

SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Council held on 24 April 2007, in the Civic Suite, the Civic Centre, Portholme Road, Selby, commencing at 6.00 pm.

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Present: Councillor D McSherry (Vice-Chairman) in the Chair

Councillors: D N Bain-Mackay, Mrs E Casling, J Cattnach, I Chilvers, M Crane, J Crawford, G Croston, 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, C Metcalfe, J Meehan, Mrs W Nichols, I Nutt, R Packham, R Parker D Peart, C Pearson, B Percival, R Sayner, S Shaw-Wright, and R Wilson.

Officials: Chief Executive, Strategic Director, Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services, Head of Service – Finance and Central Services, Head of Service – Environmental Services and Leisure, Head of Service – Housing Services, Democratic Services Officer and Committee Support Clerk

Observers: 2

Councillor C Pearson offered opening prayers.

Public: 2

Press: 0

1688 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Bedworth, J Mackman, Mrs F Ryan and R H Sweeting.

1689 **Disclosure of Interest**

None received.

1690 **Minutes**

Councillors discussed the resolution to minute 1595 with regard to the revised Local Development Scheme, with particular reference to the issue of Parish Plans.

Resolved that:

- i. **The resolution at minute 1595 (iii) be amended to read *‘the issue of Parish Plans be further considered by Council following the elections in May 2007 and support be given for their inclusion where possible in the planning process.’***
- ii. **The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of Council held on 20 March 2007, subject to the amendment above, be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.**

1691 **Communications**

- (a) Letters from Mr P Rowsell, Deputy Director of Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) – Proposals for Future Unitary Structures for Local Government

The Chief Executive informed councillors of correspondence he had received from Mr P Rowsell, Deputy Director of the DCLG. The DCLG invited Selby District Council's views as part of the consultation process, following the announcement by the Government that the bid that had been made by North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) for unitary status had been one of those short-listed to go forward to stakeholder consultation. The deadline for these responses was 22 June 2007.

The Chief Executive informed councillors that the district councils across North Yorkshire were working on a joint response to the bid and that this response would be available prior to the closing date for consideration by the new Council.

Resolved:

That an extraordinary meeting of Council be held following the elections in May to discuss further action with regard to the proposal for unitary status made by NYCC.

(b) Letter from Councillor R Wilson – Creation of a Community Development Fund

Councillor R Wilson outlined to councillors proposals to establish a community development fund, initially from Council reserves, in the light of the potential reorganisation of local government in North Yorkshire. This fund would be used to deliver facilities for the local community.

Councillors discussed whether this was a decision that should be made by the new Council, following the forthcoming elections.

The motion put before councillors was to create a community development fund and for officers to return to the next meeting of Council with the criteria by which this might be set-up.

On being put to the vote, the motion was lost.

Councillor J Crawford registered his strong condemnation over the way in which the vote was carried out.

1692 **Public Questions**

None received.

1693 **Councillors' Questions**

None received.

1694 **Committee and Board Minutes**

Planning Committee – 21 March 2007

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

Planning Committee – 18 April 2007

Councillors considered the recommendation at minute 1663, requesting a draw-down of budget from the Planning Inquiry Reserves to fund public inquiries. Approval was given by the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee to consider the matter at this meeting of Council, in order to allow the matter to be resolved in a timely manner.

Resolved that:

- i. The recommendation at minute 1663 be approved; and**
- ii. The minutes be noted.**

Environment Board – 29 March 2007

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

Social Board – 3 April 2007

The Chair of Social Board informed councillors that minute 1624 – Social Board Work Programme should have contained a recommendation to Council for approval of the work programme and requested that councillors consider the matter at this meeting.

The Chair also requested that an amendment be made to minute 1627, in order to make clear the fact that it was the *Housing Services* Anti-social Behaviour Policy, and not the corporate Anti-social Behaviour Policy, that was before the Committee, and that the policy itself be amended to reflect this point.

Resolved:

- i. That the recommendation at minute 1624 be approved; and**
- ii. The minutes, subject to the amendments above, be noted.**

Economy Board – 10 April 2007

The Chair of Economy Board extended his thanks to Councillor Mrs W May, who would not be standing for re-election for all her hard work as a councillor and member of the Economy Board.

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 19 April 2007

The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee thanked the members of the Teenage Pregnancy Task and Finish Group, and gave particular thanks to Tracey Peam and Helen Christmas for all their hard work.

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

Policy and Resources Committee – 17 April 2007

Councillors discussed the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 17 April 2007, with particular regard to the Annual Audit Inspection Letter.

Resolved that:

i. The following recommendations be approved:

- a. Minute 1645 – Safeguarding Children Arrangements and Child Protection Policy**
- b. Minute 1649 – Annual Delivery Plan 2007 – Improvement Chapter**
- c. Minute 1655 – Affordable Housing**

ii. The minutes be noted.

Licensing Committee – 23 April 2007

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

1695 **Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Update**

The Chief Executive updated councillors on the main issues arising and progress made since the last LSP update.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

1696 **Urgent Action**

The Chief Executive informed councillors that it had been necessary to use emergency powers twice, with regard to:

- i. approving the attendance of Councillor J Crawford, if re-elected, at the LGA Conference in July 2007; and
- ii. the payment of an overspend of £1,250 in connection with the Selby Hospital project.

1697 **Sealing of Documents**

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.

1698 **Tributes to Councillors**

The Chairman, who would not be standing for re-election in the forthcoming elections, expressed his appreciation for all the assistance he had received from officers and staff at the Council over the years he had been a councillor.

He then praised Councillor Mrs W May, who also would not be standing again for re-election, for her professionalism, enthusiasm and friendship and presented her with a bouquet of flowers. Councillor Mrs W May thanked Councillor D McSherry for all his kindness and help, particularly following the recent death of her daughter.

Councillor J Crawford, Leader of the Labour Group, then paid tribute to the many years of hard work Councillor Mrs W May had given to the residents of Selby District. He wished her good health and happiness and presented her with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the Labour Group.

The Leader of the Council also paid tribute to Councillor Mrs W May for the commitment she had shown for many years to the Council, her ward and the District and wished her a long and happy retirement.

The Leader then went on to thank the other members of the Labour Group who would not be standing for re-election. Councillor J Crawford followed with his thanks to them for all their hard work.

The Leader offered his thanks for the dedication and commitment shown by those members of the Conservative Group who were not standing for re-election, with particular regard to Councillors D Peart and D McSherry, and wished them all the best for the future.

The Chairman then asked that councillors end this meeting of Council by remembering Maurice Patrick and Wally Norton, who had been greatly admired by all.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm.