

COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2012 AT WESSEX ROOM CORN EXCHANGE DEVIZES SN10 1HS.

Present:

Cllr Desna Allen, Cllr Richard Beattie, Cllr Rosemary Brown, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Jane Burton, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Chris Caswill, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Christopher Cochrane, Cllr Peter Colmer, Cllr Linda Conley, Cllr Mark Connolly, Cllr Christine Crisp (Chairman), Cllr Paul Darby, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Tony Deane, Cllr Bill Douglas, Cllr Mary Douglas, Cllr Peter Doyle, Cllr Nick Fogg, Cllr Peter Fuller, Cllr Richard Gamble, Cllr Jose Green, Cllr Mark Griffiths, Cllr Mollie Groom, Cllr Lionel Grundy OBE, Cllr Brigadier Robert Hall, Cllr Russell Hawker, Cllr Mike Hewitt, Cllr Malcolm Hewson, Cllr Alan Hill, Cllr Charles Howard, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Keith Humphries, Cllr Peter Hutton, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr David Jenkins, Cllr Julian Johnson, Cllr Simon Killane, Cllr John Knight, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Alan MacRae, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Francis Morland, Cllr Bill Moss, Cllr Christopher Newbury, Cllr John Noeken, Cllr Jeffrey Ody, Cllr Jeff Osborn, Cllr Mark Packard, Cllr Sheila Parker, Cllr Graham Payne, Cllr Stephen Petty, Cllr Nina Phillips, Cllr Leo Randall, Cllr Fleur de Rhé-Philipe, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Bill Roberts, Cllr Judy Rooke, Cllr Jane Scott OBE, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr Toby Sturgis, Cllr Dick Tonge, Cllr Anthony Trotman, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Ian West, Cllr Fred Westmoreland, Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cllr Roy While (Vice Chairman) and Cllr Christopher Williams.

46 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brian Dalton, Chuck Berry, Carole Soden, Peggy Dow, Julie Swabey, John Thomson, Chris Devine, Liz Bryant, Helen Osborn, Jemima Milton, Stephen Oldrieve, Rod Eaton, Richard Britton, John Smale, Tom James, Chris Humphries, Howard Marshall, Ricky Rogers, Ernie Clark, Mike Cuthbert-Murray, Peter Davis, Howard Greenman, Paul Sample, Graham Wright and Nigel Carter.

47 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman referred to the letter previously circulated from the Monitoring Officer which set out advice in terms of how Councillors should consider and

declare interests in relation to items to be considered at this meeting. This was particularly relevant to the items on the Wiltshire Core Strategy and the Aggregate Minerals DPD particularly in relation to any landholdings.

Cllr Judy Rooke having submitted formal questions to this meeting, declared a prejudicial interest in the item on the Submission of the Wiltshire Core Strategy and Review of Local Development Scheme (minute no. 52 refers) as her property was close to the proposed country park and potential housing development at Rowden Park, Chippenham.

Cllr Jon Hubbard declared a personal interest in the same item in so far as housing was concerned as a Director of Selwood Housing Association.

48 **Announcements by the Chairman**

(a) **Former Cllr Mrs Main**

The Chairman informed Members of the recent death of Mrs Joan Main, former Chairman of Wiltshire County Council and a longstanding member of Warminster Town Council and three times Mayor of Warminster.

Mrs Main's son, Andrew, had extended an invitation for any Councillors who knew Mrs Main to attend a memorial service on 21 July at 2.pm at the Minster Church, Warminster followed by tea at Warminster School.

The Chairman had written to the family extending the condolences of all members and officers of the Council. The Leader and Councillors Newbury and Jeff Osborn paid tribute to what they termed a remarkable lady.

As a mark of respect, Councillors stood in a moment of silence.

(b) **Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Honours**

The Chairman congratulated Wiltshire residents named in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours' List, as follows:

OBEs had been awarded to:

- **Mr. Malcolm Arnold** from Broughton Gifford, for services to athletics
- **Dr. Carl Mayers** from Salisbury for Grade B1, Ministry of Defence
- **Dr. Paul Rice** from Salisbury for Grade B1, Ministry of Defence
- **Mrs. Sarah Wolfensohn** from Highworth, for services to animal welfare.

MBEs had been awarded to:

- **Mr. Richard Adlem** from Sixpenny Handley, for services to the community in Sixpenny Handley.
- **Lt. Col. (Retd) Harry Beckhough-Coburg** from Marlborough, for political and public service
- **Mr. Michael Bowyer** from West Harnham, for services to flower arranging and to charity.
- **Mrs. Verity Brown** from Broadchalke, for services to the community in Salisbury
- **Mrs. Ann Corcoran** from Salisbury, also an officer of this Council, for services to the Coronial Service in Wiltshire and Swindon and to bereaved families.
- **Mr. Michael Diffin** from Swindon, for services to policing
- **Mrs. Susan Treharne** from Highworth, for services to education
- **Mr. Peter Fisher** from Seend, for services to the community in Seend
- **Mr. Ian Gibb** from Great Bedwyn, for voluntary service to maritime charities
- **Mrs. Joanna Robertson** from Edington, for services to the community in Edington, and to vulnerable and disadvantaged people in the Middle East
- **Mrs. Pauline Ward** from Purton, for services to the community in Purton.
- **Mrs Christine Mills** from Gloucestershire, although not from Wiltshire was the founder of the charity, Hope for Tomorrow which provided a mobile chemotherapy unit operating in Wiltshire.

(c) **Award in Leadership**

The Chairman congratulated Cllrs Rosemary Brown and Steve Petty on their successful completion of the Award in Leadership and Management.

(d) **Olympic Torch Relay**

The Chairman congratulated all those involved in the successful Torch Relay event held between 22-23 May 2012 in the west and north of the County. Over 100,000 Wiltshire residents lined the Olympic Torch route during the event to support the 39 designated torch bearers.

The Torch was scheduled to return to Wiltshire in the south and east of the County on 11-12 July, and a festival of celebration would be held at Hudson's Field, Salisbury, before the Torch moved on from Wiltshire on 12 July.

(e) **Briefing on the New Standards Framework**

The Chairman explained that time permitting, the Monitoring Officer and his team would be available after the meeting for Councillors to ask for information or seek further clarification on the new Standards Framework.

49 **Public Participation**

The Chairman explained that as this was an extraordinary meeting, public participation could only be exercised on items listed in the Summons for the meeting. The Chairman referred to the representations received for this meeting in respect of the Wiltshire Core Strategy (minute no. 52 refers) which would be received under that item.

50 **Notices of Motion**

No notices of motion were received for the meeting.

51 **Councillors' Questions**

The Chairman explained that as this was an extraordinary meeting, questions could only be accepted in respect of items on the Summons for this meeting.

The Chairman referred to questions submitted by Councillors Judy Rooke and Ian McLennan on the Wiltshire Core Strategy (minute no. 52 refers) which would be taken under that item.

52 **Submission of Wiltshire Core Strategy and Review of Local Development Scheme**

Declarations of interest

Cllr Judy Rooke declared a prejudicial interest in this item as her property was close to the proposed country park and potential housing development at Rowden Park, Chippenham.

Cllr Jon Hubbard declared a personal interest in this item in so far as housing was concerned as a Director of Selwood Housing Association.

Public Participation

Questions

L M Durant from DPDS Consulting Group
David Scane from Curtin & Co on behalf of Bloor Homes
Persimmon Homes (South Coast) Ltd

Written responses from Cllr Fleur de Rhé-Philippe, Cabinet member for Economic Development and Strategic Planning were circulated.

Statements

Cllr Ron Champion, Chairman - Laverstock and Ford Parish Council
Mrs Hawkins – Friends of Birdsmarsh
Steve Perry, Chippenham Community Voice
Neil Bromwich, Osborne Clark (Written statement)
John Gateley, Savills (Written statement)
Dr Gary Mantle, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Questions from Councillors

Two questions from Cllr Judy Rooke
Four questions from Cllr Ian McLennan

Written responses from Cllr Fleur de Rhé-Philippe were circulated.

Cllr Rooke queried the accuracy of the map for the South West Chippenham Strategic Site as provided in the response to one of her questions (map on Page 163, Agenda Supplement 1). Cllr de Rhé-Philippe agreed to revisit the map to ensure it reflected the change proposed by Natural England.

At the Chairman's invitation, Cllr Fleur de Rhé-Philippe, Cabinet member for Economic Development and Strategic Planning presented a report on the Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document (the Strategy). The report explained the outcome of the recent consultation and sought approval for the submission of the Strategy together with proposed changes to the Secretary of State for Examination. Details of further proposed changes were set out in the addendum to Appendix 1 tabled at the meeting.

The report also sought approval for a revision to the Local Development Scheme.

A report on the Strategy had been considered by the Environment Select Committee at its meeting on 11 June 2012. The relevant minute extract was presented from which it was noted that the Committee had offered general endorsement of the Strategy. It did, however, make a number of reservations and suggestions which it requested Cabinet to take into account when considering the Strategy.

Cabinet had considered the Strategy along with the comments of the Environment Select Committee at its meeting on 19 June 2012 for onward recommendation to this Council meeting. The relevant minute extract was presented along with the further information that Cabinet and the Environment Select Committee had requested be made available to Councillors prior to this meeting.

Cllr de Rhé-Philippe explained the background and history on how the Strategy had evolved from its early development since 2009 progressing the work started by the former district councils. She added that the Strategy, when adopted, would provide up-to-date strategic planning policy for Wiltshire and ensure that Wiltshire developed in the most sustainable way. It was noted that the document had been developed by the Council with significant community engagement.

The Council had now completed the final statutory consultation period for representations, inviting comments on the soundness of the document. Representations had been received from more than 430 different organisations and individuals, collectively resulting in over 1,700 comments on different parts of the Strategy. The consultation had raised no issues which officers considered merited delay in progressing to Submission.

Following the consultation, a number of minor changes were proposed in the interests of improving clarity and understanding of the document, and to update it to improve consistency with the National Planning Policy Framework. Council was assured that these minor modifications would not alter the overall substance of the Strategy and their inclusion would strengthen the document without undermining its overall soundness.

Council was therefore asked to consider and approve the Strategy and schedule of proposed changes including the addendum for Submission to the Secretary of State for Examination. The Secretary of State would appoint an Inspector to examine the soundness of the Strategy. In examining the document, the Inspector would consider all representations received in this final stage of consultation and would set out his/her findings in a report to the Council.

Council was also asked to approve a revised Local Development Scheme to ensure that Wiltshire Council had an up-to-date timetable for the preparation of planning policy in Wiltshire.

Cllr de Rhé-Philippe moved the recommendations from Cabinet dated 19 June 2012 along with the further minor modifications as proposed and this was seconded by the Leader of the Council. In so doing, she reminded Councillors that the Strategy had been considered sound by Council at its meeting on 7 February 2012. It was therefore not advisable to seek further significant changes at this stage without risking undermining progression of the Strategy.

The Chairman invited Group Leaders to make general comments on the Strategy before opening the debate to all Councillors using the index of the Strategy to go through the document systematically.

Councillors asked questions and made comments both generally and in relation to their respective divisional areas to which Cllr de Rhé-Philippe responded. On

the whole and barring a few concerns, there was general acceptance of the Strategy.

Cllr Jon Hubbard explained he was pleased that the Council was setting an ambitious target for the provision of 40% affordable housing. However, he expressed concern that core policies 43 and 45 did not in their current form provide adequate support for certain types of affordable housing to be provided. He considered that careful attention needed to be given to providing affordable housing for rent.

Amendment

Cllr Chris Caswill proposed the following amendment which was seconded by Cllr Mollie Groom:

'Add to submission document Section 5.48 new last bullet point:

Junction 17, M4, provides an opportunity for new employment provision in Wiltshire, which should be explored further'.

Cllr de Rhé-Philippe explained why she could not support such an amendment, referring to the discussion at Council on 7 February regarding this matter

On being put to the vote, the amendment was LOST.

Amendment

Cllr Caswill then proposed the following amendment which was seconded by Cllr Bill Douglas:

'Council Summons page. 53 Second complete bullet point, beginning 'Support has been....'

Add: 'and Chippenham' after Tytherton Lucas

Add: after 'character' a new sentence:

'However proposals for positive environmental management of some or all of this area can usefully be explored in the future'

Cllr de Rhé-Philippe responded by saying that she did not consider that the amendment would add very much to what had been included, but would be prepared to support it if Cllr Caswill agreed to amend the wording slightly by deleting the words 'or all' and changing 'can' to 'could'.

This was accepted by Cllrs Caswill and Bill Douglas and therefore incorporated into Cllr de Rhé-Philippe's motion.

Amendment

Cllr Ian McLennan proposed the following amendment seconded by Cllr Ian West:

At page 113, Para 5.121, ADD at the end:

'The Master Plan will be developed in partnership with the local community, local planning authority and the developer prior to any application being considered.'

Cllr de Rhé-Philipe explained that she was very wary of making further changes to the Strategy at this stage but on balance agreed to incorporate the amendment into her motion as an addition.

Amendment

Cllr Ian McLennan proposed a further amendment as follows which was seconded by Cllr Bill Moss:

'Page 276

Amend title to read Hampton Park, Laverstock & Ford

Page 279 at end

Amendment to add:

Addendum

The Hampton Park Allocation will be reviewed at the outset, owing to a pending judicial review and existing, retained, legal agreement with the Council, which require the land and water meadows to be retained for a Golf Course, similar leisure uses or to remain as agricultural land, in order to protect the amenity of nearby residents'.

Cllr de Rhé-Philipe explained that this was a development control matter and not for the Strategy and therefore she could not support the amendment. This view was supported by Cllr Toby Sturgis, Cabinet member for Waste, Property, Environment and Development Control.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was LOST.

Amendment

Cllr Christopher Newbury proposed the following amendment which was duly seconded:

'Page 143

Second bullet point

Delete the words "River Avon (Hampshire)" and replace with "River Wylye (in the River Avon Special Area of Conservation)"'

Cllr de Rhé-Philippe accepted the above reference to River Avon (Hampshire) was potentially confusing and would be amended as appropriate.

Amendment

Cllr Richard Clewer proposed the following amendment which was seconded by Cllr Jon Hubbard:

'That all new housing in Wiltshire be built with renewable energy generation aimed to provide 80% of its energy needs.

That an exception to this be made for affordable housing where cost pressures on developers are already very difficult.

That Housing Associations and the Council be encouraged to provide such renewable energy generation in their new dwellings including being able to buy into schemes where developers are having renewable energy installed in other housing at cost'.

Cllr Toby Sturgis explained that whilst he supported the aim of the amendment, he could not support it as any amendments of this nature needed to be clearly evidence based. The position could be reviewed as and when there was evidence. Cllr Sturgis mentioned that guidance was being prepared to support core policy 41 of the Strategy and that this matter could be considered in developing the guidance. He invited Cllr Clewer to be involved in developing the guidance. The guidance could be considered by Council if necessary.

In view of Cllr Sturgis' comments, Cllr Clewer withdrew his amendment.

Amendment

Cllr Linda Conley proposed the following amendment which was seconded by Cllr Jonathon Seed:

'Proposed change to Core Policy 42:

Amend final criterion to read:

(vii) residential amenity, including noise, odour, visual amenity and safety

Add new paragraph after paragraph 6.38 to read:

Additional guidance will be prepared to support the implementation of Core Policy 42 to identify appropriate separation distances between wind turbines and residential premises in the interests of residential amenity, including safety. In the interim period, prior to the adoption of the guidance, the following minimum separation distances [1] will be applied:

If the height of the wind turbine generator is—

(a) greater than 25m, but does not exceed 50m, the minimum distance requirement is 1000m;

(b) greater than 50m, but does not exceed 100m, the minimum distance requirement is 1500m;

(c) greater than 100m, but does not exceed 150m, the minimum distance requirement is 2000m;

(d) greater than 150m, the minimum distance requirement is 3000m.

Shorter distances may be appropriate where there is clear support from the local community.

[1] Source: Wind Turbines (Minimum Distances from Residential Premises) Bill [HL] 2010-12'

Cllr de Rhé-Philippe explained that she was minded to accept the amendment as the issues raised within it were of considerable importance, but wanted to hear the debate before deciding whether or not to accept it.

Some Councillors expressed concern that such an amendment could be considered acceptable without any evidence based information to support it given a previous amendment had been dismissed for that very reason.

Cllrs John Hubbard and Chris Caswill both expressed concern at such an amendment being accepted at such a late stage in the Core Strategy process, stating that Councillors had been advised on numerous occasions that to do so, could put the Strategy at risk.

A debate ensued on this latest amendment with views expressed both for and against.

Cllr Sturgis reassured Council that the amendment would ensure guidance was in place to strengthen development control in the interim period prior to formal guidance being prepared.

Cllr de Rhé-Philippe agreed to accept the amendment and therefore incorporated it into her motion. Given the significant debate on this issue, a recorded vote was requested by the requisite number of Councillors. On being put to the vote, the amendment was CARRIED and the voting recorded as follows:

For amendment (50)

Cllrs Richard Beattie, Allison Bucknell, Jane Burton, Richard Clewer, Chris Cochrane, Peter Colmer, Linda Conley, Mark Connolly, Christine Crisp, Andrew Davis, Fleur de Rhé-Philipe, Tony Deane, Peter Doyle, Peter Fuller, Richard Gamble, Jose Green, Mark Griffiths, Mollie Groom, Robert Hall, Russell Hawker, Mike Hewitt, Alan Hill, Charles Howard, Keith Humphries, Peter Hutton, Julian Johnson, Jerry Kunkler, Jacqui Lay, Alan Macrae, Laura Mayes, Francis Morland, Bill Moss, Christopher Newbury, John Noeken, Jeff Ody, Sheila Parker, Nina Phillips, Pip Ridout, Bill Roberts, Jane Scott, Jonathon Seed, Toby Sturgis, Dick Tonge, Tony Trotman, Fred Westmoreland, Stuart Wheeler, Roy While and Christopher Williams.

Against the amendment (16)

Cllrs Desna Allen, Trevor Carbin, Chris Caswill, Paul Darby, Mary Douglas, Bill Douglas, Malcolm Hewson, Jon Hubbard, David Jenkins, Simon Killane, John Knight, Ian McLennan, Jeff Osborn, Mark Packard, Judy Rooke and Ian West.

Abstention (1)

Cllr George Jeans

Cllr de Rhé-Philipe exercised her right of reply by responding to points raised during the debate. She explained that she was delighted at the general support given to the document. She said she was extremely grateful to all the officers involved for the considerable amount of work undertaken on the Strategy. She thanked Alistair Cunningham, Service Director for Economy and Regeneration and Georgina Clampitt-Dix, Head of Spatial Planning and their team for having done a fantastic job. . This was echoed by the Leader and other members of the Council.

On being put to the vote, it was

Resolved:

That Council:

- (1) notes the outcome of the consultation;**
- (2) approves submission of the Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document, together with proposed changes (set out in Appendix 1 of the report presented) and the further schedule of changes tabled at the meeting and the amendments made at the meeting as listed at the end of these resolutions and Equalities Impact Assessment (at Appendix 4 of the report presented), to the Secretary of State for Examination;**

- (3) delegates to the Service Director, Economy and Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Strategic Planning and the Chairman of the Environment Select Committee, authorisation: for the preparation of other minor modifications to the Core Strategy for Submission to the Secretary of State in the interests of clarity and accuracy; and to make appropriate arrangements for submission of documents to the Secretary of State and any consequential actions as directed by the Inspector relating to the Examination and**
- (4) approves the revision to the Local Development Scheme (as set out in Appendix 3).**

The following amendments were approved at the meeting:

To review the map for the South West Chippenham Strategic Site (page 163, Agenda Supplement 1) to ensure it reflected the change proposed by Natural England.

Council Summons page. 53 Second complete bullet point, beginning 'Support has been....'

Add: 'and Chippenham' after Tytherton Lucas

Add: after 'character' a new sentence:

'However proposals for positive environmental management of some of this area could usefully be explored in the future'

At page 113 , Para 5.121, ADD at the end:

The Master Plan will be developed in partnership with the local community, local planning authority and the developer prior to any application being considered.

Page 143

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Delete the words “River Avon (Hampshire)” and replace with “River Wylye (in the River Avon Special Area of Conservation)”

Proposed change to Core Policy 42:

Amend final criterion to read:

- (vii) residential amenity, including noise, odour, visual amenity and safety.

Add new paragraph after paragraph 6.38 to read:

Additional guidance will be prepared to support the implementation of Core Policy 42 to identify appropriate separation distances between wind turbines and residential premises in the interests of residential amenity, including safety. In the interim period, prior to the adoption of the guidance, the following minimum separation distances [1] will be applied:

If the height of the wind turbine generator is—

- (a) greater than 25m, but does not exceed 50m, the minimum distance requirement is 1000m;**
- (b) greater than 50m, but does not exceed 100m, the minimum distance requirement is 1500m;**
- (c) greater than 100m, but does not exceed 150m, the minimum distance requirement is 2000m;**
- (d) greater than 150m, the minimum distance requirement is 3000m.**

Shorter distances may be appropriate where there is clear support from the local community.

[1] Source: Wind Turbines (Minimum Distances from Residential Premises) Bill [HL] 2010-12.

53 **Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) - Submission to Secretary of State**

Cllr Fleur de Rhé-Philippe, Cabinet member for Economic Development and Strategic Planning presented a report on the Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD). She presented the DPD for Council’s consideration and approval taking into account consultation responses for the purpose of submission to the Secretary of State for Examination as recommended by Cabinet at its meeting on 19 June 2012.

Cllr de Rhé-Philippe explained the background and history into how the DPD had evolved and the previous deliberations by Cabinet during the plan preparation process.

Council was assured that the DPD was considered sound and based on robust and proportionate evidence gathering and consultation. A schedule of the main issues which arose from the consultation exercise was presented, although these were not considered to be significant new issues. The report outlined the general concerns and issues which had been raised.

Cllr de Rhé-Philippe explained that in light of comments and advice received during consultation, some minor modifications were proposed which if approved, would be submitted to the Secretary of State along with the DPD. Such modifications were in the interests of clarity, consistency, updating in light of changes to the planning system and the National Planning Policy Framework, minor text changes and additional wording within some site profile tables to reflect concerns raised by consultees on a number of areas.

Council's endorsement of the DPD would confirm that Council considered the DPD to be sound and that it should be submitted to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination. It was noted that Swindon Borough Council's Cabinet endorsed the DPD for onward recommendation to its full Council meeting on 19 July 2012.

During debate, Cllr Colmer explained that 80% of the sites proposed in the DPD were within his Division. He expressed concern that proposals in the DPD would exacerbate the volume of HGV traffic in the affected areas. He therefore, asked Cllr Tonge, Cabinet member for Highways and Transport to commission a study in advance of any planning application being submitted to ensure a plan was in place rather than being put in the position of reacting to any application.

Cllr Tonge undertook to look into this but made the point that it would be dependent on receiving S.106 funds.

Cllr de Rhé-Philippe moved the recommendations and this was seconded by Cllr John Noeken. Cllr de Rhé-Philippe expressed her gratitude to officers for all their hard work in bringing the DPD to this stage.

On being put to the vote, it was

Resolved:

That Council:

- (1) approves the Submission draft Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) and proposed modifications set out at Appendix 3 and the Equalities Impact Assessment at Appendix 4 of the report submitted, for the purpose of submission to the Secretary of State and**

- (2) delegates to the Director for Economy and Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Strategic Planning and the Chairman of the Environment Select Committee, authorisation to propose other minor modifications to the Sites DPD for submission to the Secretary of State in the interests of clarity and accuracy, and to make appropriate arrangements for submission of the documents to the Secretary of State and any consequential actions as directed by the Inspector relating to the Examination.**

54 **New Standards Framework**

Council had at its meeting on 15 May 2012 resolved a number of measures in preparation for implementing a new standards framework as required by the Localism Act 2011. In particular, Council had approved the establishment of a new Standards Committee. It had also approved a new draft Code of Conduct and arrangements for dealing with complaints under the Code for the purpose of consultation with town, parish and city councils.

At the Chairman's invitation, Cllr Julian Johnson, Chairman of the Standards Committee presented a report on the outcome of the consultation with parish, town and city councils on this Council's proposals under the new standards framework. Council was therefore asked to determine its arrangements for the new standards framework in the light of the outcome of the consultation for implementation on 1 July 2012.

Cllr Johnson responded to questions raised and moved the recommendations set out in the report presented and this was seconded by Cllr Chris Williams.

Resolved:

- (1) note the comments received from parish councils in response to the consultation.**
- (2) approve the draft code of conduct as set out in Appendix B of Appendix 1 of the report presented for adoption with effect from 1 July 2012.**
- (3) ask the standards committee to develop proposals, in consultation with parish councils, on any additional pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests that should be declared and registered under the code of conduct, and on the question of withdrawal from meetings, and to bring these back to council for consideration at the earliest opportunity.**

Cllr Francis Morland requested that his vote against the above decisions (1-3) be recorded.

Cllr Russell Hawker requested that his abstention from voting on the above decisions (1-3) be recorded.

- (4) approve the arrangements for dealing with code of conduct complaints, as set out in Appendix C of Appendix 1, for adoption with effect from 1 July 2012.**

Cllr Russell Hawker requested that his vote against the above decision (4) be recorded.

- (5) set the level of allowance for the statutory role of the Independent Person appointed under Section 28(6) of the Localism Act 2011 at £2,240 per annum with effect from 1 July 2012.**

- (6) note that the Independent Remuneration Panel will review this allowance in the light of experience as part of its full review of members' allowances in the autumn.**

- (7) agree that initial appointments of co-opted members are made from the existing co-opted membership of the former standards committee for a term of approximately 12 months until such time as new appointments are made following parish council elections in May 2013.**

- (8) note that the appointment of non-voting co-opted members to the new standards committee will now be made on 10 July 2012.**

Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 3.45 pm
(Adjourned for lunch 2.05pm – 2.50pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Yamina Rhouati, of Democratic & Members' Services, direct line 01225 718024, e-mail Yamina.Rhouati@wiltshire.gov.uk

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