

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF  
THE EXECUTIVE  
HELD AT FOLLATON HOUSE ON THURSDAY, 5 JUNE 2014**

<b>Members in attendance:</b>			
* Denotes attendance		∅ Denotes apologies	
*	Cllr H D Bastone	*	Cllr R J Tucker
*	Cllr R D Gilbert	*	Cllr L A H Ward
*	Cllr M J Hicks	*	Cllr S A E Wright
*	Cllr M F Saltern		

<b>Also in attendance and participating</b>		
Item 7	E.04/14	Cllrs Barber and Hodgson
Item 8	E.05/14	Cllrs Baverstock, Brazil, Gorman and Hodgson
<b>Also in attendance and not participating</b>		
Cllrs Blackler, Bramble, S Cooper, Holway, Pearce, Squire, Steer and Stone		

<b>Officers in attendance</b>		
All items		Executive Director (AR), Executive Director (TW) and Member Services Manager
Item 8	E.05/14	Community Manager
Item 10	E.07/14	Head of Finance and Audit

**E.01/14 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 24 April 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**E.02/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members and officers were invited to declare any interests in the items of business to be considered during the course of this meeting but none were made.

**E.03/14 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

In accordance with Executive procedure rules, it was noted that public questions had been received from Mr Brian Boughton. The questions and responses were as follows:

1. What will the council do if Millwood Homes/Bloor Homes do not submit a planning proposal for the West Dart housing scheme?
2. Will there be a deadline for the council to receive such a planning proposal or will they allow Millwood Homes/Bloor Homes to land bank the scheme?

3. Since this would block all significant future housing development in Dartmouth, will the council compulsory purchase the land on offer to Millwood Homes/Bloor Homes in order to offer it to another developer?

The Executive Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economy and Community responded to the questions by stating anyone at anytime could make an application for planning permission and that the land did not need to be owned by the applicant. This Council was a planning authority and he would focus his reply on planning matters. In terms of the West Dart development, it was currently at the pre-application stage and had been going on for some time. He fully expected that the situation would develop and an application for planning permission would be received but otherwise there was little the Council could do at this stage. Whether or not the scheme would go ahead would depend on whether planning permission were to be granted. If the developer owned the site they could 'land bank' it but the Council would try to strongly dissuade them from doing so as the site was important in respect of the delivery of homes. Cllr Hicks also gave an assurance that Compulsory Purchase of the site would be avoided at all costs.

Mr Boughton then asked a supplementary question as follows:

'Is the Council looking for extra land to build the 200 houses that the area was currently short of?'

The Executive Portfolio Holder responded that the Council was currently in the process of producing a Local Plan but it would take approximately eighteen months before it became policy. Within that time, the Council would be looking at available land supply for development and as part of that an investigation would take place into land in Dartmouth. There would be discussions between the Strategic Planning Officers and the local Ward Members in due course.

E.04/14

#### **APPLICATION FOR AREA DESIGNATION TO NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS FOR DARTINGTON, NEWTON & NOSS AND STOKE FLEMING**

Members were asked to consider a report that advised that Dartington, Newton & Noss and Stoke Fleming Parish Councils had submitted applications to the Council to designate Neighbourhood Plan areas in their parishes. The applications had been advertised for a six week period during which comments had been invited on whether the plan areas were appropriate.

The Executive Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economy and Community introduced the report and outlined how Neighbourhood Plans would help to inform the Local Plan. During discussion the following points were raised:

- One Member asked if officers could consider a briefing pack to assist parishes that would consolidate the learning so far. In response, the Community Manager advised that officers were intending to provide further information now that a number of applications had been received;
- Some Members asked if the Council would continue to support a town or parish if it became apparent that work on their Plan was not progressing. In response, the Executive Portfolio Holder advised that the Council would not allow a defunct application to take up time and resource that could better be used on a new application;
- The Leader asked if there was a resource issue with the number of applications received. In response, the Executive Portfolio Holder advised that the Council did have a responsibility to support these applications and had sufficient resource to support the existing applications but further applications would stretch resources.

It was then:

### **RESOLVED**

- a) That the designation of Dartington, Newton & Noss and Stoke Fleming parish boundaries for the purposes of preparing their respective Neighbourhood Plans be approved;
- b) That a bid for central government funding to help cover the costs associated with preparing the Neighbourhood Plans be supported.

E.05/15

### **COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT PROJECTS FUND 2013/14 GRANT ALLOCATIONS**

Members were presented with a report that provided a summary of the applications to the community Reinvestment Projects Fund in 2013/14 and sought approval for allocating grant of over £10,000 to those projects.

The Executive Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economy and Community introduced the report and stated that this was a good news story as a wide range of projects had benefited from the funding being available. A number of Members praised the scheme and were pleased that community projects within their own wards had received support. One Member asked that thanks be noted to the officers for their support of the application from his parish. Another officer queried if the funds should be used to support applications in relation to footpaths as they were a Devon County Council (DCC) responsibility. The Executive Member for Environment Services advised that footpaths were only the responsibility of DCC if they were adopted and a Member who also sat on DCC advised that the authority had no funding for such projects and it was good news that the District Council was able to support communities with funding for such projects.

It was then:

### **RESOLVED**

That the following grants of over £10,000 (totalling £135,800) be approved:

- £15,146.50 to Rattery Parish Council towards replacement play equipment at Garden Close, Rattery;
- £11,514.09 to Totnes Town Council for Civic Hall regeneration (projection equipment, wireless broadband and toilet refurbishments to allow the Civic Hall to be used as a cinema or a conference facility);
- £18,912.00 to Dart Area Landscape Access Group for A379 verge footpath at Stoke Fleming;
- £22,294.85 to Lee Mill Community Association for Multi Use Games Area at Bottle Park Play Park, Lee Mill;
- £54,214.56 to Stokenham Parish Council towards path surface improvements between Chillington and Torcross; and
- £13,718.00 to Totnes Development Trust Ltd for improvements to the Rotherfold (creation of an improved public square / garden in the raised receding alcove).

E.06/14

### **REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR BLUE BADGE HOLDERS**

Members were asked to consider a report that made a recommendation in respect of reviewing the arrangements for Blue Badge holders when parking in the District Council's car parks.

The Executive Portfolio Holder for Environment Services introduced the report and advised Members that this would bring the Council in line with neighbouring authorities.

It was then:

### **RESOLVED**

That Council be **RECOMMENDED** that:

due to the DVLA making changes to the way in which road tax is handled, all Blue Badge holders should pay appropriate parking fees, regardless of whether or not their vehicle is tax exempt, and that all Blue Badge holders continue to receive one free hour's parking in addition to paid time; and

the South Hams District Council Off Street Parking Places Order be updated to reflect this change.

E.07/14 **BANKING ARRANGEMENTS**

Members were presented with a report that asked them to consider arrangements for the existing bank contract with the Co-op which expired on 31 March 2016.

The Leader introduced the report and advised Members that the actions being proposed would help to reduce risk.

It was then:

**RESOLVED:**

1. That South Hams District Council participate in a joint tendering exercise with West Devon Borough Council and Teignbridge District Council for the procurement of banking services with a view to implementing a new contract from 1 April 2015; and
2. That South Hams District Council set up a shadow bank account with an alternative bank provider, which would be activated in the event of the Co-op bank failing to deliver its existing banking service.

**(NOTE: THESE DECISIONS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MINUTE E.06/14, WHICH IS A RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON 19 JUNE 2014, WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE FROM 5.00PM ON MONDAY 16 JUNE 2014 UNLESS CALLED IN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULE 18).**

(Meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 10.30 am)

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Chairman