

Minutes

Alamein Suite
City Hall, Salisbury
4.00 pm: 15 January 2003

Part 1: Procedural Matters

ACTIONED BY
Portfolio Holder
(Contact Officer)

403. Present:

Councillors: K C Wren (Leader) J M Collier (Deputy Leader) E R Draper & J C Noeken (Planning and Economic Development), D W Brown & D A Culver (Environment and Transport), J A Cole-Morgan & A G Peach (Community & Housing) and Mrs S A Warrander & S G Sanders (Resources).

Councillors Bissington, Brown-Hovelt, Cardy, Hewitt, Mrs Peach, Chairman of the Council and Paisey were in attendance.

404. Code of Conduct: Members & Officers' Interests:

Councillor Wren declared an interest in the community grants item (the Sarum Chamber Orchestra application) minute 413 below refers and left the meeting during consideration thereof. The Deputy Leader, Councillor Collier chaired the meeting during the Chairman's absence.

Cllr Wren
(S Agland)

405. Minutes:

The minutes of the last ordinary meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Cllr Wren
(S Agland)

406. Questions and Statements:

Councillor Brown-Hovelt submitted the following questions to the Deputy Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development

- A. in light of the expansion problems facing the original Wilton Weaving Works and the possibility that they may be forced to relocate outside Wiltshire because of the lack of land allocated to warehousing and distribution within the district plan, can the Cabinet please publicly endorse the previous administration's position that the Netherhampton Road industrial Sites will not become available for retail use?
- B. Additionally, can the Cabinet let me know what action with regards to land allocation can be taken to ensure the above company (and other employers who find themselves in the same position) can be helped to stay in South Wiltshire.

In view of the shortness of notice of these questions Councillor Noeken advised that Councillor Brown - Hovelt would receive a detailed written response within the required time and hopefully by this weekend, in the meantime he advised in response to the first question that he was aware of the concerns surrounding the Netherhampton Road Industrial Site.

Cllr Noeken
(E Teagle/G Gould)

As regards the second question, the South Wiltshire Economic Partnership (SWEP) in conjunction with the District Council, is in the process of establishing a land asset register intended to identify land that may be available to help businesses wishing to relocate.

Councillor Brown- Hovelt referred to a letter which had been sent to a number of Members from a local taxi firm concerning community safety issues around taxi ranks

The Chairman advised that the letter would be forwarded to the appropriate Officers to decide what action if any should taken.

Note Legal Officers' advice will be sought in the first instance

*Cllr Wren/
(S Agland)*

407. Call-in:

None of the decisions from the Cabinet's last meeting had been called-in.

*Cllr Wren
(S Agland)*

408. Forward Plan:

The Leader, Councillor Wren, presented his Forward Plan for the period 1 February 2003 – 31 May 2003 (previously circulated) which would be published on 16 January to become operational from 1 February 2003.

*Cllr Wren
(S Agland)*

Agreed: that subject to the Best Value Review of Corporate and Support Services being put back from February to March (to enable it firstly to be considered by the external panel and the Council's Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel) the Forward Plan as circulated be adopted for publication.

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Part 2: Recommendations to the Council

ACTIONED BY
Portfolio Holder
(Contact Officer)

409. Treasury Management Statement:

The Cabinet considered the previously circulated report of the Technical Accountant which was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Resources.

Cllr Mrs Warrander
(G Hatcher)

Recommended to Full Council on 19 February 2003 –

That the Statutory Determinations required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 for the Financial Year 2003/2004 be approved as follows:

1. an overall borrowing limit for the year prescribed by Section 62 of the Act be £5 million;
2. the short term borrowing limit for the year be set at £5 million and that short term borrowing be in accordance with Section 45(6) of the Act ie
 - (i) without notice; or
 - (ii) at less than 12 months notice given by the investor; or
 - (iii) within 12 months of the date of investment.
3. Variable Interest Rate Proportion be short term and limited to £5 million at any one time and will be arranged at fixed rates.
4. Minimum Revenue Provisions be set at 2% in respect of Housing Capital and 4% in respect of General Fund Capital Expenditure in line with the minimum statutory percentages.

410. Decent Homes Standard – Priority for Planned maintenance Programme:

The Cabinet Member for Community and Housing introduced the previously circulated report of the Head of Housing Management. The Cabinet was pleased to note at paragraph 5.1 that the Council should quite comfortably be able to meet the Government's Decent Homes Standard and very much appreciated the work of the Officer team responsible for ensuring this position.

Recommended to Council on 19th February 2003 -

- (1) the figures from the decent home standard database be noted taking into account the factors outlined in 3.2 – 3.12 of the report;
- (2) the priority for future planned maintenance programmes be as follows:-
 - 1) Decent Homes Works.
 - 2) Essential repairs to maintain health and safety and to prevent the stock deteriorating.
 - 3) Renewing the oldest kitchens, bathrooms and external doors in line with tenant preferences.
- (3) That these priorities be re-examined if new factors emerge in the 'Salisbury Standard'.
- (4) That following the budget setting, Officers provide a further report on the detail of future planned maintenance programmes based on the above factors and the resources available.

*Cllr Cole-Morgan
(D Streek)*

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Part 3: Cabinet Decisions

*All decisions set out in this section of the minutes will be implemented on or after 28th January 2003
(unless called in for consideration by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel)*

ACTIONED BY
Portfolio Holder
(Contact Officer)

411. Corporate Planning and Budget:

The Leader introduced the previously circulated report of the Policy Director, David Neudegg. The Cabinet Member for Community and Housing, advised of the proposal to achieve the required £26,000 savings from the Arts budget through reducing the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum grant by £23,000 and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra by £3,000 respectively. He explained the rationale for seeking savings through these two organisations - the Cabinet noted that the Museum had a very healthy level of reserves and that the Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 14th January, whilst not celebrating the need for savings, supported the rationale for seeking the savings from the above organisations and the focussed approach put forward that realises savings to preserve essential services.

The Cabinet expressed appreciation for the Officers' excellent work in identifying the requisite actions to close the budget shortfall.

Agreed: that

- (1) the budget be prepared on the basis of the proposals set out in paragraph 3 of the report and detailed above;
- (2) that for budget preparation purposes, income targets for fees and charges as set out in the report be approved and the Officers produce a report for the 5th February Cabinet meeting on the fees and charges to meet the strategy; and
- (3) the Officers produce further reports on public conveniences and cleansing services within the new financial year.

Cllr Wren
(D Neudegg)

412. Private Sector Housing Policy Framework:

The Cabinet Member for Community & Housing introduced the previously circulated report of the Head of Strategic Housing Services.

Agreed: that

- (1) the Head of Strategic Housing Services proceed with the development of a Private Sector Housing Policy;

Cllr Cole-Morgan
(A Reynolds)

(2) the Policy setting out the Options for Assistance as detailed in a paragraph 7.2 of the report be approved;

(3) that the Officers report back as necessary on any issues that may arise in the development of this Policy that require Cabinet approval.

413. Community Grants 2003/04:

The Cabinet Member for Community & Housing introduced the previously circulated report of the Principal Community Development Officer. With regard to the Sarum Chamber Orchestra, Councillor Cole-Morgan explained the proposed £1,000 grant was intended as an interim sum pending the outcome of discussions regarding the possible use of part of the SWAG funds for district wide purposes - such a change in the scheme would require Full Council approval. Councillor Brown referred to the Community Transport Grant application and advised that reference in the application summary report to rural bus services should not be confused with the Community Bus Service provided.

*Cllr Cole-Morgan
(A Skyring)*

Agreed: that

- (1) the recommendations agreed by the Grants Working Group as set out in Appendix Two of the report be approved subject to budget approval by Council in February 2003 and to the Council's Grant Policy and Terms of Conditions, including development of a fundraising strategy; and
- (2) Approval be given to the CAB application at the existing level subject to the Principal Community Development Officer's approval of the 2003/2004 service level agreement and to budget approval in February 2003.
- (3) That the Members of the cross party Grants Working Group be thanked for their excellent hard work in producing these recommendations, which has been of great assistance to the Cabinet.

414. Special Delegation Procedure:

The Cabinet noted those decisions dealt with under the above procedure as set out under Agenda Item 12 relating to:

- (1) Contract with Lyreco for Supply of Paper & Stationery,
- (2) Nadder Vale Cottages, Ugford and nos. 19 & 20 Coronation Square, Quidhampton

In respect of (2) Councillor Draper commented on an interrelated development control matter concerning highway objections which had limited the scale of this development. The Policy Director, Debbie Dixon advised that she would be taking up the general issue of highway comments affecting social housing development with the responsible authorities.

Councillor Wren advised that he was unaware of the development control implications of this decision when asked to sign the delegation form and would be taking the matter up accordingly.

Cllrs Wren & Collier

*(T Beer)
(K Entwistle)*

415. Representation on the South West Tourism Consultative Committee:

The Leader introduced the matter set out under agenda item 13.

Agreed: that Councillor Noeken be appointed as the Council's additional representative to serve on the above Committee until the end of the current Municipal year.

*Cllr Wren
Stewart Agland*

416. Exempt Information:

In view of the confidential or sensitive nature of the matters to be considered, it was:

Agreed: that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of those matters defined as 'Exempt' under the Access to Information Act 1985 as specified below:

Paragraph 1 namely: 'Information relating to any employee, former employee or applicant to become an employee under the Authority'

Paragraph 3 namely: 'Information relating to any occupier of accommodation provided by or at the expense of the Authority'.

Paragraph 7 namely: 'Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority)'.

Paragraph 8 namely: 'The amount of any expenditure proposed to be incurred By the authority under any particular contract for the acquisition of property or the supply of goods or services'

Paragraph 12 namely Any instruction to Counsel and any opinion of Council and any advice received, information obtained or action to be taken in connection with any legal proceedings by or against the authority or the determination of any matter affecting the authority

Summary of Exempt Matters

Agenda Item 16 – Tenancy Matter (minute 417 below)

Urgent Business Staff related matter (minute 418 below)

Agenda Item 17 - Staffing Matter (minute 419 below)

*There were 2 members of the public present.
The meeting finished at 6.25 pm*