

SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Council held on 6 April 2010, in the Civic Suite, the Civic Centre, Portholme Road, Selby, commencing at 6.00pm.

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Present: Councillor I Chilvers (Chairman) in the Chair.

Councillors: Mrs E Casling, J Cattanach, Mrs D Davies, J Deans, Mrs S Duckett, Mrs J Dyson, K Ellis, D Fagan, Mrs C Goodall, Mrs M Hulme, W Inness, Mrs G Ivey, C Lunn, Mr D Mackay, Mrs C Mackman, J Mackman, B Marshall, N Martin, J McCartney, Mrs M McCartney, Mrs K McSherry, C Metcalfe, Mrs E Metcalfe, Mrs W Nichols, I Nutt, R Packham, C Pearson, A Pound, S Shaw-Wright, Mrs A Spetch, J Thurlow and Mrs D White.

Officials: Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Strategic Director, Head of Service – Finance, Head of Service – Development Services, Head of Service – Customers and Business Support, Media and Corporate Communications Manager and Democratic Services Managers.

Public: 2

Press: 0

Councillor J Thurlow offered opening prayers.

686 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Crane, M Jordan, Mrs P Mackay, B Percival, R Sayner and R Sweeting.

687 **Disclosures of Interest**

None received.

688 **Minutes**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of Council held on 9 February and 2 March 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

689 **Communications**

i) Selby District Advocacy

The Chief Executive reported that Selby District Advocacy had lost its main funding provider and had been forced to close. The letter from Selby District Advocacy offered thanks to the Council for its help and support.

Resolved:

That the letter be noted.

ii) Selby Town Council

The Chief Executive read a letter from Selby Town Council regarding the unfinished development at the former St Mary's School site. It was agreed that the Leader of the Council would meet with the Chair of Social Board to take the issue forward and, if necessary, a report would be submitted to Social Board.

Resolved:

That the letter be noted.

iii) Eden Avenue Footpath

The Chief Executive detailed correspondence from Councillor Mrs D Davies, which sought to highlight the state of disrepair of the public footpath on Eden Avenue.

The Council discussed the issue raised and the clarification required regarding ownership of some footpaths in the district. It was agreed to progress the matter of path ownership with North Yorkshire County Council to enable a quick resolution to the problem.

Resolved:

i) That the letter be noted.

ii) That discussions be held with North Yorkshire County Council to resolve the problem.

iv) Skipton East Lancashire Rail Action Partnership (SELRAP)

The Chief Executive reported a letter from SELRAP which requested the Council's support for the reopening of the Colne to Skipton railway line.

The Council agreed to support the proposal.

Resolved:

i) That the letter be noted.

ii) That the Council supports the proposal.

v) Selby Civic Society

The Chief Executive reported a letter received from the Selby Civic Society which raised ongoing concerns regard litter in parts of Selby Town Centre. The Council agreed with the sentiment of the letter. It was agreed that the issue would be referred to Environment Board.

Resolved:

i) That the letter be noted.

ii) That the issue be referred to Environment Board.

vi) Rusholme Wind Farm

The Chief Executive reported a letter from a resident of Brier Lane, Newland in respect of the increased haulage traffic and associated problems in the area as a result of the Rusholme Wind Farm.

Councillors discussed the issue and it linked to the public question from Mrs Emmerson (at minute 690).

Resolved:

That the letter be noted.

Public Questions

Mrs Emmerson

Mrs Emmerson asked the following question to the Leader of the council:

Will you admit and agree that the residents of 1-8 Brier Lane have been totally let down by both SDC and NYCC and that your actions have turned our quite rural road, we live on, into a building site? That if the communication was in place before construction started on a 12 turbine wind farm, we would have possibly chosen to have our homes surveyed. If we were aware that twelve, 40 tonne wagons per hour would be passing in front of our properties, causing cracking to our plaster work. Will you agree to meet the residents of 1-8 Brier Lane?

Councillor C Metcalfe gave the following reply on behalf of the Leader of the Council;

Planning permission was granted in 2006 for 12 wind turbines and associated works on land at Pease Farm and Rusholme Grange, Newland, Selby.

The planning consent included over 30 planning conditions which covered a range of issues such as protecting the character of the countryside, protecting the amenities of the local residents and matters of highways safety.

Council officers first received complaints from a local resident in December 2009, followed by several complaints over the last three months of this year as construction work intensified.

Whilst it is inevitable that any construction project of this scale will have some impact in terms of disturbance from construction traffic, Council officers are monitoring the situation and have had a series of discussions with the developers to overcome the concerns of local people.

Over the last few weeks it became clear that although Council officers and the developers were working hard to respond to residents' concerns, the communication of these efforts to local residents could be improved.

In order to improve communications, Councillor Cliff Lunn as Chair of the Southern Community Engagement Forum invited local residents to meet with the developers, Council officers and local Councillors. This meeting took place on 25 March and gave local residents the opportunity to hold to account the developers and Council officers.

Following the granting of planning permission, the developer requested a variation of one of the conditions relating to site access. Consultation took

place with residents on both the original and the proposed revised access routes. County Highways were also consulted and on balance the revised access route was agreed based on highway safety grounds.

Following the complaints received the Council has made extra efforts to give local residents access to the developers and Council officers during the construction period to help reduce the impact of construction. The developers and Council officers are to hold regular meetings with local residents during the peak construction phase. The first of these meetings took place on 31 March and will continue on a monthly basis.

In response to a supplementary question regarding the health and safety of local residents as a result of changing the route for haulage vehicles supplying the site, Councillor Metcalfe informed the Council that this issue would be raised in Mrs Emmerson's meeting with the Leader.

691 **Councillors' Questions**

None.

692 **Committee and Board Minutes**

Planning Committee 3 March 2010

The Chair of the Committee reported that the following amendments had been made to minutes of this meeting by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 31 March 2010.

- Minute 610, line 25 – remove the word 'to'.
- Minute 610, line 34 – to read 'delegated authority to revise conditions, await the expiry of the press notice'.

Councillor Mrs G Ivey asked that minute 617, bullet 5 be amended to read 'Request to DECC that HGV loadings at the site be not more than currently permitted.'

Resolved:

That, subject to the amendments, the minutes be noted.

Licensing Committee 8 February 2010

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

Licensing Committee 8 March 2010

Resolved

That the minutes be noted.

Social Board 9 March 2010

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 18 March 2010

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

Grants Allocation Panel 23 March 2010

Resolved:

i) That the minutes be noted.

ii) That the recommendation at minute 5 (Revenue Grant Applications) be approved.

Policy and Resources Committee 23 March 2010

Councillor Mrs G Ivey presented the minutes and highlighted the following amendments.

- Minute 656, line 3 – to read; ‘Substitute Councillors were N Martin (substitute for Mrs W Nichols) and C Pearson (for M Jordan).’
- Minute 672, the resolution – to read; ‘that the amounts on the attached schedule be written off.’

Resolved:

i) That, subject to the amendments, the minutes be noted

ii) That the recommendations at minute 662 (Treasury Management Policy and Procedures), minute 664 (Revenue and Capital Budget) be approved.

693

The Move Towards an Executive Structure

The Chief Executive submitted a report to update the Council on the programme to move to a Leader and Cabinet Executive structure by May 2011.

The report covered progress on the re-write of the Constitution, the development of revised overview and scrutiny arrangements, potential councillor and officer training and the need for a forward plan.

Resolved:

i) That the report be noted.

ii) That the proposals for training sessions be supported.

694

Urgent Action

None.

695

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 was 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.

696

Private Session

That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the meeting be not open to the Press and public during consideration of the following item as there will be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 100(1) of the Act as described in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

Communications

The Chief Executive summarised the key points from correspondence received from Yorkshire Forward in relation to the Sherburn Renaissance Scheme.

Resolved:

That the settlement offered by Yorkshire Forward be accepted.

The meeting closed at 7:49pm