

Minutes

Meeting of : The Cabinet
Meeting held in : The Alamein Suite City Hall, Salisbury
Date : Wednesday 30 January 2008
Commencing at : 6.00 pm

Present:

Councillor P W L Sample (Leader)
Councillor S R Fear (Deputy Leader)

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), A A Thorpe (Resources), and I R Tomes (Housing)

With the permission of the Chairman, Councillor Chettleburgh (minute 136) addressed the cabinet on the matter set out under the minute stated.

131. Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Dalton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in minute 139 below - Garage Rents and left the meeting during consideration thereof.

132. Leader's Announcements:

The Leader advised that he was shocked to hear about Councillor Cole-Morgan's condition following his accident. He wished Councillor Cole Morgan's family his very best wishes at this difficult time. He also asked that his concern be conveyed to the Conservative Group. Councillor Cole-Morgan is held in high regard by all Members.

The Deputy Leader advised of the sad passing away earlier this week of Ivan Light, a former Salisbury District Councillor for many years and Mayor of Salisbury. Ivan had been an inspiration to him when he first joined the Council and he would be greatly missed.

133. Minutes of Last Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

134. Public and Councillor Question and Statement Time:

Mrs H Nyman from Graham House Salisbury and Acting Chairperson for the Sheltered Housing Forum, made a statement to the meeting, which is attached as Annex 1.

The Leader thanked Mrs Nyman on behalf of the Council for all her excellent hard work and that of the Members of the Forum. He then expressed his regret as to what had happened to the Sheltered Housing Tenants and said he felt there were improvements which needed to be made to the process of tenant participation.



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The Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Tomes, apologised for the way Mrs Nyman had been treated. He advised that the Council's approach to tenant participation was to be reviewed having regard to best practice and that he the Council would be looking at appointing someone externally to undertake this review. Councillor Tomes also hoped that the Council will be able to spend more time with tenants in sheltered accommodation when the Housing Management Unit assumes responsibility for this function. In the meantime the Sheltered Housing Forum will be invited on to the Business Plan Project Board.

Mrs Nyman expressed her thanks to the Cabinet for its positive response.

Miss Mo Vines made a statement relating to tree maintenance and scrub clearing on the west side of Old Sarum attached as Annex 2 to the minutes.

The Leader advised that he had been following this issue and was aware that Miss Vines had raised it at the last Cabinet meeting, when it had been referred on to the City Area Planning Committee. He advised Miss Vines that this was a regulatory matter and consequently the Cabinet, which performed an exclusively Executive role, was constitutionally prohibited from dealing with it. Whilst he had personal views on this issue and he welcomed Miss Vines raising the matter, regrettably the process had been exhausted as far as the Cabinet was concerned.

135. 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 18 February 2008)

136. Car Parking Charge Adjustments 2008/09 and Penalty Charge Levels:

The Cabinet Member for Transport introduced the previously circulated report from the Head of Forward Planning and Transportation and also referred to and addressed the recommendations of Environment and Transport Scrutiny Panel and other representations received, namely from Salisbury City Centre Management, the Association of Council Tax Payers and Agenda 21 (all previously circulated). Councillor Mrs McKeown advised that the Council's budget had for many years been reliant on parking revenue, however whilst this has to be borne in mind the Cabinet had where possible tried to reconcile this with the views expressed by the above bodies and would be making some adjustments to the recommendations detailed in the report, in particular, the Cabinet would not be pursuing the introduction of evening charging. The Leader added that the Cabinet sought to achieve a prudent budget whilst ensuring it help deliver on all the transportation plans and proposals.

Recommended to Full Council on 18 February 2008 – that

(1) the officers' recommendations for off-street car parking charge adjustments as described in this report be approved except in respect of evening charging (paragraph 5.8) namely:

- City centre off-street long-stay (paragraph 5.3)
- Sunday charging (paragraph 5.7)
- Bed and breakfast scratchcards (paragraph 5.14)
- Park and ride (paragraph 5.15)

and as indicated in Appendix 4 of the report, for introduction on Monday 7th April 2008 and that Cabinet notes that a Zip card is available to pre-pay for as little as one stay at any one named Park and Ride site at the reduced price of £2, and that officers are investigating implementation of a low cost park and walk or park and cycle fare from the Britford and London Road Park and Rides at the same time;

the Council notes the Salisbury Transport Plan records its support of investing in and recommending to Wiltshire County Council investment of surplus generated by parking revenue in sustainable transport for the district including public transport, safe walking and cycling.

(2) Wiltshire County Council be recommended to agree to the proposed changes to on-street charges as described in this report except in respect of evening charging (paragraph 5.8) :

- City centre on-street (paragraph 5.5)
- Sunday charging (paragraph 5.7)
- Residents' charging (paragraph 5.12)
- Visitor permits (paragraph 5.13)
- Bed and breakfast scratchcards (paragraph 5.14)

- and as indicated in Appendix 4 of the report, and to advertise amendments to the relevant Traffic Regulation Orders for introduction as soon as possible in 2008/2009;
- (3) Wiltshire County Council be recommended to agree to the expenditure of the on-street surplus for 2007/2008 on meeting the costs of ITS and park and ride before any off-street surpluses are used;
 - (4) The Band 2 rate for Penalty Charge Notice charges as described at paragraph 2.17 of the report be adopted in respect of parking contraventions in off-street car parks from 31st March 2008.

137. Revenue Budget 2008/09 and Council Tax 2009/09:

The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the previously circulated reports of the Head of Financial Services and the Chief Accountant. The Cabinet also noted the recommendations from the Resources overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 21 January 2008 and the proposals of the City Area Community Committee meeting on 22 January 2008 (minute 60) detailing its recommendations to Council. Both the Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance congratulated the Finance Officers for their excellent work in helping the Cabinet achieve such a sound budget, which for just an average 11 pence per week rise for a Band D Council taxpayer (the lowest increase for 7 years) allowed for a substantial investment in key public services/political priorities (£714,000) eg long term retention of weekly waste collection and free swimming for the under 16s during school holidays.

Recommended to Full Council on 18 February 2008 – that

- (1) the draft Revenue Estimates for 2007/08 (revised) and 2008/09 (original) be approved as previously circulated, subject to any resultant revisions the proposed changes in car parking charges necessitate;
- (2) for the year 2008/09 the sum £609,094 giving a Council Tax of £40.60 (at Band D) be determined as the amount of the special expenses levy incurred in the City of Salisbury in accordance with Section 35 (2) d of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- (3) taking into account the following:
the surplus on the Council Tax collection fund estimated at £1,057, of which £124 falls on the District Council Tax.

The basic amount of Council Tax at Band D for District Council purposes in 2008/09 be £128.32 (an increase of 4.5%) based on a net District budget requirement of £14,021,810 excluding City Area Committee. This will leave a projected General Fund reserves balance of £1,282,000 at 31.3.09.

Further to (3) above the District Tax sum together with the information from Wiltshire County council, Wiltshire Police Authority, Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority and the relevant Town and Parish Councils be incorporated in the formal Tax Resolution (to be circulated prior to the Council Tax meeting) for adoption by Full Council showing the Tax Rates for Bands A-H for each part of the District Council's Areas.

138. Housing Revenue Account Budget and Rent Setting 2008/09:

The Cabinet Member for Housing introduced the previously circulated report of the Head of Financial Services and the Head of Housing Management.

Recommended to Full Council on 18 February 2008 – that

- (1) the HRA Budget for 2007/2008 (revised) and 2008/2009 (original) be approved.
- (2) the increase for dwelling rents in accordance with rent Restructuring be approved;
- (3) the level of increase for service charges at a maximum of RPI and utility recharges as a maximum of utility inflation plus £1 per week be approved.

139. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Garage Rents:

The Cabinet Member for Housing introduced the previously circulated report of the Head of Financial Services and the Head of Housing Management.

Recommended to Full Council on 18 February 2008 – that

- (1) the rents for the HRA garages be increased to closely match the market rate, in order to make best use of these assets;
- (2) rents be increased by £2 per week over each of the next 2 years. This would still leave the garages competitively priced in comparison with the private sector and rents charged by other social landlords in the South of England.

- (3) After each increase, there be a review to determine whether the increase is leading to more garages becoming difficult to let.

140. Capital Programme 2007/08 - 2012/13:

The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the previously circulated report of the Head of Financial Services.

Recommended to Full Council on 18 February 2008 – that

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Revised Capital Programme 2007-2013 set out at Appendix 1 of the report be approved, subject to amendments for the item minuted at 144 .

Resolved that the Officers explore the feasibility of undertaking enhancement works in Wilton Town Square, in consultation with Ward Members and Wilton Town Council and report back to Cabinet with findings in due course.

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Cabinet Decisions

All decisions set out in this section of the minutes will be implemented on or after 12 February 2008 (unless called in for consideration by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel)

141. Salisbury Vision – Approval and Adoption:

The Cabinet noted that this report had been deferred to the Cabinet meeting in April. The Chief Executive advised that more work was needed in terms of the analysis of the consultation results, the document's presentation and the recommendations in terms of priorities.

142. Tisbury and District Sports Centre Internal Work Costings:

Further to the matter set out at agenda item 18 (a) the Cabinet member for Community Initiatives thanked Councillor Parker for raising issues regarding the internal layout at the Sports Centre and proposed the below resolution:-

Resolved – that the information provided on the agenda be noted, and that the matter firstly be referred to the Tisbury and District Sports Centre Managing Body and the local ward members for their respective comments. The Western Area Committee, once in possession of these comments, will then be asked to consider this issue and submit its views to the Cabinet for consideration.

143. Outcome of Scrutiny Review on CCTV and Subsequent Action Plan:

Councillor Edge introduced the previously circulated report of the Planning and Economic Development Scrutiny Review on CCTV, together with an Action Plan from the Head of Forward Planning and Transportation.

Resolved: that the action plan be approved in principle and that recommendation 1 "Salisbury District Council reaffirms its commitment to the continuation of CCTV in South Wiltshire and that a similar commitment be sought urgently from Wiltshire County Council on behalf of the new unitary authority" be treated as a high priority.

144. Upgrade of CCTV System Installed at the Friary Estate:

Councillor Edge introduced the previously circulated report of the CCTV Manager.

Resolved: that

- (1) In principle a capital budget in the sum of £48,672 be approved to enable the replacement of cameras and the upgrading of the CCTV system within the Friary estate and that the funding be split £20,000 from the Housing Revenue Account capital programme and £28,672 from the General Fund capital programme; and
- (2) the contract for this system be let through the normal tendering process and that the decision to appoint be delegated to the Head of Forward Planning and Transport, in consultation with the portfolio holder.

145. Corporate Business Continuity Strategy and Plan:

Councillor Thorpe introduced the previously circulated report of the Head of Legal and Property Services.

Resolved: that the plans and procedures be adopted, but the supplemental plans at appendix 2 and 3 be instead dealt with by the Chief Executive in view of their operational nature.

146. Outcome of Scrutiny Review on Climate Change:

Councillor English gave a presentation of the previously circulated scrutiny review from the Environment and Transport Scrutiny Panel. The views of that Panel from its meeting on 28 January had been previously circulated. The Cabinet Member for Planning welcomed this report wholeheartedly, a view shared by the Leader who advised that this was one of the most radical and challenging reports the Council had ever been presented with. The Leader thanked all those involved in producing such an excellent and compelling review, and although inevitably not all the recommendations would be affordable, he hoped that there would be a number of "high impact quick wins" which could be pursued as soon as possible.

Resolved: that

- (1) the Climate Change Review Group established by the Environment and Scrutiny Panel, together with the Democratic Services Officers who supported the review, be thanked for all their hard work in producing such an excellent report
- (2) to endorse the final report of the climate change review group and its recommendations, having regard to the Panel's changes in paragraph 52, and officers be instructed to prepare an implementation plan as soon as possible and before April 2008, such plan to look at the feasibility and implementation of the recommendations, with targets for where to devote resources;
- (3) the review be referred to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Wiltshire County Council Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
- (4) the scrutiny review be submitted as part of the options consultation process for the Local Development Framework.

147. Gypsy and Travellers Housing needs Assessment:

Councillor Tomes introduced the previously circulated report of the Head of Strategic Housing.

Resolved: that the conclusions and broad implications of the Gypsy and Traveller Housing Needs Assessment be adopted.

148. Results of Budget Consultation:

The Leader advised that the main budget consultation closed last Monday and Cabinet Members will have a full analysis of the results this Saturday. The full report will be circulated to all councilors next week to give them a chance to digest the information before Council.

718 people had responded to the SIMALTO budget questionnaire, which compares favourably with consultation undertaken in previous years.

The Leader added that the Cabinet would study the full results carefully prior to finalising its budget plans at Full Council on the 18th February 2008.

Resolved: that the budget consultation process be noted and the outcome once known be reported to Full Council.

149. Joint Consultative Forum:

The Cabinet Member for Resources introduced the previously circulated notes of the Forum meeting held on 08 January 2008 and Cabinet considered the recommendations set out therein (together with the associated reports).

Agreed – that the recommendations from the Joint Consultative Forum meeting concerning the following policies be approved

- (a) **Retention Policy:**
- (b) **Probation Policy:**
- (c) **Long Service Awards Policy:**

150. Performance Monitoring – Review of Third Quarter:

Councillor Sample introduced the previously circulated joint report of the Head of Financial Services and the Performance Improvement Manager.

Resolved: that the new areas of concern and improvement be noted.

151. Update on Petersfinger Park and Ride:

The Leader advised that the Heads of Agreement had been signed and that the project was on course for completion and opening in April 2009.

152. Special Delegation Procedure:

The Cabinet noted the matters determined under the Special Delegation Procedure as set out at Agenda Item 22 (papers previously circulated) namely:

- (a) Funding for Local Connect2 Publicity on weekend of National TV Vote.
- (b) Bespoke Predictive Housing Stock Modelling for Wiltshire Private Sector Housing Group.

153. Successes of the Council:

Councillor Sample introduced the previously circulated list of successes and achievements of the Council over the last month. The Cabinet was pleased to see such a full list and particular note was made of the excellent play opportunities that had been created.

Resolved: that the successes and achievements be noted with satisfaction and the Officers be thanked for their help in this.

154. Proposed Dates of Cabinet Meetings for the 2008/09 Municipal Year:

The Leader referred to the proposed meeting dates set out at agenda item 24.

Agreed: that the programme of Cabinet meetings for the 2008/09 municipal year as set out in agenda item 24, be approved.

*The meeting concluded at 7.30 pm
Number of public present 10*

Cabinet Meeting 30-01-08

Hettie Nyman
5 Graham House
Salisbury

My name is Hettie Nyman - Acting Chairperson for Sheltered Housing Forum.

I have to remind the council, that the sheltered housing forum came about because of the review concerning wardens being removed from all schemes.

We accepted the council's apology that we were not consulted at that time and have adhered to the new "supporting people", which is not satisfactory to elderly peoples' needs. We await your decision as to how you will approach this in the future. We have had a difficult time as a Forum trying to prove we need a different way to handle the many problems which occur during 24 hours a day and over a long period of time.

It seems ironical that the HSO are only allowed to use a certain way to approach tenants, therefore, complaints are not dealt with in the correct manner which is needed.

We are (if I might be allowed to say) concerned, disillusioned people on the Forum and feel we can include all sheltered housing personnel, but we are also very reasonable as we have proved by accepting the proposal concerning underpaid utilities over several years and the extra £1 levy, there was no alternative offered.

Unfortunately, the proposal went to the tenants' panel. I was invited to that meeting when it was discussed and was very surprised sheltered housing did not know and had not been advised about the statement.

I therefore had to call an "Extraordinary Meeting" to discuss both the utility levy and the change to management. This would not have taken place had the promise to consult been adhered to.

So with respect I ask you today for the following issues:-

1. to be consulted on any subject appertaining to sheltered housing.
2. to listen and comprehend what is discussed at the forum and act on them to the best of your ability
3. to understand we will listen to you respectfully

When management takeover, we will expect every report by tenants that disturbs worries or concerns then will be heard and respected and recognise their concern and to solve problems amicably, which at this time is not happening.

Thank you for your time. We do realise we are dealing with two identities, persons who speak and work for the council and you the councillors who speak for the public.

Statement of Miss Vines to Cabinet meeting of Salisbury Council 30 January 2008

Re: Clearance work at Old Sarum

For the Chairman to read at the public meeting

Given the high level of public concerns over the impact the loss of these trees/ shrubs/ scrub is having on the wider landscape, as well as the localised wildlife and their habitats, due to the wholesale clearance of the affected areas on and around Old Sarum; and given the continued threat that is implicit to the remaining trees/scrub/shrub by the still to be determined English Heritage tree works notification;

Is there anything at this late stage that the council and councillors can do, or is it too late?

I ask these questions in the light of the letter sent to members of the planning committee from David Prince, quoting sec.3.2 and others of the TPO guide to the Law and Good Practise [attached]

The impression given by English Heritage at the meeting on Friday 25 January was that they were not aware of changes that came into force in August 2007 to the Conservation [Natural Habitats, & c.] Regulations 1994 which changed the legal protection given to European Protected Species. Managers will now need to assess the presence of EPS and the likelihood of the impact of their operations on EPS