

Minutes

Meeting of : The Cabinet
Meeting held in : The Alamein Suite City Hall, Salisbury
Date : Monday 28 May 2008
Commencing at : 6.00 pm

Present:

Councillor P W L Sample (Leader)
Councillor S R Fear (Deputy Leader) – in the Chair for minute 200

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

Apologies were received from Councillor A C R Roberts (Finance)

With the permission of the Chairman, Councillor Brown and Councillor Hewitt addressed the cabinet on the matters set out under the minutes 207 and 199 and 202 respectively.

195. Declarations of Interest:

Councillor B E Dalton and P W L Sample declared personal and prejudicial interests in respect of item 7, Handyman Service minute 200 and left the meeting during discussion thereon.

196. Minutes of Last Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

197. Public and Councillor Question and Statement Time:

Mrs Nyman of Graham House, Salisbury made the following statement:

I thought that Cabinet may like to hear the results of the first Sheltered Housing Workshop from the Sheltered Housing Chairpersons view.

I was personally disappointed with the unbalanced assembly present.

A domineering attitude was prevalent overall. So much so, that the Forum was not helped to solve any problems we encountered in our twilight years.

To be independent is not the correct word to use, I would say, that as we get older we need support in areas that only we know.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



Any subject a Forum member mentioned was fervently rejected by Supporting People. No discussion or reasoning. They are not allowed to do this, not allowed to do that. This is the attitude that we have endured for nearly 4 years now.

It is undermining our intelligence.

Having read the minutes of the meeting, we would appreciate a different approach at the next one.

Supporting People is a misconception to say the least. May I please ask you to help us establish a situation where we can enjoy our lives.

Councillor Tomes appreciated Mrs Nyman's comments and advised that whilst it was not the most positive of meetings, it was the first of many. Also it had only been 8 weeks since the transfer of the sheltered schemes to housing management had taken place. Councillor Tomes was keen to see the Forum move forward and hoped that future meetings would attract a better attendance.

The Leader responded by saying that he always welcomed honest feedback and the council would look into the issues raised by Mrs Nyman.

198. Forward Plan:

The Leader presented his Forward Plan for the period 1 June 2008 – 30 September 2008 (previously circulated).

Resolved: that the Leader's Forward Plan 1 June 2008 to 30 September 2008 be adopted for publication and become operational from 1 June 2008.

199. Call-in Matter Christmas 2008:

Councillor Edge referred to the Call in as detailed at agenda item 6, and advised that having considered the call in reasons, he believed the Cabinet's previous decision, as supported by the Planning and Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel, was the right one.

Councillor Hewitt, who was the then chairman of the Scrutiny Panel that called the matter in, advised that the primary issue of concern to the Resources Panel had been that the cost of the Christmas lights for Salisbury City fell on the residents of the whole district and that other areas of the district had to fund their Christmas lights locally.

Several Cabinet Members spoke on this matter emphasising that Salisbury's Christmas lights was a benefit to the whole district in terms of economic development and tourism and that the lights switch on attracted people from far and wide. The Leader added that the council's economic partners, including Salisbury City Centre Management, very much wanted to press on with the proposal as agreed at the last meeting.

Agreed unanimously that the Cabinet's previous decision on 28 April 2008 be reaffirmed.

Minutes

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Date : Wednesday 28 May 2008
Commencing at : 6.00 pm

Cabinet Decisions

*All decisions set out in this section of the minutes will be implemented on or after 10 June 2008
(unless called in for consideration by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel)*

200. Provision of a Handyperson Service for the Council's Tenants:

Councillor Tomes introduced the previously circulated report of the Housing Manager.

Resolved: that in order to meet the Council's priorities, a Handyperson service be introduced.

201. National Non-Domestic Rate Write Offs:

Councillor Thorpe introduced the previously circulated report of the Head of Revenue and Benefits.

Resolved that the amounts shown on the schedule attached to the report be written off for the reasons indicated and due to the fact that the council is a non-preferred creditor.

202. Long Services Awards:

Councillor Thorpe introduced the previously circulated report from the Employee Relations Manager.

Resolved: that the payment of the ad hoc long service awards set out in the report be approved.

203. Unitary and Bourne Hill Update:

The Chief Executive advised that:

- (1) the Wiltshire Chief Executive's group had been considering the amalgamation of certain services including elections, procurement and ICT as part of the first tranche and were agreeing a process for the way forward;
- (2) the new Wiltshire Council's senior management structure had been decided and that recruitment thereof will be taking place over the next couple of months. The recruitment panel would include members of the Implementation Executive;
- (3) medium term financial plan – this matter was taken to the last Implementation Executive, however, there had been little time to discuss, it which was regrettable as it highlighted the need to meet a £15 million budget gap next year;
- (4) the Implementation Executive had been discussing the Bourne Hill Development and would be considering it further at a special meeting on 2 June 2008. It was disappointing that the Implementation Executive had raised issues so late in the process. Also there were serious financial implications if the scheme did not proceed with the possibility of adding £6 million to the new authority's funding gap next year.

204. Successes of the Council:

Councillor Sample introduced the previously circulated list of successes and achievements of the Council over the last month.

Councillor Thorpe advised that the Five Rivers Leisure Centre had been heavily used last Bank Holiday Monday.

Resolved: that successes and achievements be noted with satisfaction.

205. Update on Petersfinger Park and Ride:

Councillor McKeown referred to the recently circulated updated briefing note on this matter and advised that it was hoped that the new park and ride site would be open in April 2009. Councillor Brown referred to the variation between the original and updated statements regarding ditch ownership.

Agreed – to note the update position and the officers be asked to clarify the position in respect of ditch ownership and insurance related thereto.

206. Special Delegation Procedure:

The Cabinet noted the matter determined under the Special Delegation Procedure as set out at Agenda Item 13 (papers previously circulated) namely:

- (a) Lockers at 5 Rivers and Durrington Swimming Pool

207. Matters of Urgency:

The Chairman agreed to take the following items of business under urgent matters.

(1) **Climate Change Scrutiny Review Update:**

The extract minute from the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 7 May 2008 had been previously circulated. This was to express to Cabinet the Panel's unanimous concern about the speed to date at which action had been taken on the implementation of the climate change review's recommendations, and to urge Cabinet to ensure greater progress would be made as a matter of urgency.

Councillor Clegg restated the comments he made at the Annual Council meeting namely that a number of the forty recommendations had already been implemented. He added that he was happy to meet up with Councillor Brown outside the meeting to give him an update in respect of each of the recommendations.

The Cabinet noted that due to organisational capacity and the compelling demands associated with the recent issues surrounding the Bourne Hill development, the appointment of a climate change officer had yet to be progressed - whilst keen to see this appointment made, the Cabinet fully appreciated the situation.

(2) **Tisbury Sports Centre - Marketing**

The Leader agreed to take this matter under urgent business.

The Leader advised that Councillor Parker, the new chairman of the Tisbury Sports Centre Managing Body had requested that a suitable officer at Tisbury be identified and trained to produce press releases and to help market the Centre.

Agreed – that this request be referred to the Council's Communication Team for consideration.

*The meeting concluded at 6.50 pm
Number of public present 3*