

SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL
MINUTES

Minutes of the MEETING OF COUNCIL held on Tuesday 28 February 2012,
in The Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Doncaster Road, Selby, commencing
at 6:00 pm.

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Present: Councillor Mrs K McSherry in the Chair

Mrs E Casling, M Crane, J Crawford, Mrs D Davies, Mrs M Davis, J Deans, Mrs S Duckett, M Dyson, K Ellis, M Hobson, W Inness, Mrs G Ivey, M Jordan, C Lunn, D Mackay, Mrs C Mackman, J Mackman, B Marshall, J McCartney, Mrs M McCartney, Mrs C Metcalfe, E Metcalfe, R Musgrave, Mrs W Nichols, I Nutt, R Packham, C Pearson, D Peart, A Pound, R Price, I Reynolds, Mrs S Ryder, Mrs A Spetch, S Shaw-Wright, R Sweeting and J Thurlow

Apologies for Absence: Councillors J Cattanach and I Chilvers, Mrs P Mackay and R Sayner

Also Present: Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Director S151, Managing Director of Access Selby, Solicitor to the Council and Democratic Services Manager.

Press: 0
Public: 14

Council
28 February 2012

60. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors J Cattnach, I Chilvers, Mrs P Mackay and R Sayner.

61. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

62. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13 December 2011 were confirmed as a correct record.

Resolved:

To approve the minutes for signing by the Chairman.

63. Communication

Brian Percival Associates

The Council noted that a letter from Brian Percival Associates had been circulated with the agenda. However, the letter had been withdrawn prior to the meeting.

Petition regarding the Route of the Olympic Torch

A letter and a petition had been received from Petition Organiser Mrs Myrtle Hall with regard to the route of the Olympic Torch. The petition asked that the Council support Sherburn and South Milford residents in their campaign to ensure that the Olympic Torch pass through those villages rather than using the planned by-pass route.

The petition would be presented and considered at item 6 on the agenda.

Bilbrough Parish Council

The Chief Executive reported correspondence received from Bilbrough Parish Council. The Parish Council asked for authority to reduce its current requirement for seven Parish Councillors down to five.

The Chief Executive informed the Council that a Community Governance Review would need to be conducted prior to approving the change in electoral arrangements for Bilbrough Parish Council. The Council granted authority to begin such a review.

Resolved:

- i) **To note the letter;**
- ii) **To undertake a Community Governance Review on the basis of the letter from Bilbrough Council.**

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE)

The Chief Executive advised that correspondence had been received from the LGBCE. The letter concerned a previous request from the Council for a review to be undertaken of the local government electoral arrangements for Selby District, with a view to reducing the number of councillors.

The review would commence in October 2012 and would take up to a year. The findings from the review would be in place for the next District Election in 2015. The Chief Executive stated that he would keep councillors informed as the review progressed.

Resolved: To note the letter.

Polling Stations, Polling Districts and Polling Places

The Chief Executive informed Council that a review of the Polling Stations, Polling Districts and Polling Places was due to commence. The Council had a duty to undertake such a review at least once every four years. The public consultation would commence on 1 March 2012. The Chief Executive highlighted that the review would be undertaken at a time when both the parliamentary and local government boundaries were being revised. The Chief Executive stated that he would keep councillors informed as the review progressed.

Resolved: To note the update.

Selby District Association of Voluntary Service (AVS)

Councillors Shaw-Wright and Mrs M Davis both declared personal interests in this item as a result of their job roles.

The Chief Executive reported a letter received from Selby District AVS. The letter informed the Council that AVS would change its legal status from an unincorporated organisation to an incorporated organisation and become a limited company by Guarantee on 1st April 2012.

Resolved: To note the letter.

64. Announcements

The Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council made a statement regarding the fire which had taken place at Abbey Leisure Centre on Tuesday 28 February

2012. The fire had caused considerable damage, but thankfully no one was injured. He provided an update on the latest position.

The Leader of the Council thanked the North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service and North Yorkshire Police on behalf of the Council. He also offered thanks to Selby Town Council and the Salvation Army for their assistance and praised the work of both Access Selby and Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust staff.

The Leader of the Council reaffirmed the Council's commitment to providing excellent leisure and recreational facilities for Selby District.

Resolved: To note the announcement.

The Chairman of the Council

The Chairman of the Council informed the meeting that the Queen would not be visiting North Yorkshire as part of the Diamond Jubilee.

Resolved: To note the announcement.

65. Petitions

Petition from Sherburn and South Milford Residents – Olympic Torch Route

Mr Graham, Chairman of Sherburn Community Association, addressed the Council. He asked for the Council's support in the campaign to reroute the Olympic Torch through Sherburn and South Milford.

Mr Graham put forward a number of arguments to support the rerouting of the Olympic Torch, these included the population size of Sherburn and South Milford along with the difficulties of viewing the Torch elsewhere.

Councillors Packham and Jordan also addressed the Council meeting in support of the petition. Councillor Packham detailed his correspondence with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), the body responsible for the route of the Torch.

The Leader of the Council offered the Council's support for the campaign. He clarified that the Council had not been consulted on the Torch's route through the district.

Resolved:

- i) To accept the petition;**
- ii) To forward the petition to LOCOG with a letter of support from the Council.**

66. Public Questions

None received.

67. Councillors' Questions

None received.

68. Reports from the Executive

The Leader of the Council had submitted a report on items considered by the Executive since the last meeting of Council. He informed the Council that discussions were on going with partners regarding the future of Barlow Common Nature Reserve.

Councillor Mrs G Ivey, Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Executive Member for External Relations and Partnerships, detailed her work representing the Council at meetings across North Yorkshire. This included attendance at meetings on future arrangements for the Police and Crime Panel.

Councillor Lunn, Lead Executive Member for Finance, answered questions from councillors on the implications of the Council Tax freeze and the Executive's decision to raise rent levels by an average of 7.9%. Councillor Lunn explained the importance of rent convergence and its implications for households within Selby District.

Councillor J Mackman, Lead Member for Place Shaping, presented his report and gave an update on the Core Strategy. He briefly explained how that the Localism Act would impact upon the Core Strategy. Following a question from Councillor R Price, Councillor J Mackman explained the circumstances behind the notable precept increase by the Internal Drainage Board. Councillor J Mackman also responded to questions on the North Yorkshire Building Control Partnership.

Councillor C Metcalfe, Lead Member for Communities had tabled his report. He updated the Council with details of his work around 'Tackling the Tough Stuff' as one of the key priorities identified in the Corporate Plan.

At this point Councillor R Musgrave left the meeting.

Resolved: To receive and note the reports from the Executive.

69. Reports from Committees

The Chair of Policy Review Committee, Councillor Jordan, reported on work undertaken since the last Council meeting. He highlighted the committee's work in scrutinising the Council's Community Engagement Forums. This would be the subject of a future report to the Executive.

Councillor Mrs W Nichols, the Chair of Scrutiny Committee, outlined the recent work of the committee. The report discussed the North Yorkshire County Council Scrutiny of Health Committee which had taken place at the Civic Centre. The Council debated a number of issues from this meeting.

The Chair of Audit Committee, Councillor Mrs E Casling, highlighted that the District Auditor has reported to the committee that Selby District Council had responded well to recent financial challenges and offered low cost efficient services. Councillor Mrs E Casling would speak to the Managing Director of Access Selby regarding an issue with Closed Burial Grounds.

At this point, Councillors J and Mrs M McCartney left the meeting.

Resolved: To receive and note the reports from the Scrutiny Committees.

70. Budgets, Reserves and Balances 2012/13

The Executive Director (s151) presented a report for consideration by the Council. The report set out the issues affecting the Council's finances as part of the budget setting process.

The Council heard that the Executive's proposed budget was robust and reserves were considered adequate, but the prevailing economic climate and cuts to public sector funding meant significant financial risks for the Council.

Resolved: To take into consideration the Executive Director's (S151) statements, in paragraphs 2.5 and 2.11, when setting the Council Tax.

71. Council Tax 2012/13

Councillor Lunn presented the Executive's Revenue and Capital budget and Council Tax proposals for 2012/13 following public consultation, scrutiny by the Policy Review Committee and presentation to all councillors.

Councillor Lunn highlighted the proposal to freeze Council Tax and that the Executive would continue to look for savings.

Resolved:

- i) To approve the revenue budgets and capital programmes for 2012/13 as set out at Appendices E and F;**
- ii) To hold Council Tax at the 2011/12 level of £158.88 per Band D property for 2012/13;**
- iii) To approve the Council Tax resolution as set out in Appendix B.**

72. The Treasury Management Strategy

Councillor Lunn introduced the report detailing the proposed Treasury Management Strategy together with the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement, Annual Investment Strategy for 2012/13 and Prudential Indicators 2012/13.

The Executive Director (S151) expanded upon the treasury management implications of the forthcoming self-financing of the Housing Revenue Account.

Resolved:

- (i) To revise the Operational Borrowing Limit for 2011/12 to £71m;**
- (ii) To revise the Authorised Borrowing Limit for 2011/12 to £75m;**
- (iii) To set the Operational Borrowing Limit for 2012/13 at £71m;**
- (iv) To set the Authorised Borrowing Limit for 2012/13 at £75m;**
- (v) To delegate authority to the Executive Director (s151) to effect movement within the agreed authorised boundary limits for long term borrowing for 2012/13 onwards;**
- (vi) To delegate authority to the Executive Director (s151) to effect movement within the agreed operational boundary limits for long term borrowing for 2012/13 onwards;**
- (vii) To approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2012/13;**
- (viii) To approve the minimum revenue provision policy statement for 2012/13;**
- (ix) To approve the Treasury Management Investment Strategy for 2012/13;**
- (x) To approve the Prudential Indicators for 2012/13, which reflect the capital expenditure plans, which are affordable, prudent and sustainable.**

73. Pay Policy Statement

Councillor Lunn sought approval to implement the Council's Pay Policy Statement 2012/13 in accordance with section 38 of the Localism Act 2011.

Councillor Lunn clarified that local authorities were now required to set out the Council's policy toward the pay of the workforce. He responded to questions regarding honorarium payments.

Resolved:

- i) To approve the Pay Policy Statement 2012/13;**
- ii) To approve the Terms and Conditions relating to pay be approved.**

74. Village Design Statements

Councillor J Mackman presented the report which detailed comments received following a six week consultation period. Officers had responded to the comments and, where appropriate, made changes to the Village Design Statements.

Councillor J Mackman informed Council that the Village Design Statements had been considered by both the Executive and Policy Review Committee. The Council then discussed the use of Village Design Statements in planning decision making.

Resolved: To formally adopt the Village Design Statements into the Local Development Framework for use as advice and guidance in planning decision making.

75. The Local Development Framework and the Core Strategy Implications of the Localism Act

The Deputy Chief Executive presented the report which informed councillors of the changes affecting the Local Development Framework and the Core Strategy as a result of the Localism Act 2011.

The Deputy Chief Executive advised that the changes required as a result of the Localism Act required an update of the delegations granted by Full Council on 13 September 2011.

The Council accepted a minor amendment to the report's recommendation which clarified that it was the Director of Community Services and not the Managing Director of Access Selby for whom the delegation was sought.

The Council debated both the extent of the delegations and the terminology used within the recommendations.

Councillor Packham put forward an amendment to the third recommendation within the report. He proposed to remove the word 'main'. This was seconded by Councillor Shaw-Wright.

A vote was taken and the amendment lost.

Resolved:

- i) To note the changes to the Local Development Framework following the implementation of the Localism Act 2011;**
- ii) To authorise the officers representing the Council at the reconvened EiP to make additional modifications to the Core Strategy policies before and during the reconvened EiP;**

- iii) **To authorise the Director of Community Services, after consultation with the Leader of the Council, to propose main modifications relating to the Core Strategy Policies to the Inspector before and during the reconvened EiP;**
- iv) **To authorise the Director of Community Services, to deal with any procedural issues not covered by existing delegations to enable effective conduct of the reconvened EiP.**

76. Schedule of Meetings 2012/13

The schedule of meetings 2012/13 was circulated for comment and consideration.

Councillor Mrs W Nichols suggested that the Scrutiny Committee Meeting on the 19 June be moved to 12 June and Audit Committee Meeting be moved to the 19 June from the 12 June. Councillor J Deans requested an additional Planning Committee on 2 May 2012. Council approved the amendments.

Resolved: That the schedule of meeting be approved subject to the above amendments.

77. Nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman

Resolved:

- i) **To nominate Councillor Jack Crawford to the office of Chairman Elect for the 2012/2013 Municipal Year;**
- ii) **To nominate Councillor Michael Dyson to the office of Vice Chairman Elect for the 2012/2013 Municipal Year**

78. Urgent Action

None.

79. Sealing of the 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: To grant authority 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.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm