

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE EXECUTIVE
HELD AT FOLLATON HOUSE ON THURSDAY, 24 JULY 2014**

Members in attendance:			
* 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		

Also in attendance and participating		
Item 7	E.11/14	Cllrs Barber and Hodgson
Item 8	E.12/14	Cllrs Baldry, Barber, Gorman, Hodgson and Pennington
Item 10	E.14/14	Cllrs Brazil, Carson, Gorman and Hodgson
Item 11	E.15/14	Cllrs Baldry, Barber, Hodgson, Holway, Squire, Stone and Westacott
Item 13	E.17/17	Cllr Westacott
Also in attendance and not participating		
Cllrs Blackler, Bramble, Coulson, and Steer		

Officers in attendance		
All items		Executive Director (AR), Executive Director (TW) and Member Services Manager
Item 6	E.10/14	Head of Environment Services
Item 7	E.11/14	Head of Finance and Audit
Item 8	E.12/14	Community Manager
Item 9	E.13/14	Engineering Manager
Item 10	E.14.14	Street Scene Manager
Item 13	E.17/17	Estates Manager

E.08/14 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 5 June 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

E.09/14 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.10/14 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

1. How many houses are registered to pay business rates in the South Hams and how much are those business rates?
2. How many of these houses take advantage of our domestic waste collection?

The Leader advised that he would respond to the first question. He stated that the position was not straightforward as there were different business classifications and it would take a major piece of work to differentiate the numbers of each. He could confirm that after 20 weeks those houses that were rented out for holiday let should advise the Council and then transfer to business rates. In addition, small businesses were entitled to statutory reliefs.

The Executive Portfolio Holder for Environment Services responded to the second question by confirming that it was a matter that had been discussed on a number of occasions, along with the difficulty of identifying properties that were receiving domestic waste collection when they were business rated. The introduction of in cab technology would help, as would the new integrated IT systems that would result from the T18 Programme. The Head of Environment Services added that holiday properties were now able to take advantage of a domestic waste collection but with a small charge. This was the result of a recent change in legislation and more information would be shared with Members in the Bulletin.

E.11/14 TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME 2018

Members were asked to consider a report that provided a budget monitoring update which included a request for the release of the funding (£2,272,800) for key programme expenditure milestones two and three.

The Leader introduced the report and advised Members that the Programme was on target with the budget.

One Member asked how the savings indicated were reflected in the budget book. In response the Head of Finance and Audit advised that the majority of savings were expected in year 2015/16. Work was currently underway to identify and quantify savings from Phase 1A. The savings made will help to pay towards the up front investment.

One Member queried a recent report to Council in respect of potential costs of £50,000. The Head of Finance and Audit explained that this related to the senior management restructure and was not reflected in this report. The cost referred to would actually be a reduction in savings from the senior management review rather than an additional cost.

Another Member raised concerns and felt that the figures should be fully discussed. The Leader responded that today the Executive was being asked to release funding and the detail of savings and costs was shown in the Exempt Appendices A and B to the report.

It was then:

RESOLVED

- a) That progress to date on the Transformation Programme 2018 be noted; and
- b) That authority to release the funding for key programme expenditure milestones two and three totalling £2,272,800 as shown in presented Appendix A be granted.

E.12/14

CONNECT STRATEGY AND PRIORITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE 2014-15

Members were presented with a report that set out the final Connect Strategy update with actions for 2014/15 and request that they consider the update and recommend its approval to Council.

The Leader introduced the report and the Community Manager advised that the outcome of the first Our Plan Consultation would soon be available.

During discussion, the following points were raised:

- The significant achievements relating to specific projects;
- Concern that the consultation had not appeared on the 'Consultation Page' on the website (although it had appeared on a page of its own);
- Confusion between Our Plan and the Local Plan. The District Council currently had both and a structural diagram that showed the relationship between them and Neighbourhood Plans would help;
- Where funding streams were available, the Council was trying to ensure it accessed funds where it could.

It was then:

RESOLVED

That Council be **RECOMMENDED** that the Connect Strategy annual update for 2014-15 be approved and adopted.

E.13/14 **CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING REPORT**

Members were presented with a report that advised of the progress on individual schemes within the approved capital programme including an assessment of their financial position.

The Executive Portfolio Holder for Assets introduced the report and drew Members attention to the key points.

The Executive Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services requested that future reports include an update on section 106 funds being held.

It was then:

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

E.14/14 **CAR PARKING TARIFF REVIEW IN KINGSBRIDGE**

Members were presented with a report that made a recommendation in respect of Pay & Display tariffs and charging periods in Kingsbridge car parks.

The Executive Portfolio Holder for Environment Services introduced the report and advised Members that this was a community initiative for the benefit of the community and businesses. A great deal of work had gone into the modelling and he hoped that other towns may consider it as a good template.

A local Ward Member for Modbury was pleased to see the model originally pioneered by the community in Modbury being adapted and used in Kingsbridge. Another Member was pleased to support the amendments but requested that the car parks had better signs as the charges should be more prominent and not only displayed on the machines.

One Member stated that market towns needed the help of the District Council and, in respect of car parking, more innovation should be shown. He also stated that the only way to change car parking arrangements would be if revenue was not affected. In response, another Member advised that the scheme implemented in Modbury did receive an award from the Federation of Small Businesses for innovation.

The Executive Portfolio Holder reminded Members that this scheme was put together by the community including the Town Council and the Chamber of Trade. The Leader added that other towns could do the same thing and it would be up to them to design a scheme that fitted them best. A Ward Member for Ivybridge advised that they had declined to work on a specific scheme. Finally, a Member asked that renewable energy within car parks remain on the agenda.

It was then:

RESOLVED that Council be **RECOMMENDED** that the following amendments are made to car parks in Kingsbridge:

- Charges to be in place from 8am to 8pm and that the overnight charge is eliminated;
- Tariffs as detailed in appendix 1 of the presented report be implemented; and
- Coach parking fee to be eliminated.

E.15/14 **REPORTS OF OTHER BODIES**

RESOLVED

That the following be received and that any recommendations contained therein be approved:

- a) **Community Life and Housing Scrutiny Panel – 19 June 2014**
- i) **CLH.07/14 LOCALISM ACT AND CHANGES TO POWERS UNDER STATUTORY HOMELESS DUTY TO ACCOMMODATE**

RESOLVED

That the use of the flexibilities of the Localism Act 2011 to discharge the homelessness duty into the private rented sector as set out in the presented agenda report be approved.

- ii) **CLH.09/14 TASK AND FINISH UPDATES – Affordable Housing Delivery Models**

Prior to the vote being taken on this resolution, the Executive Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services requested an amendment to recommendation 2 to provide further clarity.

It was then:

RESOLVED

1. That the level of Rent Plus be limited to a maximum 10% of all affordable housing delivered in the South Hams in any one financial year;
2. That Rent Plus only be considered on sites that have already achieved 35% or more affordable housing. Rent Plus units would be in addition to that 35%; and
3. That Rent Plus is introduced on a trial basis for a period of 5 years.

b) **Economy and Environment Scrutiny Panel – 26 June 2014**

c) **Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Panel – 3 July 2014**

i) **CP&R.5/14 CALL IN – TRANSFER OF PLYMPTON AND TOTNES CHAINS**

Members discussed this matter that had been a previous Executive decision (E.86/13 refers) and which had been called in and discussed at the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Panel meeting.

Whilst recommendations had been made by the Scrutiny Panel, the Executive Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, who had attended the Scrutiny Panel meeting and listened to the debate, made the following proposal which he hoped would be a satisfactory way forward for all parties. He proposed that the Plympton chain remain in the ownership of South Hams District Council and be displayed in a prominent but secure place. He also proposed that it be made available to Plympton Civic Society and parishes that had previously been part of Plympton Rural District Council to be loaned out to them for use at events when requested. In respect of the Totnes Chain, and contrary to the recommendation from the Scrutiny Panel, he proposed that the status quo remain and that South Hams District Council retain ownership but, again, the Chain be loaned out when requested for events. The current mayor of Totnes requested that the Totnes Chain be returned to Totnes. A number of Members agreed that the situation with the Totnes Chain was different to the situation with the Plympton Chain as Totnes was wholly within the South Hams. However, other Members noted that the situation was not so different as the Chain should be available to the parishes surrounding Totnes.

RESOLVED

1. That ownership of the Plympton Chain be retained by South Hams District Council to be displayed in a prominent but secure location and to be loaned to Plympton Community Council and parishes within the Plympton Rural District Council area; and
2. That ownership of the Totnes Chain be retained by South Hams District Council but the Chain be loaned out to the Town Council and relevant parishes when requested.

E.16/14 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED

That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business in order to avoid the likely disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

E.17/14 STEAMER QUAY ROAD

Members were presented with a report that sought approval to grant an access easement (in perpetuity) over Council owned land to access the proposed Riverside Extra Care Project which will be owned and operated by Guinness Trust.

The Executive Portfolio Holder for Assets introduced the report and during discussion a local Ward Member commented on the need in Totnes for Extra Care accommodation.

It was then:

RESOLVED

That an access easement (in perpetuity) to be granted for a nominal sum to Guinness Trust to facilitate the development of an Affordable Extra Care Housing Scheme.

(NOTE: THESE DECISIONS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MINUTE E.12/14 AND E.14/14 WHICH ARE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON 2 OCTOBER 2014, WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE FROM 5.00PM ON MONDAY 4 AUGUST 2014 UNLESS CALLED IN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULE 18).

(Meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 11.10 am)

Chairman