

SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Council held on 6 February 2007,
in the Civic Suite, the Civic Centre, Portholme Road, Selby,
commencing at 6.00 pm.

1468	Chairman's Address to Council
1469	Apologies for Absence
1470	Disclosures of Interest
1471	Minutes
1472	Communications
1473	Public Questions
1474	Councillors' Questions
1475	Committee and Board Minutes
1476	Schedule of Meetings 2007 - 2008
1477	Urgent Action
1478	Sealing of Documents
1479	Private Session
1480	Affordable Housing
1481	Town Centre Development Working Group

Present: Councillor J Mackman (Chairman) in the Chair

Councillors: Mrs J Ashton, D N Bain-Mackay, Mrs E Casling, J Cattanach, I Chilvers, M Crane, J Crawford, G Croston, Ms M Davis, Mrs D Davies, Mrs S Duckett, Mrs J Dyson, P Harvey, Mrs M Hulme, W Inness, Mrs G Ivey, C Lunn, B Marshall, W N Martin, Mrs W May, J McCartney, Mrs K McSherry, D McSherry, C Metcalfe, J Meehan, Mrs W Nichols, I Nutt, R Packham, R Parker, D Peart, C Pearson, B Percival, Mrs F Ryan, R Sayner, S Shaw-Wright and R H Sweeting.

Officials: Chief Executive, Strategic Directors, Head of Service – Human Resources, Head of Service – Finance and Central Services, Head of Service – Housing Services, Head of Service – Planning and Economic Development, Head of Service – Policy and Performance, Democratic Services Officer, Committee Administrator

The Reverend S Jukes offered opening prayers.

Public: 1
Press: 2

1468 **Chairman's Address to Council**

The Chairman thanked the Reverend S Jukes for finding the time to offer opening prayers at Council whilst in the middle of her move to Ripon.

The Chairman also informed councillors of the forthcoming events:

- 'Last Night of the Proms' at Selby Abbey – 24 February 2007
- Civic Dinner at Carlton Towers – 30 March 2007

Tickets for both events could be bought from the Chairman's secretary.

1469 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Bedworth.

1470 **Disclosure of Interest**

None received.

1471 **Minutes**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of Council held on 19 December 2006 and the extraordinary meeting of Council held on 9 January 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

1472 **Communications**

- (a) Derelict Properties - Letter from Yvette Cooper, Minister for Housing and Planning

Following approval by Council on 18 July 2006 of a recommendation made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (minute 972), the Chief Executive wrote to John Grogan MP asking him to lobby the government for more powers for local authorities to enable them to combat the problems caused by derelict property.

At the meeting of Council on 14 November 2006, the Chief Executive informed councillors that in response to his letter to John Grogan, MP, on the power of District Councils to tackle and regenerate derelict properties, Mr Grogan had written to Ruth Kelly, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

A reply had now been received from Yvette Cooper, Minister for Housing and Planning who had ministerial responsibility for this matter.

Resolved:

That the letter from the Minister for Housing and Planning be noted.

- (b) Request for a Waste Bring Facility at Sherburn-in-Elmet - Email from Councillors B Percival and R Packham

The Chief Executive informed councillors that he had received a joint email from Councillors B Percival and R Packham, requesting that North Yorkshire County Council be informed of the urgent need for a Waste Bring Facility at Sherburn-in-Elmet.

Resolved:

That the Chief Executive write to North Yorkshire County Council advocating a Waste Bring Facility be provided at Sherburn-in-Elmet.

- (c) Post Office Network Consultation - Letter from Postwatch

The Chief Executive informed councillors that he had received details of a post office network consultation on the future funding and structure arrangements of the post office network.

Resolved:

That the Chief Executive draft a formal response to the consultation on behalf of Selby District Council and the other North Yorkshire district councils and that the response be circulated to councillors for their approval.

- (d) Disposal of Council Assets - Letter from Councillor N Martin on behalf of the Labour Party

The Chief Executive informed councillors that he had received a letter from Councillor N Martin requesting confirmation that assets would not be commercially disposed of at a figure less than that recommended by the District Valuer.

The Chief Executive informed councillors that the District Valuer did not stipulate a recommended sum at which to sell an asset. Instead, the District Valuer would consider a number of issues, including what would be a fair price for the asset as well as whether there would be a public benefit to selling the asset. Therefore, it would be possible to sell an asset at a lower figure if there was a public benefit and that public benefit was approved by the District Valuer.

Resolved:

That the letter be noted.

1473 **Public Questions**

None received.

1474 **Councillors' Questions**

None received.

1475 **Committee and Board Minutes**

Planning Committee – 3 January 2007

Resolved that:

- (i) **The minutes be noted; and**
- (ii) **The recommendations at minutes 1376 and 1377 be considered during the budget debate.**

Planning Committee – 31 January 2007

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

Economy Board – 9 January 2007

Resolved that:

- (i) **The minutes be noted; and**
- (ii) **The recommendations at minutes 1383 and 1384 be considered during the budget debate.**

Environment Board – 11 January 2007

Councillor R Packham informed councillors that he had been present at the meeting, but this had not been recorded.

Resolved that:

- (i) The minutes be noted, subject to the amendment above; and**
- (ii) The recommendations at minutes 1402 and 1403 be considered during the budget debate.**

Extraordinary Meeting of Environment Board – 1 February 2007

Councillor C Pearson informed councillors that he had substituted for Councillor Mrs G Ivey and not Councillor R Packham, as stated in the minutes.

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted, subject to the amendment above.

Social Board – 16 January 2007

Resolved that:

- (i) The minutes be noted; and**
- (ii) The recommendations at minutes 1423, 1424 and 1425 be considered during the budget debate.**

Policy and Resources 23 January 2007

Resolved that:

- (i) The minutes be noted**
- (ii) The following minutes be approved:**
 - a. 1435 – IT Provisions for Councillors**
 - b. 1439 – Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000**
 - c. 1442 – Referrals from Other Boards and Committees; and**
- (iii) The recommendations at minutes 1432, 1433 and 1434 be considered during the budget debate.**

Budget Presentation

In presenting his Budget, the Leader of the Conservative Group outlined his main objectives for the next financial year and distributed papers showing his proposals, including a list of bids recommended for approval.

A discussion ensued, including a response from the Leader of the Labour Group to the budget proposals.

Resolved that:

- (i) The proposed average rent increase of £2.39 per week be adopted**
- (ii) A net revenue budget of £10.552m be set for 2007/2008 which equals a gross band D council tax of £145.97**
- (iii) A sum be transferred from the collection fund so as to reduce the council tax for a band D property by £1.70 and, therefore, to levy a net council tax of £144.27 per band D property for District purposes**
- (iv) £458,000 of bids be met**
- (v) the use of balances and reserves be accepted**
- (vi) borrowing of £75,000 to meet capital expenditure be approved**
- (vii) the Council's authorised borrowing limit for 2007/2008 be £16m and its operational boundary for borrowing be £12m**
- (viii) short-term borrowing not exceed 50% of the operational boundary and not more than 30% of the operational boundary be subject to variable rate interest**
- (ix) the Head of Service – Finance and Central Services be authorised to determine the final level of contribution to or from reserves upon the closure of accounts**
- (x) the LABGI funding be used in support of the budget to a maximum of £427,000**
- (xi) the balance of LPSA funding (£161,000) be used in support of the budget**
- (xii) the planning delivery grant be used in support of the**

budget to a maximum of £75,000

- (xiii) **an extraordinary meeting of Council be held on Tuesday 6 March at 6.00pm to formally set the council tax for next year, inclusive of all precepts from North Yorkshire County Council, the Police Authority, the Fire Service and parish councils.**

Licensing Committee – 15 January 2007

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

Standards Committee – 29 January 2007

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

1476 **Schedule of Meetings 2007 – 2008**

The Chief Executive introduced the proposed schedule of meetings for 2007/08 for councillors' approval.

Resolved:

That the proposed schedule of meetings 2007/2008 be approved.

1477 **Urgent Action**

The Chief Executive informed councillors that it had been necessary to use emergency powers once, after consultation with the Town Centre Development Working Group, in order extend the long-stop date between the Council and Tesco by three months.

1478 **Sealing of Documents**

Council
6 February 2007

To authorise the sealing of any documents necessary to action decisions of this Council Meeting, or any of its Committees and Boards for which delegated authority is not already in existence.

Resolved:

That authority be granted for the signing of, or the Common Seal of the Council being affixed to, any documents necessary to give effect to any resolutions hereby approved.

1479 **PRIVATE SESSION**

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, as there will be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Section 12(A) of the Act, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

1480 **Affordable Housing**

The Chief Executive presented councillors with a report on affordable housing.

Councillors considered a request from Persimmon Homes in relation to an agreement entered into by Persimmon, the Council and others pursuant to Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Resolved that:

- (i) The report be noted**
- (ii) A working group of councillors be established, chaired by the Champion for Affordable Housing, to consider the request from Persimmon further and to determine a response; and**
- (iii) The working group report back to the Policy and Resources Committee to enable recommendations to be made to Council.**

1481 **Town Centre Development Working Group**

Council
6 February 2007

The Chief Executive updated councillors on the two meetings of the Town Centre Development Working Group held on 8 and 25 January 2007.

Councillors were informed that the working group considered that a more detailed concept plan for the centre of Selby Town was required in order to ensure any future development was carried out in the most appropriate manner.

In addition, the Town Centre Development Working Group had been consulted by the Chief Executive over the extension of the long-stop date between the Council and Tesco by three months and the temporary use of reserves to fund the Customer Services Centre in advance of capital receipt, and had given their approval.

Resolved that:

- (i) the three-month extension of the long-stop date between the Council and Tesco be approved;**
- (ii) that approval be given to the temporary use of reserves to fund the Customer Services Centre in advance of capital receipt; and**
- (iii) a sum of up to £15,000 to develop a detailed concept plan for the centre of Selby Town be approved.**

The meeting closed at 8:15pm.