

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive held on Thursday 5th January 2006 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor C. O’Gorman, Leader in the Chair

Councillors C. R. Coleman, A. L. Davis, S. K. Doubell, H. M Dixon, D. J. E. Evans, G. Offord and O. J. Thomas.

Non-Executive Councillors Present: Councillors I. J. Henderson, J. A. Scott and T. R. Sturgis.

Officers Present: D. Burbidge (Chief Executive), H. Braid (Policy & Democratic Services Officer), J. Cogswell (Community Partnership Team Leader), P. Jeremiah (Legal Services Team Leader) and L. Robertson (Spatial Planning Team Leader).

E135. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors S. Coy and C. Reid.

E136. Public Question Time/Receipt of Petitions

The following question had been submitted by Mr Graham Cowdrey, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Chippenham Golf Club:

“We cannot see a future for the club with only 8 years actively remaining on the lease. So that we can invest long term, we need security of tenure e.g. 99 years with no break clauses. Any form of a break clause would restrict the amount of investment and not allow the club to expand the membership or bring the club up to the 21st century.

We have an opportunity of another 40 acres linking to the current course, but only a small window of time to decide. Obtaining this extra land would allow us to expand our course, giving the current members better facilities and most important enabling us to take on a lot more Golfers including beginners.



We respectfully request the Council to consider granting the Club a lower level of annual rent for the first five years as, when we are able to acquire the use of the additional land, very heavy development costs will arise. Initial estimates are between £450,000 and £500,000 to build another nine holes, and although most of this will come from bank funding, the developed area will not start to produce extra income for a minimum of four/five years. We also have to bring the Club House up to modern Standard, as this has not been done in the past years because of the short leases. The cost is going to be in excess of £750,000 and this cannot be expected from the members and investors unless a long lease is going to be available. With the council granting a 99 year lease with no break clauses, the result would offer the Chippenham people including surrounding areas a sports/social facility for all ages to enjoy.

Currently we have 62 Junior members, many of whom start to learn around the age of ten, although there have been younger beginners over the years. A degree of free coaching is carried out by the Club Professional and his assistant, in small age and ability groups, and five week coaching courses are available at low cost, even to non-members.

Our current Club Champion is 19 and plays for the main County team, where the Captain is another ex-junior member. Others are prominent in County golf and our Juniors were runners-up in the County competition last year.

The Golf Club is now over 109 years old and former Management of the Council and Golf Club has been responsible for this facility, but we have a responsibility to secure the future of the Club for the next generation, their Children and Grandchildren.

The Council and the club can do this by working together.
Thank you for your time.”

The Leader of the Council thanked Mr Cowdrey for attending the meeting and confirmed the points that he had raised would be taken into account by the Executive when Agenda Item 15 was considered later in the meeting.

E137. Questions from Non-Executive Councillors

Councillor I. J. Henderson had submitted questions in respect of The Wiltshire & Swindon Sports Partnership. These questions, together with the responses provided were circulated and are as follows:

1. Why is the proposed financial contribution from the Swindon Unitary Authority so small compared to the Wiltshire County and its associated Districts?

Response: All of the Local Authority Partners on the Partnership make an equal financial contribution. The benefits in terms of funding and project delivery that each Local Authority Area then accesses through the partnership is similarly equitable.

2. How will the uptake of sport towards the Governments target of 50% increase by 2020 be monitored and reported back?

Response: The measurement and reporting of participation levels is a key factor in the funding agreement between Sport England as funders and The Wiltshire and Swindon Sports Partnership. The Partnership is required to produce a business plan that details how the funding will be spent and how the impact of each project will be measured.

Sport England also requires each County Sports Partnership to go through a an evaluation process and to and benchmark its performance. In accordance with Sport England's requirements, the Partnership has adopted the 'Towards an Excellent Service' (TAES) scheme and has undertaken to achieve a 'Fair' rating by April 2006. Officers funded by the Partnership are responsible for collating and presenting this information, supported by members of the Partnership's Executive.

Performance reports are put before the Partnership Executive which includes representation from all funders including Sport England.

3. Preventative medicine and healthy life styles is very much part of the NHS brief, and would have a valuable local input to the Partnership's work. Is it intended that they will form part of the partnership's consultation process?

Response: A wide range of partners have been involved in the consultative process to date, including partners from various NHS settings. Recent Government guidance including the 'Choosing Health' White Paper draws clear links to physical activity and health and a wider well-being agenda. It is clear that there are many areas of common interest in the work of the Sport Partnership and the benefits that sport and physical activity can have on both physical and mental health.

There is a health working group attached to the Partnership that includes representation from the Health Sector. The Partnership is also linking to the work being led by the Healthier Wiltshire Partnership which has come out of the Wiltshire Strategic Board.

The Leader also referred to the recent presentation made to Council by the Primary Care Trust and that since that time there had been more working between the Sports Partnership and the Trust.

E138. Minutes

The Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 1st December 2005 (circulated with the agenda) were considered.

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 1st December 2005 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

E139. Declarations of Interest

Executive Members

Name	Item	Type	Nature	Action
Cllr C. O'Gorman	12 – Wiltshire & Swindon Sports Partnership – Delegated Authority to Sign Partnership Agreement	Personal	Chairman of the Wiltshire & Swindon Sports Partnership	Remained in the meeting during consideration of this item.

E140. Leader's Announcements

The Leader made the following announcements:

1. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Councillor Helen Dixon as a member of the Executive. As you are aware, Councillor Doreen Darby, has resigned her position as an Executive Member and the Local Development Framework portfolio will now be the responsibility of Helen.
2. Item 13 of tonight's agenda – Car Parking, Access and & Transportation Strategy – has been withdrawn.

E141. North Wiltshire District Council Local Development Scheme and the West Swindon Study

At its meeting on 8th December 2005, the Public Spaces & Local Plans Panel considered reports in respect of the Local Development Scheme and the West Swindon Study. Following consideration of these issues, the Panel made the following recommendations to the Executive:

- (1) "That approval be given to the Revised Local Development Scheme."
(Minute PS44 refers)
- (2) "The addition of a West Swindon Development Plan Document to the Revised Local Development Scheme be approved, subject to the formal approval of the Swindon Borough Local Development Scheme by the Secretary of State."
(Minute PS45 refers.)

Consideration was given to the revised Local Development Scheme (circulated with the agenda), together with additional information (circulated at the meeting).

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document will reflect the existing Local Plan and the policies which are expected to be adopted in the emerging Local Plan.
- Advice can be prepared for Members and Applicants in respect of the issue of the "pepper potting" of affordable housing throughout new housing developments.
- The timetable for the adoption of the Great Somerford Conservation Area Statement.

Recommended to Council that:

- (1) **The Revised Local Development Scheme be approved.**
- (2) **The addition of a West Swindon Development Plan Document to the Revised Local Development Scheme be approved, subject to the formal approval of the Swindon Borough Local Development Scheme by the Secretary of State.**

E142. North Wiltshire Local Development Framework, Core Strategy – Issues and Options Document, Including the Sustainability Appraisal

Consideration was given to Report No.8 (circulated with the agenda) which presented to Members the North Wiltshire Local Development Framework - Core Strategy Issues and Options Document and the Sustainability Appraisal of the Issues and Options Document.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The consultation options in respect of local housing development and whether it was appropriate to present options which might be contrary to planning policy.

Recommended to Council that:

- (1) **The Core Strategy Issues and Options document be approved for consultation.**
- (2) **The supporting document, the Sustainability Appraisal, be approved for consultation.**

E143. Recommendations of the Public Spaces & Local Plans Panel

Consideration was given to Report No.9 (circulated with the agenda) which set out recommendations made by the Public Spaces & Local Plans Panel in respect of:

- (1) Wind Turbine Development in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- (2) West Swindon Joint Study and the Swindon Rural Buffer
- (3) Delivery of the North Wiltshire Local Development Framework Documents.

Resolved:

- (1) **Wind Turbine Development in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty:**
 - (i) the Study and its findings be endorsed.
 - (ii) That the Study be recognised as a technical background document for the preparation of future Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning documents and be used to aid in the decision-making process of future wind turbine planning applications within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
 - (iii) That a brief description and a link to the Study be added to the Council's website.

- (iv) That the issue of low flying aircraft be raised with the study authors; and

(2) West Swindon Joint Study and the Swindon Rural Buffer

- (i) The Executive will seek to express at all relevant opportunities, the advantages of Rural Buffers to protect settlements to the west of Swindon from coalescence.

(3) Delivery of the North Wiltshire Local Development Framework Documents

The Local Development Scheme be amended to take into account the following changes:

- (i) That the timetable for the production of the Core Strategy and the Housing and Employment Development Plan Documents be altered (as set out at Appendix 1 to these Minutes).
- (ii) That the topic based Development Plan Documents be deleted from the scheme.
- (iii) That the topic based Development Plan Documents be replaced by a suitable amended Rural Area Action Plan Development Plan Document and a new Chippenham and the Main Towns Area Action Plan.

E144. Delegated Authority Relating to the Delivery of the Local Development Framework

Consideration was given to Report No.10 (circulated with the agenda) which sought delegated authority for the Spatial Planning Team Leader on matters pertaining to the new Local Development Framework system.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- In view of the District's close proximity to a Principal Urban Area it is important that the Lead Member and Officer are in agreement with any recommendations made.

Resolved that

- (1) Authority be delegated to the Spatial Planning Team Leader to carry out the functions and responsibilities pertaining to the Local Development Framework as set out at Appendix 2 to these Minutes.

- (2) The Spatial Planning Team Leader be named as the Authorised Officer to be consulted in respect of the other functions of the Council as set out at Appendix 2 to these Minutes.

E145. A Partnership Evaluation Tool

Consideration was given to Report No.11 (circulated with the agenda) which sought approval for a Partnership Evaluation Tool. Consideration was also given to a revision to the Partnership Evaluation Tool (circulated at the meeting)

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The Evaluation Tool will enable consideration of the overall costs of any project or service, so it will be possible to determine what funding has been provided by other organisations.
- The Evaluation Tool will not provide specific indicators but rather evidence of achievements and also enable benchmarking between partnerships.
- The reviewing arrangements will vary between partnership arrangements.
- The Council's partnership with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust will be the first to be evaluated.

Resolved that

- (1) The revised Partnership Evaluation Tool be used to inform the evaluation of Council partnerships.
- (2) The timescale for the evaluation of the Council's partnership with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust be noted.

E146. Wiltshire and Swindon Sports Partnership – Delegated Authority to Sign Partnership Agreement

Consideration was given to Report No.12 (circulated with the agenda) which sought delegated authority for officers to sign the Wiltshire and Swindon Sports Partnership agreement.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Wiltshire local authorities will be able to draw down some £450,000 from Sport England as a result of their contributions.
- The funding for the Partnership is that which was previously made to Active Sport.

Resolved that authority be delegated to the Community Partnerships Team Leader to sign the Wiltshire and Swindon Partnership Agreement 2005-2009

E147. Car Parking, Access & Transportation Strategy

Noted that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

E148. Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved that in accordance with Regulation 21 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the following item of business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as follows:

Agenda item/Report name	Paragraph(s) of the Act / Schedule describing the exemption
Item 15 – Chippenham Golf Club	Paragraph 9

E149. Chippenham Golf Club

Consideration was given to Report No.15 (circulated with the agenda) which asked for consideration of the grant of a new Lease of Chippenham Golf Course to Chippenham Golf Club. Consideration was also given to additional information (circulated at the meeting).

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The reliance of the Club upon life memberships which would be affected by the length of any lease granted.
- Road access and transport links to the Club.
- Further issues needing to be investigated.

Resolved that the Lead Member and the Leader of the Council enter into further discussions with Chippenham Golf Club and report back to the next meeting of the Executive on 2nd February 2006.

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and concluded at 7.55pm.

There were 4 members of the public present.

Signed:

Dated: