alliance Best Rural Retailer for 2007. I'm sure you would like to join me in congratulating Mrs Bell and her husband on this award.

They have run the store for more than 30 years and stock a wide range of local and free-range products from Sherston trucklements to bread from Chipping Sodbury and ice cream from Marshfield.

One of the judges said ‘Mrs Bell is a very special lady who has inspired the particular devotion of her customers. She received dozens of nominations from people of all ages; all praising her warm nature and the fact that she is a lifeline who always goes above and beyond the call of duty.’

3. Change to Agenda Order

With the consent of the Executive I propose that we consider Agenda Item 17 (Request for Affordable Housing Grant) after Agenda Item 7 (Land at Ernle Road, Calne).

Admin Note – The change to Agenda order was agreed.

E173. Land at Ernle Road, Calne

Consideration was given to Report No. 7 (circulated with the Agenda) which asked the Executive to reconsider the disposal of land at Ernle Road, Calne, in the light of written objections received from the public, and if appropriate, to seek best and final offers for the land. The Executive also considered a letter from a local resident asking for this matter to be deferred.

Resolved that the Executive:

- (1) Agree to the disposal of the freehold interest in land at Ernle Road, Calne.
- (2) Authorise the Legal Services Manager to invite the best and final offers from each party which has expressed an interest in acquiring the land.
- (3) Authorise the Legal Services Manager, subject to contract, to accept the highest financial offer for the land.

E174. Recommendation from the Malmesbury Area (1) Committee

At its meeting on Wednesday 23rd January 2008, the Malmesbury Area (1) Committee considered a report entitled Flooding in the Malmesbury Area which sets out the issues in the Area 1 parishes affected by flooding, giving updates from the various parishes and set out the findings and actions taken in the affected areas.

The Malmesbury Area (1) Committee made the following recommendation to the Executive:

That the remainder of the Malmesbury Area 1 Committee’s capital funding of £14,518 be allocated to a central fund for use by the Multi Agency Flood Working Group to address flood defence issues in Area 1.

Resolved that £14,518 (being the remainder of the Malmesbury Area (1) Committee’s capital funding for 2007/08) be allocated to a central fund for use by the

Multi Agency Flood Working Group to address flood defence issues in Area 1.

E175. Debt Write-Offs

Consideration was given to Report No. 9 (circulated with the Agenda) which submitted the recommended debt write-offs identified during 2007/08.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- That the level of collection rate has increased.

Resolved that the Executive:

- (1) Approve the write-offs identified in paragraph 4.1. of the Report.
- (2) Note that write-offs under £1,000 in paragraph 4.2 of the Report will be approved by the Section 151 Officer under delegated powers.

E176. Revenue Budget Monitor 2007/08 – Month 9

Consideration was given to Report No.10 (circulated with the Agenda) which set out the Revenue budget monitor for Month 9 of the 2007-08 financial year, showing the financial position at the end of December 2007 and also set out the anticipated variations in income and expenditure that could affect the council by the end of the financial year.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- There was now a full complement of staff in the Finance and Resources Team.

Resolved that the Executive note the Report forecasting an under spend of £294k.

E177. Capital Budget Monitor 2007/08 – Month 9

Consideration was given to Report No.11 (circulated with the Agenda) which informed the Executive of the latest position and forecast outturn on the 2007-08 capital programme and changes to the Risk Assessment Table.

Resolved that the Executive

- (1) Note the figures contained in Annex 1 of the Report in relation to the Capital Programme for 2007/2008 and the contents of the Report;

- (2) Note the information on Capital Schemes at Annex 2 of the Report;
- (3) Note the Capital Risk Assessment contained in Annex 3 of the report; and
- (4) Note that the Capital programme is part of the ongoing consultation with Wiltshire County Council as a result of the Unitary proposal, a further report containing proposals to cease certain projects will be presented to the Executive.

E178. Revenue and Capital Budget 2008/09

Consideration was given to Report No.12 (circulated on 5th February 2008) which presented the Revenue and Capital Budget for 2008/09 and recommended that it be approved by Full Council on 26th February 2008.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Money has been put into the budget for a study into the commuter patterns between Corsham and Chippenham Railway Stations.

Resolved that the Executive note the progress in compiling the proposed 2008/09 budget.

Recommendation to Council that:

- (1) **The 2008/09 Budget with supporting papers be approved.**
- (2) **There be a Council Tax increase of 1.6%.**

E179. Annual Prudential Indicators Statement

Consideration was given to Report No.13 (circulated with the Agenda) which proposed the Council's prudential indicators for 2008/09 as part of the 2008/09 Budget Setting process.

Recommendation to Council that the Prudential Indicators be approved.

E180. Annual Treasury Management & Investment Strategy 2008/09

Consideration was given to Report No.14 (circulated with the Agenda) which proposed the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2008/09.

Recommendation to Council that the Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 208/09 be adopted.

E181. Collection Fund Valuation

Consideration was given to Report No.15 (circulated on 5th February 2008) which set out the Collection Fund balances and its subsequent distribution.

Resolved that Executive note the report.

E182. Community Area Awards Criteria 2008/09

Consideration was given to Report No.16 (circulated with the Agenda) which outlined the amendments to the Community Area Awards criteria recommended by the Joint Community Area Funding Advisory Body (Task Group) and sought approval of the revised criteria for the 'Community Area Awards' to be adopted for use by all five Area Committees in 2008/09.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- That the Community Area Awards criteria had been revised and simplified;
- That the information would be rolled out to the Area Committees during the next round of meetings; and
- That in future, Officers will direct Applicants to the appropriate "pot" for funding.

Resolved that the Executive:

- (1) Approve the funding criteria for 2008/09 as set out in Appendix 2 to the Report;
- (2) Request that Officers take a report outlining the new funding criteria to each of the Area Committees; and
- (3) Request that Officers contact successful applicants from previous funding years who have not yet requested release of their award to inform them of the March 2009 deadline.

E183. Request for Affordable Housing Grant (AHG) to Provide Affordable Housing at Sutton Lane, Sutton Benger, Fiddle Farm, Cricklade and Market Quarter in Chippenham

Consideration was given to Report No.17 (circulated with the Agenda) which sought authorisation for an allocation of Affordable Housing Grant to enable Jephson Housing Association to provide 7 affordable homes at Sutton Benger, Sarsen Housing Association to provide 13 affordable homes at Cricklade and Westlea Housing Association to provide 12 affordable homes in Chippenham.

Mr M. Dixon of Cricklade was present at the meeting and he expressed his view that there was a lack of consultation with residents regarding the proposed development at Fiddle Farm, Cricklade and suggested that the consultation should take the form used when planning applications are submitted.

The Lead Member, Councillor. V.H. Greenman responded that although the Housing and Planning Teams work closely together, Housing does not have autonomy and planning permission would need to be obtained prior to the scheme proceeding and the usual planning consultation would be undertaken. He wanted all available funds to be allocated to proposed schemes for affordable housing without delay.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Whether all of this year's budget for Affordable Housing Grant had now been committed;
- The high standard of the Eco Homes at Market Quarter; and
- What would happen if the Affordable Housing Grant was not allocated to the schemes.

Resolved that the Executive:

- (1) Note that since the Report was written, further negotiations have been conducted which resulted in a reduction in Affordable Housing Grant allocation required by Westlea Housing Association for the scheme at Market Quarter, Chippenham reducing the subsidy per unit from £59,000 to £54,500;
- (2) Authorise the commitment of Affordable Housing Grant of £889,000 to enable the provision of 32 new affordable homes at Sutton Lane in Sutton Benger, Fiddle Farm in Cricklade and Market Quarter in Chippenham; and
- (3) Delegate authority to the Legal Services Manager to agree a nomination agreement with the respective Housing Associations.

E184. Lottery Funded Play Projects

Consideration was given to Report No.18 (circulated on 5th February 2008) which provided up to date information on the Big Lottery funded play portfolio and recommended that £40,000 be made available to cover a temporary shortfall for the play project at Reeds Farm Estate in Malmesbury which is part of the portfolio.

Resolved that the Executive:

- (1) Note the current position;

- (2) Agree that £30,000 from the Section 106 Funding reserve, as set out in paragraph 5.3 of the Report be used to cover the temporary shortfall of Section 106 Funding for Reeds Farm Project in Malmesbury conditional on Malmesbury Town Council taking on responsibility for future management and maintenance of the facility;
- (3) Delegate authority to the Asset, Design and Regeneration Manager to renegotiate with contractors to renew their quotations for the Cricklade Project and accept the most suitable quotation for the delivery of the project; and
- (4) Agree that tenders be sought for the Malmesbury Project and that authority be delegated to the Asset, Design and Regeneration Manager to accept the lowest suitable tender.

E185. Update on Cricklade County Way Partnership

Consideration was given to Report No.19 (circulated on 5th February 2008) which updated the Executive on the Cricklade Country Way Partnership.

Resolved that the Executive note the report.

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and concluded at 7.50pm.

There was one member of the public present.