

SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Council held on 12 February 2008
in the Civic Suite, the Civic Centre, Portholme Road, Selby,
commencing at 6:00 pm.

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Present: Councillor Mrs J Dyson (Chairman) in the Chair

Councillors: Mrs E Casling, I Chilvers, M Crane, Mrs D Davies, K Ellis, D Fagan, Mrs M Hulme, W Inness, M Jordan, C Lunn, D N Mackay, Mrs P Mackay, B Marshall, W N Martin, J McCartney, Mrs M McCartney, Mrs K McSherry, Mrs C Mackman, J Mackman, C Metcalfe, Mrs E Metcalfe, Mrs W Nichols, I Nutt, R Packham, C Pearson, A Pound, Mrs S Ryder, R Sayner, S Shaw-Wright, R H Sweeting, A Thurlow and Mrs D White.

Officials: Chief Executive, Mr S Martin, Strategic Director, Mr J Lund, Strategic Director, Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services, Head of Service – Finance and Central Services, Head of Service – Environmental Health and Leisure, Head of Service – Planning and Economic Development, Accountancy Services Manager, Democratic Services Officer, Committee Administrator.

Observers: 0

The Reverend G Wardell offered opening prayers.

Public: 0

Press: 1

672 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Deans, Mrs S Duckett and Mrs A Spetch.

673 **Disclosure of Interest**

Councillors C Metcalfe, Mrs E Metcalfe and B Percival declared a personal interest in Minute 685, as they owned property in Kirkgate, Tadcaster.

674 **Minutes**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings of Council held on 11 December 2007 and 15 January 2008 be confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

675 **Communications**

(a) Letter – Chairman of Selby Renaissance Town Team

The Chief Executive submitted a letter from the Chairman of the Selby Renaissance Town Team asking the Council to consider the compulsory purchase of a site opposite the railway station for use as a car park.

Resolved:

That no action be taken on this request.

(b) Letter – Post Office Ltd

The Chief Executive submitted a letter dated 29 January 2008 from Post Office Ltd replying to the concerns expressed by the Council about proposals to close Post Offices within the District.

(c) Letter – Post Office Ltd

The Chief Executive reported that he had received a letter dated 7 February 2008 from Post Office Ltd informing the Council that a decision had been reached to close Birkin, Flaxley Road, Selby, Hill Top Branch and Ryther Post Offices.

Resolved:

That the letter be noted.

(d) Councillors and their Communities

The Chief Executive reported that Councillor Mrs Ivey had expressed an interest in attending an event at the City of Manchester Stadium on 27 February 2008.

Resolved:

That Councillor Mrs Ivey be authorised to attend.

(e) Eco Town

The Chief Executive reported that he had received the following four items of correspondence relating to the proposed establishment of an Eco Town within the District.

- Councillors Mrs Ivey and Mrs Ryder regarding a possible site.
- Councillor Mrs W Nichols requesting the Council to work with the government and NYCC on a proposal to use a site at Gascoigne Wood as a mixed Eco settlement of housing and employment.
- Beal Parish Council objecting to the development of an Eco Town at Eggborough.
- The Chairman of the Regional Planning Board who had written to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government expressing concern at the lack of opportunity for the Board to comment on the location of Eco Towns.

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Nichols and seconded by Councillor Ms M Davis

That the Council offers Gascoigne Wood as an alternative site for the location of an Eco Town.

In accordance with paragraph 5.27 (e) of the Council's Constitution a recorded vote was taken on this issue as shown below:-

For the proposal – Councillors Mrs D Davies, Ms M Davis, B Marshall, N Martin, Mrs W Nichols and S Shaw-Wright.

Against the proposal – Mrs E Casling, J Cattanach, I Chilvers, M Crane, Mrs J Dyson, K Ellis, D Fagan, Mrs C Goodall, Mrs M Hulme, W Inness, Mrs G Ivey, C Lunn, D Mackay, and Mrs P Mackay, Mrs C Mackman, J Mackmam, Mrs K McSherry, C Metcalfe, Mrs E Metcalfe, I Nutt, R Packham, C Pearson, B Percival, A Pound, R Sayner, R Sweeting and Mrs D White.

Abstaining from voting were Councillors J McCartney, Mrs M McCartney and A Thurlow.

Motion lost.

Resolved:

That the correspondence be dealt with later in the meeting (see Minute 684)

(f) Community Management Board

The Chief Executive referred to the discussions at the last meeting of Council relating to the possible establishment of Community Management Boards. Councillor C Metcalfe had offered to undertake a pilot study within the Tadcaster and villages CIP area.

Resolved:

That Councillor Metcalfe's offer be accepted and a pilot study be undertaken within the Tadcaster and Villages CIP area and a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

(g) John Grogan MP

The Chief Executive submitted a letter from John Grogan MP requesting the Council to continue to support Brass Band performances in Selby Park.

Resolved:

That the letter be noted.

(h) Ethical Standards Self Assessment Service

The Chief Executive referred to a letter from the Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services and reminded councillors that all councillors should complete the survey and return it as soon as possible.

676 **Public Questions**

None.

677 **Councillors' Questions**

Councillor Mackman responded to a question raised by Councillor J McCartney and gave Council information regarding targets for dealing with planning applications and in particular applications which were over eight weeks old.

678 **Committee and Board Minutes**

Planning Committee – 12 December 2007

Resolved:

- (i) That the minutes be noted; and**
- (ii) The recommendation regarding public speaking procedures set out in Minute 549 be approved.**

Planning Committee – 9 January 2008

Resolved:

- (i) That the minutes be noted;**
- (ii) The recommendations at minutes 583 and 584 be considered during the budget debate.**

Planning Committee – 6 February 2008

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

Licensing Committee – 7 January 2008

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

Licensing Committee – 21 January 2008

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

Social Board – 8 January 2008

Resolved:

- (i) That the minutes be noted;**
- (ii) The recommendations at minutes 572 to 577 be considered during the budget debate.**

Environment Board – 10 January 2008

Resolved:

- (i) That the minutes be noted;**
- (ii) The recommendations at minutes 593 and 594 be considered during the budget debate.**

Economy Board – 15 January 2008

Resolved:

- (i) That the minutes be noted;**
- (ii) The recommendations at minutes 605 and 606 be considered during the budget debate.**

Audit Panel – 16 January 2008

Resolved:

- (i) That the minutes be noted; and**
- (ii) The recommendation set out in Minute 619 be approved and Councillor J Cattanach be appointed as the Member Champion for Audit and Fraud.**

Standards Committee – 21 January 2008

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 24 January 2008

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

Resolved that:

- (i) The minutes be noted; and**
- (ii) The recommendations set out in Minutes 647 and 648 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 Deputy Leader of the Labour Group and a response from the Leader of the Independent Group to the budget proposals.

Resolved that:

- (i) A net revenue budget of £11,059, 379 be set for 2008/2009 which equals a gross band D council tax of £149.90**
- (ii) £358,000 of bids as presented be approved for 2008/09**
- (iii) The re-prioritisation of reserves as set out in the appendix be approved including the creation of the following new reserves:
 - (a) Spend to save reserve – to provide upfront investment for initiatives that generate revenue budget savings**
 - (b) Special projects – to fund capital or “one-off” revenue projects****
- (iv) the use of balances and reserves be accepted**
- (v) 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**
- (vi) the LABGI funding be used in support of the budget to a maximum of £189,000**

- (vii) an extraordinary meeting of Council be held on Tuesday 4 March at 6:00 pm to formally set the council tax for 2008/09, inclusive of all precepts from North Yorkshire County Council, the Police Authority, the Fire Service and parish councils.**
- (viii) a further report on housing rents be submitted to Social Board prior to further consideration by the Council on 4 March 2008.**

679

Base Budget Savings

Councillors received the report of the Head of Service – Finance and Central Services with the proposed base budget savings from 2008/09 onwards.

The report identified a number of savings for 2008/09 and beyond against a target of £750k for 2008/09 and £1.5m for 2009/10 onwards.

Resolved:

- (i) That the savings set out in Appendix A to the report be approved with the exception of the proposed £10,000 reduction in grants to voluntary bodies.**
- (ii) That the savings be included within the budget proposals for 2008/09 onwards and**
- (iii) That further saving proposals be identified for approval in order to achieve the savings target for 2009/10 onwards.**

680

Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) – Update

Councillors received the report of the Head of Service – Policy and Performance on the work of the LSP.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

681

Urgent Action

The Chief Executive reported that he had exercised his power in connection with the proposed sale of land to Tesco.

682

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.

683

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.

684

Proposed Eco Town near Eggborough

Councillors received a presentation from GMI Property Company on the proposed Eco Town near Eggborough.

Councillors questioned representatives from the Company regarding their proposals and the possible effects on Selby Town and surrounding villages.

Councillors also considered correspondence from Councillors Mrs Ivey and Mrs Ryder, Beal Parish Council and the Chairman of the Regional Planning Board.

Moved by Councillor M Crane and seconded by B Percival.

This Council, whilst supporting the principles of eco towns in appropriate, sustainable, eco friendly, brown field locations that have good local support, providing family homes and subject to standard planning procedures strongly rejects the suggestions of the new towns that are being called Willow Green and Darringfields on the grounds:

- They are not justified within the RSS
- There is no established unmet demand for them in the area
- No exceptional case for them in areas of green belt and on good agricultural land that is in the Kellington area
- They are unsustainable on all grounds, particularly transport, energy, water and employment
- The proposals from the developers on affordable housing are inadequate and do not accord with the SDC policies
- They will be an unacceptable distraction for the development and enhancement of Selby town.

And that these views are robustly presented to Government.

Further that the Department for Communities and Local Government is made specifically aware that its failure to consult with local authorities before the proposals were made known is very contrary to the protocol for consultation and must not be repeated in future.

That Selby District Council regrets the support being given to the identified new town of Willow Green by the MP and calls upon him to retract his support and to present to Government the overwhelming rejection of the proposals that have been demonstrated by the local community and by the resolution of this Council.

Moved by Councillor Mrs W Nichols and seconded by Councillor Ms M Davis as an amendment

The motion with the deletion of the last paragraph.

Amendment lost, motion carried.

Resolved:

This Council, whilst supporting the principles of eco towns in appropriate, sustainable, eco friendly, brown field locations that have good local support, providing family homes and subject to standard planning procedures strongly rejects the suggestions of the new towns that are being called Willow Green and Darringfields on the grounds:

- **They are not justified within the RSS**
- **There is no established unmet demand for them in the area**
- **No exceptional case for them in areas of green belt and on good agricultural land that is in the Kellington area**
- **They are unsustainable on all grounds, particularly transport, energy, water and employment**
- **The proposals from the developers on affordable housing are inadequate and do not accord with the SDC policies**
- **They will be an unacceptable distraction for the development and enhancement of Selby town.**

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685

Duration of Meeting

The Chief Executive reminded councillors that the meeting had been in session for three hours and in accordance with Section 5.20 of the Constitution the meeting should adjourn unless councillors decided otherwise.

Resolved:

That the meeting continue until 9:20 pm.

686

Tadcaster Town Centre

Councillors C Metcalfe, Mrs E Metcalfe and B Percival declared a personal interest in this item.

Councillors received the report of the Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services with regard to the current position in relation to proposals for improvements to Tadcaster Town Centre.

The Chief Executive reported on a meeting he had attended of the interested parties.

Resolved:

That discussions continue to be held on this matter to seek a solution, but that if a solution cannot be reached the Chief Executive be authorised to pursue the hearing of the judicial review of the Council's planning decision.

687

Adjournment

It was moved and seconded that the remaining items on the agenda be deferred to the meeting of the Council on 4 March 2008.

In accordance with paragraph 5.27 (e) of the Council's Constitution a recorded vote was taken on this issue as shown below:-

For the proposal – Councillors Mrs D Davies, Ms M Davis, B Marshall, N Martin, J McCartney, Mrs M McCartney, Mrs W Nichols, B Packham, S Shaw-Wright, R Sweeting and A Thurlow.

Against the proposal – Mrs E Casling, I Chilvers, M Crane, Mrs J Dyson, K Ellis, D Fagan, Mrs C Goodall, Mrs M Hulme, W Inness, Mrs G Ivey, C Lunn, M Jordan, D Mackay, Mrs P Mackay, Mrs C Mackman, J Mackman, Mrs K McSherry, C Metcalfe, Mrs E Metcalfe, C Pearson, B Percival, A Pound and S Ryder.

At this stage in the meeting the Chairman declared that as it was 9:20 pm the meeting was closed and the items not considered would be referred to the meeting of the Council on 4 March 2008.

The meeting closed at 9:20 pm.