

Minutes

Meeting of : The Cabinet
Meeting held in : The Alamein Suite, City Hall, Salisbury
Date : Wednesday 05 November 2008
Commencing at : 6.00 pm

Present:

Councillor P W L Sample (Leader), Councillors S R Fear (Deputy Leader), P M Clegg (Planning), B E Dalton (Community Initiatives), P D Edge (Economic Development and Tourism), H McKeowan (Transport), A C R Roberts (Finance), J C Robertson (Environment), A A P Thorpe (Resources) and I R Tomes (Housing).

280. Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Thorpe declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the matter set out under minute 288 (application 12) because he was Chairman of the organisation that had applied for funding. He did not speak or vote, and left the meeting for the duration of the item.

Councillor Sample declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the matter set out under minute 288 (applications 1, 3, 6, 11, 32 & 44) because these organisations were clients of his business. He did not speak or vote, and left the meeting for the duration of the item.

Councillor Robertson declared a personal interest in the matter set out under minute 288 (application 12) as a member of the organisation.

Councillor Dalton declared a personal interest in the matter set out under minute 288 (applications 1 & 19) as he knew the applicants.

Councillor Edge declared a personal interest in the matter set out under minute 288 (applications 33 & 35) as he had carried out work for the applicants.

Councillor Roberts declared a personal interest in the matter set out under minute 288 (applications 4 & 20) as he knew the applicants.

Councillor Tomes declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the matter set out under minute 289 because his wife was an employee of Salisbury District Council. He did not speak or vote, and left the meeting for the duration of the item.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



281. Minutes of Last Meeting:

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

282. Public and Councillor Question and Statement Time:

The Leader referred to two questions circulated on behalf Councillor Mrs Spencer who was unable to attend which are attached as Annex 1 to the minutes.

Resolved: that

- (1) the concerns expressed by Councillor Mrs Spencer regarding advertisements adjacent to the highway in Mere be raised with Wiltshire County Council (WCC) and further clarification of the reasons for the proposed Development Service management structure be sought from WCC.
- (2) The Leader referred to the result of the US presidential election and asked that an invitation to visit Salisbury as the home of one of four original copies of the Magna Carta be sent to President-Elect Obama.
- (3) The Leader noted that many members would no longer have a role in public life upon the abolition of the Council and that appropriate arrangements would be made to mark their contribution.

283. Call in Matters:

There were none.

284. Forward Plan:

The Leader presented his Forward Plan for the period 1 December 2008 – 31 March 2009.

Resolved: that the Leader's Forward Plan 1 December 2008 – 31 March 2009, be adopted for publication subject to:

- (1) Tenant Participation Arrangements being included in January 2009; and
- (2) Spring Cycle Race 2009 being included in December 2008
- (3) Former Historic Building Joint Committee Funds being included in December 2008
- (4) Conservation Area Appraisals being included in December 2008
- (5) Legal LGR issues being included in December 2008, January 2009, February 2009 & March 2009
- (6) Economic Prospects in South Wiltshire being included in December 2008
- (7) Sustainable Communities Act being included in December 2008

and become operational from 1 December 2008.

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Cabinet Decisions

All decisions set out in this section of the minutes will be implemented on or after 18 November 2008 (unless called in for consideration by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel)

285. Salisbury Vision Update on Current Projects and Key Issues:

Councillor Edge introduced the previously circulated report of the Salisbury Vision Project Director.

Resolved: that

- (1) Request a report in February 2009 from the Economic Development Manager on the results of Market Place international design competition;
- (2) Receive a report in December on the Terms of Reference, structure and governance arrangements for a Salisbury Vision LDV;
- (3) Confirm the principle that all monies which may be generated through Vision development projects (assuming that they receive planning permission) in the form of planning gain packages, capital receipts and other financial arrangements are ring-fenced and used to fund the planned investment in the city's public realm; request that this principle is endorsed by the Implementation Executive and subsequently by the Cabinet of the new Wiltshire Council;
- (4) Wiltshire County Council be invited to nominate a member to the Judging Panel for the rejuvenation of the Market Place; and
- (5) Members of the Implementation Executive be advised of the arrangements for managing the Salisbury Vision process.

286. Establishment of a Salisbury Business Improvement District (BID):

Councillor Edge introduced the previously circulated report of the Salisbury Vision Project Director.

Resolved: that

- (1) the local business community be enabled in the establishment of a Salisbury City Centre BID and the undertaking of a feasibility study; and
- (2) the provision of funding from existing budgets be approved to the Salisbury City Centre Management Limited to manage and deliver this feasibility study, as outlined in sections 6 and 7 of the report.

287. Proposed Enhancement of Wilton Market Place:

Councillor Edge introduced the previously circulated report and supplementary report of the Head of Forward Planning and Transportation.

Resolved: that the scheme be implemented and proceed as soon as possible in the New Year, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The enhancement work to the Market Place should be carried out in two consecutive stages, allowing approximately half the car park to continue in operation during each phase;
- (2) Additional limited waiting car parking should be provided on North Street and a temporary change to the relevant Road Traffic Order to this effect should be advertised;
- (3) The market should be relocated to the area outside the Wilton Heath Centre. This arrangement should be subject to a temporary road closure being put in place on market days and a Road Traffic Order being advertised to this effect. In the run up to and during the course of the enhancement works, contact should be maintained with the Practice Manager of the Health Centre to ensure any difficulties associated with the temporary market arrangements are dealt with promptly. A regular patrol by Civil Enforcement Officers should be provided during the course of the works.
- (4) Officers should continue to examine the detailed concerns expressed in some consultation responses with a view to addressing the issues raised.
- (5) £15,000 should be allocated from the remaining Town Scheme budget towards upgrading the enhancement of Wilton Market Place to enable the use of Yorkstone paving.
- (6) the arrangements to be publicised in the local media.

The Deputy Leader took the chair for the following item as the Leader had declared a personal and prejudicial interest and had left the meeting for the duration of the item.

288. General Community fund Grants 2008/09 Tranche 2:

Councillor Dalton introduced the previously circulated report of the Head of Community Initiatives.

Resolved: that

- (1) the recommendations of the advisory group as set out in Appendix 2 of the report be approved; and
- (2) the Leader and Deputy in consultation with the Chief Executive be authorised to determine the remaining grant allocations from this budget in line with the corporate priorities as previously agreed by Cabinet in the Corporate and Transition Plan 2008/09 on 18 June 2008.

289. Salisbury City Council – Staff Transfer Arrangements:

Councillor Thorpe introduced the previously circulated joint report of the Head of People and Organisational Development and Programme Office. Cabinet notes that discussions with the trade unions about these arrangements were continuing.

Resolved: that the issues raised by the trade union in relation to the parishing of Salisbury, summarised in paragraph 3.7 of the report, be supported.

290. Unitary Update:

The Acting Chief Executive gave an update on the transition to a unitary authority which is summarised below:

- the Implementation Executive would consider financial issues related to the parishing of Salisbury on 13 November 2008
- a consultation meeting on the Wiltshire Council budget for 2009/10 would be held in Salisbury on 19 November 2008
- further transitional arrangements regulations dealing with responsibility for functions, electoral matters, statutory plans, membership of planning & licensing committees, town & country planning, education and miscellaneous transitional provisions would come into force on 28 November 2008
- the procedure for the appointment of staff to the unitary authority had been approved by the Implementation Executive

291. Successes of the Council:

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

Resolved: that successes and achievements be noted including the award by the Audit Commission of three stars for Use of Resources.

292. Update on Petersfinger Park and Ride:

Cabinet considered the previously circulated briefing note on this matter.

Resolved: that

- (1) the update position be noted; and
- (2) Wiltshire County Council be requested to considered appropriate means of publicising this project including press releases and a ceremony to initiate construction.

293. Special Delegation Procedure:

The Cabinet noted the matters determined under the Special Delegation Procedure as set out at Agenda Item 15 (papers previously circulated) namely:

Proposed Enhancement of Wilton Market Place – Responses to the Public Consultation

*The meeting concluded at 7.02 pm
Number of public present 2*

Question from Councillor Mrs Catherine Spencer – for Cabinet meeting 5 November 2008

Firstly, Mere Parish Council is outraged at action taken by our Area Highway Engineer. I have contacted Jane Scott, and still await a response from her. It would be helpful if Cabinet could lend their weight to stop an impossible situation continuing in Mere. Paul Sample will have received a letter about this but put simply the Area Highway Engineer is conducting a campaign to remove all 'A' frame boards and signs advertising local shops and businesses within Mere. He has removed 43 signs in all without any warning to the businesses concerned nor any subsequent letter informing the owners how to retrieve their property. He did however inform the PC clerk that there were some signs advertising the Mere Literary Festival which he would confiscate the next day if they were not moved. The Mere Literary Festival is an internationally renowned CHARITY event, which raises vital funds for the Mere and District Linkscheme. According to the DCLG, temporary signs or notices are permitted for local charitable events so this was completely beyond the call of duty for the Highway Engineer and has caused widespread anger and outrage. I know I do not need to spell out to cabinet members the need for SDC and CC to try to halt the closing of shops and businesses in rural areas. In Mere in the last 3 years we have seen the closure of our only petrol station, a butchers shop, ironmongers shop, gift shop and flower shop. Our bank is now open only 3 days a week. All the remaining businesses recognise the need to advertise to attract customers and attract new custom. Their advertising boards were all placed responsibly, not causing any obstruction to pedestrians or blocking drivers' visibility. They were not causing any aesthetic damage to the town – quite the contrary as Mere won the Best Kept Large Village in South Wiltshire and came second in the County wide round. I am asking the cabinet to

1. Ensure SDC includes policies in their new LDF to assist and protect rural businesses and shops – signage and car parking availability are vital for their sustainability of rural towns and villages
2. Demand from the County Council and the new Wiltshire Council clarification on the current policy of the Wiltshire County Council and its consistency – it appears that Mere is being targeted for the removal of signs when in towns such as Melksham, Marlborough, Trowbridge and Warminster there are numerous signs and advertisement boards that appear to be tolerated
3. Demand from the existing County Council and the new Wiltshire Council a modified policy that is less rigid and more helpful in assisting and protecting rural businesses and shops. Mere Parish Council feels that the current policy is harming the vibrancy and economic future of Mere.

I am hopeful that cabinet members will support these measures – would they please consider what action can be taken urgently to prevent more businesses closing in Mere?

Secondly

At Stephen Thorne's recent meeting for Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Area Committees, Planning and Regulatory Panel and Planning and Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny recently, the new Wiltshire Development Service management structure was considered. It appears that for each of the four areas in Wiltshire, there is a proposal to have Area Team Leaders for Four functions – Development Control, Heritage and Design, Admin, Land Charges and Technical Support, and Building Control.

This is an extra layer of management – extra in that it is in addition that which we operate very effectively in SDC.

My concern is not only that there is a large cost in employing **SIXTEEN extra members of staff** in the new Wiltshire Council – but that the service provided will become drastically less efficient as decisions are passed up the chain and sideways within the structure.

It may be that the IE has members on it with a sketchy understanding of the operation of District Council Development Services. I would hope that the County Council members on the IE can be prevailed upon to take the advice of officers in successful councils like SDC and change the proposed management team structure. Please could Cabinet members look into this?