

Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 29 April 2008 at the Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham.

Present:

Chairman.....Councillor C Crisp

Councillors DB Allen, C Berry, CMR Boase, AM Bucknell, CJ Caswill, A Clements, PCB Coleman, PR Darby, JP Doubell, SK Doubell, PJ Doyle, GR Greenaway, H. Greenman, MEM Groom, JL Hall, MP Hatton, IJ Henderson, JR Henning, PJ Hutton, E Marston, S Meadows, JA Phillips, N Phillips, HR Plenty, CV Ramsey, C Reid, P Roberts, WF Roberts, R Sanderson, J. Scragg, ML Singlehurst, SJ Still, TR Sturgis, J Thomson, RL Tonge and AM Wannell.

Officers Present: D Burbidge (Chief Executive), M Doran (Environmental Health Manager), A Inkpen (Principal Environmental Health Officer), P. Jeremiah (Legal Services Manager) and M Todd (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

C90. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Bodman, T Jones, J Hartless, A Hill, J Lay, R McGregor, S Meadowcroft, S Parker, A Pier, J Scott, A Trotman, V Vines, C Wannell and J Whincup.

C91. Minutes

The Minutes of the Council meetings held on 26 February and 2 April 2008 were considered.

Resolved that the minutes of the Council meetings held on 26 February and 2 April 2008 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

C92. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C93. Chairman's Announcements

Chairman's Charity

The Chairman announced that a total of £2,870.45 had so far been raised for this year's charity. She thanked all those officers and members who had helped to raise this sum of money which would help to provide a baby heart monitor at Chippenham Hospital. The Chairman thanked in particular Jo Smith and Councillors A Phillips and R Sanderson for their fundraising efforts.

C94. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions

No public questions or petitions were received.



C95. Question Time

- (a) Councillor SK Doubell - Minute No. P79 – Road Safety Concerns on Monkton Hill, Chippenham

Would the Portfolio Holder please update us on whether a letter has been written, as requested by the Committee to the Highways Department of Wiltshire County Council asking if at the end of the six month trial:

- (i) A public consultation will be carried out to seek the views of users of the system.
- (ii) Consideration will be given to changing the one way system to go up hill instead of down.
- (iii) A physical barrier will be provided for the pedestrian path, possibly a kerb so cars do not cross it.

Mr M Doran, Environmental Health Manager, confirmed that letters regarding this matter had been sent to the County Council on several occasions. A request had been made for an officer from the County Council to attend the Personnel, Licensing and Administration Committee meeting in June to discuss safety concerns.

- (b) Councillor J Scragg - Minute No. C80 – Car Parking, London Road, Chippenham

Councillor Scragg asked for the latest position regarding car parking in London Road, Chippenham following the petition which had been presented at the Council meeting in February.

Councillor C Berry, Portfolio Holder for Built Environment, responded by stating that this matter had been considered at the last meeting of the Car Parking Working Party. He believed that a survey had been carried out in the area which had indicated that a residents-only parking scheme was not justified for this area. However, Councillor Berry agreed to send a written response to Councillor Scragg regarding this matter.

- (c) Councillor J Scragg – Minute No. C92(b) – Concessionary Fares

Councillor Scragg asked what the timescale was for receipt of bus passes for people with disabilities.

The Leader of the Council stated that if there was a particular problem regarding bus passes then people should contact the customer services officers in the Council's reception area who would be able to deal with this matter.

C96. Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Licensing Policy

Consideration was given to report No. 7 which proposed amendments to the Council's Licensing Policy, following a review required by the Licensing Act 2003.

Resolved that the amended Licensing Policy be adopted as set out in Appendix 1 of the report to take immediate effect.

C97. The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007

Consideration was given to report No. 8 which advised the Council of the impact of the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 and the responsibilities of senior management under the Act. It was noted that Councillors were not excluded from the definition of senior management within the Act.

Resolved that the Council note:

- (1) The report.
- (2) That additional health and safety training is being arranged for Members.
- (3) That the existing arrangements for identifying health and safety risks are satisfactory.
- (4) That these arrangements will be subject to monitoring and review until 1 April 2009.

C98. Standards Committee Membership

Consideration was given to report No. 9 which asked Members to consider extending the membership term of the two independent members of the Standards Committee.

Resolved that the membership term of the two independent members of the Standards Committee (Mr James Carine and Mr Bob Philpott) be extended until 31 March 2009.

C99. Quarterly Report on Special Urgency Decisions

Consideration was given to report No. 10 which informed members that no key decisions had been taken by the Executive in circumstances of special urgency since 4 December 2007.

Resolved that the report be noted.

C100. Report on Implementation Executive Meeting

The Deputy Leader of the Council gave an oral update on the meetings of the Implementation Executive held on 19 March and 15 April 2008. Issues discussed included:

- The top level management structure had now been agreed
- There was likely to be early merging of some Departments
- Proposals for boundary changes for the new Authority had been submitted

- Project Managers for Area Boards had been appointed
- There were five Scrutiny Task Groups currently undertaking work related to the transition
- Face to face sessions were currently taking place with members of staff around the County
- The new Chief Executive would be appointed after the new Council was in place
- A calendar of meetings had not yet been agreed for the new authority
- It was likely that the allowances for the new Council would remain the same as the current County Council allowances in the first year and that an independent panel would then be appointed to undertake a review.

C101. Questions on Notice from Councillors – Council Procedure Rule 14.2

There were no questions from Councillors.

C102. Notices of Motion – Council Procedure Rule 15

There were no notices of motion.

The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 7.30pm

There were two members of the public present.