

Minutes

Meeting of : The Council
Meeting held in : The Auditorium, City Hall, Malthouse Lane, Salisbury
Date : Monday 24 September 2007

Present

Councillor Mrs E A Chettleburgh - **Chairman**
Councillor I D McLennan - **Vice-Chairman**

Councillors:

R A Beattie, R Britton, Mrs J V Broom, D W Brown, P M Clegg, J A Cole-Morgan, I C Curr, B E Dalton, Mrs S L Dennis, E R Draper, P D Edge, J M English, Mrs M I Evans, S R Fear, M G Fowler, M A Hewitt, Mrs C R Hill, J Holt, S J Howarth, G E Jeans, J P King, Ms J F Launchbury, M D Lee, D J Luther, Mrs H McKeown, I M Mitchell, Ms C J M Morrison, J C Noeken, M J Osment, D O Parker, L Randall, A C Roberts, J C Robertson, B M Rycroft, P W L Sample, Mrs C A Spencer, J R G Spencer, A A P Thorpe, I R Tomes, Miss M A Tomlinson, C R Vincent, J M Walsh, I C West, F Westmoreland, K C Wren and G Wright

Apologies were received from Councillors K A Cardy, Mrs J A Green, C G Mills and J F Smale

Officers:

David Crook (Acting Chief Executive)(Absent for Minute 66), Stewart Agland (Head of Democratic Services), Tom Bray (Democratic Services), Alan Osborne (Head of Financial Services), John Crawford (Head of Legal and Property Services), Pam Fox.

The Chairman presented an award to acknowledge longstanding commitment to their work in the Salisbury District to the former director of the Salisbury Art Centre, Jill Lowe and Peter Saunders, former director to the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum.

53. Declarations of Interest:

Councillor H McKeown declared a personal interest in the notice of motion 144: Health Services in South Wiltshire, Item 7 due to her employment with the NHS and involvement in Home Start.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



Councillor M Lee declared a personal interest in Item 7 due to his employment with the Salisbury Health Care Foundation.

Councillor J Broom declared a personal interest in Item 7 due to her employment with the NHS.

Councillor Robertson declared an interest in item 7 due to his involvement in the Primary Care Trust's evaluation of LIFT, in that his wife had a financial interest in LIFT funding. He did not speak on this item.

All four Councillors remained in the meeting throughout its duration.

54. Public Questions/Statement Time:

Mr Duller made a statement regarding the unitary authority bid (The statement is included in annex A). The leader addressed each of the points covered in the statement during the meeting.

55. Minutes:

Resolved - that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Monday 25 June 2007 and the special meeting held on Tuesday 7 August 2007 (both previously circulated) be approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

56. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman informed Members that the State of the District Debate will take place on Monday 15 October at the City Hall, referring to the instruction circulated at the meeting.

She also stressed the importance of the unitary authority briefing with Dr Keith Robinson and Councillor Jane Scott to be held on Tuesday 25 September at the City Hall, starting at 6.30pm. She informed Members that there would be a pre-meeting for Members starting at 5.30pm with Pam Fox.

Further to this, she drew the members' attention to the flyer and leaflet (circulated at the meeting) for the Chairman's theme for the year, Faiths in the Community, encouraging Members to promote the event in their respective wards.

The Chairman raised Members' awareness to fund-raising activities of Mr David Power who will be playing the organ in every Anglican Cathedral in England and Wales raising money for Macmillan Cancer Research. He will be playing in Salisbury Cathedral on 6th October at 9.30am.

She also announced that Connect2, a project developed by the charity Sustrans, which is seeking to build 79 new cycle links across the UK to overcome physical barriers. The Alderbury-Wilton Cycleway project is one of six projects competing for a £50 million grant. The winner of the grant will be decided by a televised public vote under the banner of "The People's Millions" programme, due to be screened on ITV on Sunday 30 December 2007.

57. Cabinet Recommendation:

a. Licensing and Gambling Committee: Councillor Robertson

The Council considered the Cabinet's recommendation from its meeting on 11 July 2007 (Minute 030) together with the previously circulated report of the Head of Legal and Property Services.

Resolved – that the recommendation from Cabinet be adopted.

b. Formation of a New Parish Council for Salisbury City: Councillor Fear

The Council considered the Cabinet's recommendation from its meeting on 05 September 2007 (Minute 047) together with the previously circulated report of the Head of Legal and Property Services.

Resolved – that the recommendations from Cabinet plus the additional recommendation that the decision on the legislative powers with which to progress the creation of a Parish Council for Salisbury city be delegated to the Steering Group overseeing the implementation be adopted.

Councillor Sample requested that it be recorded that there were no votes in opposition to this motion.

**c. Statutory Determinations for Capital and Treasury Management Performance 2006/07:
Councillor Roberts**

The Council considered the Cabinet's recommendation from its meeting on 05 September 2007 (Minute 048) together with the previously circulated report of the Head of Financial Services).

Resolved – that the recommendations from Cabinet be adopted.

58. Notice of Motion 144 – Health Services in South Wiltshire:

The Council then considered Notice of Motion 144 proposed by Councillor Mrs Jo Broom and seconded by Councillor J Holt (as set out at Agenda Item 07).

Resolved – that the motion not be adopted by this Council.

59. Questions on Cabinet Decisions taken since the last Council Meeting:

Members raised a number of questions in connection with those matters that had been considered by the Cabinet on 05 September 2007. Those requiring further action were as follows: -

Councillor King asked that after the corrections have been made to the housing figures, why is it that the population figures remained incorrect. The Portfolio Holder for Planning will respond in writing within the mandatory period of 10 working days (Cabinet Minute 031 refers to Salisbury and South Wiltshire – Our Place in the Future).

Councillor Hewitt asked about the state of the ground water level in Salisbury District area and what is the likelihood of flooding this winter and are we prepared for flooding. The Leader will respond in writing within the mandatory period of 10 working days (Cabinet Minute 039 refers to Flooding Situation). The response to this question is attached at annex B.

Councillors Brown and Mitchell asked questions relating to Waste and Recycling. Councillor Brown asked for the portfolio Holder to explain the apparent inconsistency between the press release and the Cabinet resolution relating to the decision by Cabinet to remain with a weekly collection of household waste. Councillor Mitchell asked for clarification on the decision as the results of the public consultation saw options 1 and 3, both alternate weekly collections, gaining 62% of the vote combined (option 1 with 15% and option 3 with 47%) against 36% for option 2 (weekly collections). The Portfolio Holder for the Environment replied stating that the consultation was wider than just the 400 respondents to the postal survey, they had sought input from Parish Councils, Town Councils, District Councillors and the public and wanted to deliver what local people wanted. (Cabinet Minute 049 refers to Waste and Recycling).

Councillor Westmoreland asked about the feasibility of gating the area at Bourne Hill and its impacts. Councillor Roberts responded by confirming that he will seek advice from the legal officer and will respond in writing within the mandatory period of 10 working days (Cabinet Minute 054 refers to Application to Register Lands and Bourne Hill etc as a Village Green).

Councillor Hewitt asked if there had yet been a reply from the Primary Care Trust about Home Start and what is the effect of this on the people of Salisbury District and is there funding available to help those in need. The Leader briefly responded by stating that he will be working to retain the grant, however he will respond in writing within the mandatory period of 10 working days (Cabinet Minute 056 refers to Home Start – South Wiltshire). The response to this question is included in annex B.

Councillor John Cole-Morgan raised the issue of existing and inequitable differences in grant conditions. The Portfolio Holder for Housing confirmed that he would be looking into the situation in order to make it more equitable. A written response will be given in writing within the mandatory period of 10 working days (Cabinet Minute 064 refers to Private Sector Disabled Facilities Grants: Budget Virement Request).

60. Project and Policy Progress Reports:

There were no project or policy progress reports to consider.

61. Reports of other Committees/Panels on which questions were asked:

Councillor F Westmoreland asked the Chair of City Area Committee (Planning), Councillor Miss M Tomlinson for clarification of when a decision will be made about release of the funds.

Councillor Miss M Tomlinson replied that the issue is being dealt with by the Head of Forward Planning (City Area (Plan) Minute 024 refers to Release of S106 contribution)

Councillor I Curr asked the Chairman of Southern Area Committee, Councillor B Rycroft about the need for a multiplex cinema in Salisbury expressing his concern over the issue. Councillor B Rycroft will respond in writing within the mandatory period of 10 working days (Southern Area Committee Minute 011 bullet point 2 refers to Salisbury Vision Area Development framework)

Councillor C Hill sought clarification as to why Mere Parish Council had refused to accept recreation land from the developers. Due to the absence of the Chair of Western Area Committee Councillor J Green a response will be given in writing within the mandatory period of 10 working days (Western Area Committee Minute 043 refers to Transfer of Recreation of Land from Developers to Parish Councils)

Councillor D Parker asked about the lack of residents parking in the City Centre. The Chairman of Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny, Councillor D Brown responded in agreement and the Portfolio Holder for Transport confirmed that Cabinet have continued with the Parking Policy put forward by the last administration. (Environment and Transport OSP Minute 011 refers to Residents Parking Review)

62. Call In Matters:

There were none.

63. Questions to the Council Chairman, Cabinet Member, Chairman of any Committee - on any matters not on the agenda in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the District:

Councillor J Cole-Morgan Question to Cabinet Member for Community Initiatives:

"Would the portfolio holder for Community Initiatives tell Council the individual attendance figures at Five Rivers, Durrington and Tisbury leisure centres on Monday 27 August and give the times and number of hours each of those establishments was open on those days? Would he also tell council the cost of staffing each of these establishments on that day and confirm that the staffing costs on that day were, primarily as a result of premium payments, approximately three times those of a normal day?"

The Portfolio Holder for Community Initiatives replied with the following data from Monday 27 August: -

	Attendance	Opening Hours	Staffing Costs
5 Rivers Leisure Centre	580	6.00 am – 10.00 pm	£5386
Durrington Leisure Centre	64	6.15 am – 9.00 pm	£1052
Tisbury Sports Centre	18	7.30 am – 9.30 pm	£767

The Portfolio Holder stated that he will work with the managing bodies of these facilities and Members to review the demands for the rural leisure centres, however he stated that leisure facilities should be open for the public and their usage should be encouraged.

64. Exempt Business:

In view of the confidential or sensitive nature of the matters to be considered, the Council excluded the press and public from the meeting during consideration of agenda items 14 and 15 on the grounds that they 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:

Summary of Exempt Matter

Staffing Matter

The meeting finished at: 8.35 pm
Members of the public: 13

Annex A

Mr Colin H Duller
59 Essex Square
West Harnham
Salisbury
Wilts SP2 8JA

01722 507009

20/09/07

Statement/Question Full Council - Monday 24 September 2007

Chairman and Members of the Council

Unitary Authority Bid

Can those Councillors who are joint district and county Councillors please explain their lack of action and commitment on behalf of the south Wiltshire electorate?

Did they not read and understand the papers governing this proposal or simply ignore them?

Perhaps they would consider giving us an explanation or apology for letting it happen without a referendum?

Certainly our Charter Trustees failed to uphold our Charters and history.

Colin Duller

Annex B

Councillor Paul Sample
Salisbury District Council
PO Box 2117
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 2DF

direct line: 01722 434408
dx: 58026 Salisbury
email: psample@salisbury.gov.uk
web: www.salisbury.gov.uk

Councillor M A Hewitt
Beeches
Bourne View
Allington
Salisbury
SP4 0AA

Date: 2nd October 2007

Dear Councillor Hewitt,

Questions at Full Council on 24th September 2007: a) Home Start and; b) Flooding

Thank you for your questions at Council.

a) Home Start

Regarding the situation with Home Start, I am organising a meeting with Tony Barron at Wiltshire PCT to discuss the matter further.

b) Flooding

There are 3 groundwater-monitoring sites that we have access to via the Environment Agency which have long-term average data.

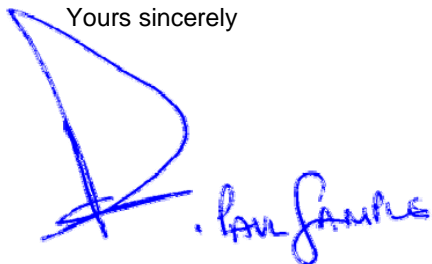
Two are slightly above the long-term average and one is slightly below. The heads winterbournes are also considered to be generally higher than normal for this time of year. However the long-term weather forecast is for average or below average rainfall for the next 3 months.

It is always difficult to predict long-term flood risk but as always rainfall, groundwater and river levels will be monitored and regular hydrometric reports will be obtained from Environment Agency and liaison with them maintained.

The normal SDC preparations are in place i.e. we hold a stock of about 400 filled sandbags ready for use and 4000 empty bags.

Most of the Parishes / villages known to be at risk of flooding have supplies of sand and sandbags available in storage areas that the residents can fill and deploy using local manpower and these will be checked and reviewed in the next few weeks.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Paul Sample
Leader of the Council