

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT MEETING ON 9th NOVEMBER 2006

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

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

Councillors P. G. Allnatt, H. M. Dixon, S. K. Doubell, D. J. E. Evans, R. J. Henning, G. Offord and O. J. Thomas.

Non-Executive Councillors Present: Councillors S. M. Meadows, T. J. A. Northey, T. R. Sturgis, R. L. Tonge, A. J. Trotman, S. R. Walls and J. Webb.

Officers Present: D. Burbidge (Chief Executive), L. Bell (Community & Environment Strategic Manager), H. Braid (Policy & Democratic Services Officer), P. Jeremiah (Legal Services Team Leader), L. May (Policy & Democratic Services Assistant), J. Moody (Partnership Development Officer), E. Orchard (Human Resources Team Leader), S. Pangbourne (Strategic Manager Corporate Services), J. Parry (Housing Policy & Strategy Officer) and D. Stirling (Asset, Design and Regeneration Manager).

E68. Future of Public Conveniences – Recommendations of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

At its meeting on 31st August 2006, the Executive resolved the following:

- (1) The seasonal closure of 5 public conveniences, as detailed in paragraph 3.2 (3) of Report No.24, be deferred and additional budget (approximately £18,000) be vired from elsewhere within the Revenue accounts or from reserves.
- (2) Negotiations with Wootton Bassett Town Council concerning the transfer of the Station Road facility, closure of Borough Fields and related issues be continued.
- (3) Wootton Bassett Town Council be asked to undertake a consultation exercise to justify the closure of Borough Fields.
- (4) A report be presented to the Executive meeting on 5th October 2006, providing an update as to the progress of negotiations with Town and Parish Councils in respect of devolving public conveniences.

(Minute E54 refers.)

This decision was "called-in" in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 41. Following its consideration of the decision on 19th September 2006, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee did not refer it back to the Executive, but did make the following recommendations:

- (1) That the Executive define the period of deferral, in relation to the seasonal closure of the 5 public conveniences.
- (2) That consideration should be given to developing clear guidelines for all communities being offered facilities, with a clear cut off date for any decisions.

(Minute O48 refers.)



The Executive was asked to consider the recommendations of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Consideration was also given to responses to the recommendations (circulated at the meeting).

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The closure of the 5 public conveniences, if still provided by the District Council, will be final in October 2007.
- The refurbishment costs for the Station Road conveniences at Wootton Bassett.
- The costs associated with the ongoing upkeep of the public conveniences.
- The letters to be sent to the Parish Councils will make it clear that a statement of principle is required by 3rd November 2006 and not a detailed agreement.
- A further report in this matter is to be made to the Executive meeting of 9th November 2006.

Resolved that the responses to the recommendations of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (as attached at Appendix 3 to these Minutes) be agreed.

Executive - 5th October 2006**Agenda Item 7 - Future of Public Conveniences
Recommendations of Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

- 1. That the Executive define the period of deferral, in relation to the seasonal closure of the 5 public conveniences?**
 - 1.1 If still provided by NWDC, ~~seasonal~~ permanent closure of the 5 public conveniences will occur at BST October 2007.
- 2. That consideration be given to developing clear guidelines for all communities being offered facilities, with a clear cut of date for any decisions?**
 - 2.1 The 5 Parishes will be given the opportunity to take over the 5 public conveniences based on the framework at Appendix 1 to the report to Executive of 31 August 2006, and will be required to respond by 3 November for reporting at the 9 November Executive meeting.
 - 2.2 As regards the closed Station Road conveniences at Wootton Bassett. Officers have met with the Town Clerk and reviewed the Town Council's proposals for the Station Road Public Conveniences. The Town Council have estimated costs of just over £51k include fees, a contingency and an allowance for overheads and profit. The standard of works proposed is for a complete "refurbishment" rather than the DDA improvements and basic refreshment that are being undertaken elsewhere by the District Council. However, Station Road is a lesser standard of interior finish than many of our other facilities. Coupled with a high level of vandalism, these finishes suffer more than most. In suggesting a more comprehensive refurbishment, the Town Council is probably seeking to reduce their ongoing maintenance costs on what is for them a one-off facility. The Town Council are seeking 50% of these costs from the District.
 - 2.3 The works are reasonable, although Officer's would consider that a reduced specification in some areas will reduce the overall costs to around £40k. However, the District Council's estimate of demolition and making good is £12k which is the only amount allowed for in the 2006/07 PPM budget. In October last year our own estimate for simple refreshment would be likely to rise from £10k to £15k because of the deterioration that has taken place since.
 - 2.4 With regards to lease/freehold, WBTC are only content to lease the building because they are worried about the boundary conditions and don't want to be responsible particularly for the wall. The costs of repairing the wall are an additional £2500 (included in the District Councils PPM budget). Consequently, the total finance being sought from the District Council is about £28k; with the District Council having continuous responsibility for boundary maintenance.

