

Minutes

Meeting of : The Cabinet
Meeting held in : The Alamein Suite City Hall, Salisbury
Date : Wednesday 07 November 2007
Commencing at : 6.00 pm

Present:

Councillor P W L Sample (Leader)
Councillor S R Fear (Deputy Leader) (in the Chair for minute 97)

Councillors P M Clegg (Planning), B E Dalton (Community Initiatives), P D Edge (Economic Development and Tourism), Mrs H McKeown (Transport), A C R Roberts (Finance), J C Robertson (Environment) and I R Tomes (Housing)

Apologies: Councillors Thorpe (Resources)

87. Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Sample declared a personal and prejudicial interest in minute 97 and left the meeting during consideration thereof. Councillor Tomes declared a personal interest in minute 95.

88. Minutes of Last Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

89. Chairman's Announcements

The Leader advised that the matter concerning the Christmas display at the Guildhall considered at the last City Area Community Committee meeting, did not need to come before Cabinet as it had been resolved.

The Leader also announced that after being advised to do so by officials at DCLG, he had received a letter from the Leader of Wiltshire County Council stating that she had decided to proceed with an enlarged transitional Cabinet with additional representation from the Districts as he had requested, consequently the Cabinet would comprise 9 County Councillors, (including the Leader) and 8 District Councillors (2 from each District). He said he hoped she would see sense in other matters as well.

The Leader advised that he hoped to have some good news soon about the introduction of the green waste wheelie bins in time for the Spring.

90. Public and Councillor Question and Statement Time:

Mr John Ellis representing the Association of Council Taxpayers (South Wiltshire), asked a question relating to agenda Item 13 and is attached as Annex 1 along with the reply from the Leader's reply (Annex 2).



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



91. Forward Plan:

The Leader presented his Forward Plan for the period 1 December 2007 – 31 March 2008 (previously circulated) to be published and become operational from 1 December 2007.

Resolved: that

the Leader's Forward Plan 1 December 2007 to 31 March 2008 be adopted for publication.

92. Call-in Decisions:

There were none.

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Recommendations to the Council

(The recommendations set out below will be considered by the Council on 10 December 2007)

- 93. Salisbury Vision: Approval of Capital funding for the Implementation of the Market Place Project:** Councillor Edge introduced the previously circulated report of the Project Director, Salisbury Vision. The Leader stressed that this Authority was "putting its money where its mouth was" in relation to the vision project, as demonstrated by its financial commitment. He very much hoped that all partners involved in this project would do likewise. It was especially important that Wiltshire County Council match fund the District Council's contribution and the Chairman of the Council and Councillor Dalton advised that they would be taking this message back to the County Council (see also minute 100 below).

Recommended to the Full Council on 10 December 2007: that up to £1.5 million be allocated in the 2008/09 capital programme as a contribution towards the cost of the Market Place project.

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Cabinet Decisions

All decisions set out in this section of the minutes will be implemented on or after 20 November 2007 (unless called in for consideration by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel)

94. Park and Ride Site at Petersfinger – Implementation Progress:

Further to minute 90 above, the Cabinet noted the previously circulated briefing note. The Leader also read out the views which had been expressed by Councillor Britton (attached as annex 3 to the minutes) and Councillor Moss also addressed the Cabinet expressing concern at the site location. The Leader advised that the Planning and Regulatory Panel on 18 September 2007, had granted planning permission for this development which was located on the site agreed by the previous Administration. The current Administration was enthusiastic about proceeding with this scheme at full speed as it had taken quite a while to progress. As regards funding, the County Council, in partnership with the District Council, had the requisite £3.4m ready to be released for the scheme. The Leader added that his Administration believed in investing in park and ride and this scheme was a prudent use of funds bearing in mind most local government activities are community, not profit, driven.

Resolved: that the scheme's progress be noted.

95. Guildhall: Feasibility of Introducing Disabled Access:

Councillor Dalton introduced the previously circulated report of the Property Manager. The Leader thanked the Officers for their report and wished to emphasise that the Administration regarded the matter as urgent. Its priority is to provide disabled access from the foyer to the Grand Jury Room and it is considered incumbent upon the Council to provide this access before it potentially ceases to exist in May 2009. If this access can be achieved within a wider scheme and before March 2009 that would be good, if not the Administration wants a simpler solution which will comply with the timetable.

Resolved: that

- (1) The Officers be instructed to pursue a disabled access from the foyer to the Grand Jury Room, to a design which is most likely to achieve completion by March 2009. That provision is inserted in the Capital budget and that responsibility be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, Deputy and relevant portfolio holders to oversee and complete this process.

96. Equality and Diversity:

Councillor Fear introduced the previously circulated report of the Head of Community Initiatives and in doing so pointed out that in the second bullet point at paragraph 2.2, Abbeville Associates have been retained for 3 days per month not 3 days per week as stated. Also the action plan was a work in progress and would need to be updated to reflect the outcome of a recent meeting.

Resolved: that the report be noted and on the basis of the foregoing, the Corporate Equality and Diversity Action Plan be endorsed.

97. Temporary Appropriation of Land surrounding former Swimming Pool:

Councillor Roberts introduced the previously circulated report of the Property Manager. Of the four letters of objection, Councillor Roberts explained that two had misunderstood the temporary necessity for the works. Councillor Fear advised that the Cabinet would be arranging a meeting with the Town Green Group, to discuss the best way forward to seek to secure protection against future development.

Resolved: to approve the appropriation of the land shown on the plan attached to the report on a temporary basis to facilitate the demolition of the old swimming building and landscaping works, and on completion of these works, to appropriate the land back to its current purpose.

98. Performance Monitoring – Review of Second Quarter 2007/8:

Councillor Sample introduced the previously circulated report of the Acting Chief Executive and Head of Financial Services. The Leader expressed his pleasure at such good performance being sustained especially in view of the uncertainty surrounding the future of the District Council.

Resolved: that the updates on areas of concern and proposed remedial action be noted.

99. Governance Framework and Governance Statement:

Councillor Roberts introduced the previously circulated report of the Chief Internal Auditor and thanked the Audit Committee for its work on this.

Resolved: that Councillor Roberts be the Cabinet representative to participate in the governance review group.

100. Salisbury Vision: Approval of Capital Funding for the Implementation of the Market Place Project:

Further to minute 93 above Councillor Edge introduced the previously circulated report of the Project Director, Salisbury Vision.

Resolved: that

- (1) the Salisbury Vision Project Director consult with Wiltshire County Council on this addition to the capital programme and seek confirmation of its commitment of £1.5m match funding.
- (2) the Salisbury Vision Project Director in consultation with the Head of Legal and Property Services and the Head of Financial Services:
 - (a) determine the level of capital that can be raised through the sale of council assets; and
 - (b) determine the level of additional income that can be reasonably expected as result of the Market Place project.

101. Festival of Remembrance Concert:

Councillor Sample introduced the previously circulated report from the Head of Community Initiatives

Resolved: that the proposal to provide the City Hall as a venue, free of charge to the Salisbury Branch of the Royal British Legion for the annual Festival of Remembrance Concert for both this year and future years be endorsed.

102. Joint consultative Forum:

The Cabinet noted the minutes and considered the recommendations arising from the Forum meeting held on 27 July 2007. (minutes previously circulated).

Resolved:

- (1) to note that the Leader and Deputy Leader will be meeting shortly with the unions UNISON and UNITE to discuss the Security of Employment and Redundancy Policy and would report back to a future Cabinet meeting on the outcome, in the meantime consideration of the Forum's recommendation will be deferred:
- (2) Councillor Thorpe be appointed as the Cabinet representative on the Health and Safety Committee

103. Exempt Information:

Agreed - In view of the confidential or sensitive nature of the matters to be considered, the Cabinet excluded the press and public from the meeting during consideration of an urgent item on the ground that it may involve the likely disclosure of 'exempt information' as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A inserted into the Local Government Act 1972 by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 and that the public interest against disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in favour of disclosure as explained below:

Paragraph 3 namely: (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information))

Summary of Exempt Matter

Judicial Review of Unitary Proposal for Wiltshire

The meeting concluded at 7.10 pm

Number of public present 4

John Ellis
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To Salisbury District Council

Public Question

Meeting of the Cabinet, 7 November, 2007

The Question

A minimal tip off has alerted villages to the east of the City to the fact that plans for the fifth and last Park & Ride are now being actively pursued after a long period of inaction. It has been suggested that much of the original plan is being reconsidered even to the extent of looking at other sites as far out along the A36 as Whaddon.

Having been actively interested in this matter for many years I have looked for more information on the subject on the Council website without success. I am very concerned therefore to find Council staff involved are not fully aware of important details from the past.

I have written and submitted an A4 briefing document on this subject to record the history of the Petersfinger and other sites and the problems they raise. I ask that the details outlined are not only noted but are used to form a basis for a viable solution. I would recommend that a small consultative group be set up with informed members of local organisations to discover if:

1. there the need for another major loss making parking facility is justified,
2. a suitable site can be found which will not:-
 - a. increase the burden of operational loss on Council Tax or other sources of income,
 - b. Increase traffic congestion with unsuitable access arrangements,
 - c. obstruct the only possible route remaining for a future A36 City bypass or
 - d. unduly benefit adjacent commercial interests.
3. the chosen site could offer the chance to improve the traffic flow between the existing dualled bypass and the Tesco roundabout by separating trunk road and local traffic,
4. its location could ease if not eliminate the rat-run through lanes and villages to the A30,
5. construction can be executed without diversions which would encourage rat-running.

Finally, I must recommend that Councillors involved inspect existing design maps produced by the County and also the Highways Agency to fully understand the problems involved in this bottleneck area. Congestion continues to increase unchecked but will a Park & Ride site make any real difference or simply add to the problem? Your views would be of considerable interest.

Mr J A M Ellis
Hillcroft, Farley, Salisbury SP5 1AR
5th November, 2007

The South East Park & Ride Site; Fifth and Last

Introduction. The Park & Ride Sites, beyond the means of both District and County, were a gift of government as a cheap alternative for the southern Salisbury Bypass cancelled 1997. Bypass cancellation came after protracted indecision by Messrs Young and Gummer and anti roads group activity, contrary to strong local opinion, fell to the Labour Government soon after assuming control.

It was unfortunate for the City but beneficial for the preservation of an endangered flood plain, a fact proved by the subsequent cancellation of the Harnham Relief Road for powerful environmental reasons which baffled, expensively, the County's Highways department. Now, almost a decade later the fifth and last site is being promoted when it is more obvious than ever before that the City needs a bypass above all else. It will be another loss making burden for the District's Council Tax payers

Siting Factors. P&R sites are best placed near the City boundary on the incoming side of the road or, as is the case with the Beehive location, on a roundabout. It should however, give home going users nearby access to the outgoing side of the road with minimal disruption of other traffic. To attract arrivals from the southeast on the A36, an ideal site should be on the southern side of the road near the end of the dualled Alderbury bypass, after which reduction to a single carriage way causes severe congestion but . . .

1. all the unoccupied land is green field, protected and floodplain and probably inadequate for the purpose.
2. the easiest but unsuitable alternative and currently favoured land lies to the north of the most congested length of single carriageway where incoming traffic must cross the A36 outgoing lane to reach the site and increase congestion on both lanes.
3. much of the site belongs to Tesco and featured in 'deals' when Tesco wanted to expand. Tesco would certainly benefit from P&R users visiting the store before leaving for home.
4. the site extending to the Tesco boundary would block **the last possible link** for a northern A36 City bypass which, after the Harnham fiasco, can no longer go south and west.

The bypass factor. Although an A36 Bypass is in abeyance a very large body of local opinion recognises its need. The resumption of Trunk Road status by government indicates the importance of the route and continued growth of both private and commercial traffic. In such circumstances it would be madness to block the only available land for a Salisbury Bypass and restrict the alignment of an extended Alderbury Bypass to join it the prospective P&R site. The original parking layout plan was revised to ensure that a road could run from the A36 near the Sewage Farm to pass under the railway towards Laverstock without affecting the bus terminal and site access.

An alternative . A P&R site could be located some 500m before the present City end of the Alderbury Bypass on undulating grazing land. It would involve extensive but not excessive earth moving and a new roundabout on the A36. The latter would improve safety at the junction of the old A36 from Alderbury itself, where fast traffic reaches the brow of the hill to find a short slope to the end of the dualled road and a speed limited single carriageway. Various arrangements for a revised road layout in this area have been drawn by various authorities, including the County Council, to keep the dualled road separate from local traffic and should be studied.

J A M Ellis
Tel 01722 712 656
3 Oct 2007

Dear Mr Ellis

Petersfinger Park and Ride

Thank you for submitting a question to the Cabinet meeting [to be] held on 7th November 2007.

I regret that the assumption under-pinning your question is incorrect. There is no investigation being undertaken into a possible alternative location for the park and ride site proposed for the A36 south-east of Salisbury. Such an investigation was carried out by consultants some five years ago, which found that the Petersfinger site was the best available location. No further studies have been contemplated since then.

Planning permission for the proposed site at Petersfinger was granted on 18th September 2007. Work is now concentrating on finalising detailed engineering designs, acquiring the land and preparing for the construction tendering process.

You should note that the proposed park and ride development will be constructed and paid for by Wiltshire County Council, using Local Transport Plan funding. Whilst Salisbury District Council is a keen supporter of the proposed facility, it is not directly involved in its procurement nor, because of the intervention of local government reorganisation, will it become the operator of the site. May I suggest, therefore, that if you wish to put forward any further comments on this matter, it would be more appropriate to direct them to the Director of Environmental Services at County Hall, Trowbridge?

Yours sincerely,

I have been asked by four Parish Councils to make Cabinet aware of the strength of feeling which exists on the matter of the proposed Petersfinger Park & Ride.

The Councils concerned are Alderbury, Grimstead, Whiteparish and Landford – all of which represent the communities most likely to use a Park & Ride site on the A36 south of Salisbury.

On their behalf I wish Cabinet to be aware that the Petersfinger site has never carried popular support. It is regarded as being too close to the City to provide any meaningful benefit for commuters. The traffic bottleneck at the end of the A36 dual carriageway means that by the time commuters have reached the proposed site the worst of their journey is over and easy parking is almost within sight.

These characteristics distinguish the site from the other Salisbury P&R sites.

The almost universally-held view amongst residents using the A36 is that a much more suitable location would be to the East of the Whaddon Interchange.

However, a further generally-held view is that until the commuters' nightmare of the bottleneck at the end of the dual carriageway is overcome a P&R site anywhere on the A36 will be an even bigger drain on revenue than the other locations.