

Council

Venue: Council Chamber
Date: 26 February 2013

74	The Late Former Councillor Winnie May
75	Disclosures of Interest
76	Minutes
77	Presentation from North Yorkshire County Council (NYnet) – Superfast Broadband for North Yorkshire
78	Communications
79	Announcements
80	Petitions
81	Public Questions
82	Councillors' Questions
83	Reports from the Executive
84	Reports from Committees
85	Motions
86	Budget Reserves and Balances
87	The Budget and Council Tax 2013/14
88	The Treasury Management Strategy
89	Pay Policy Statement
90	Programme for Growth - Housing Trust
91	Constitutional Amendments
92	Schedule of Meetings 2013/14
93	Nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman
94	Urgent Action
95	Sealing of Documents

Present: Councillor J Crawford in the Chair

Mrs E Casling, J Cattanach, I Chilvers, M Crane,
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, Mrs K McSherry,
J McCartney, Mrs M McCartney, C Metcalfe, Mrs E
Metcalfe, Mrs W Nichols, I Nutt, R Packham, C
Pearson, D Peart , R Price, I Reynolds, Mrs S
Ryder, S Shaw-Wright, Mrs A Spetch R Sweeting
and J Thurlow

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Mrs P McKay, R Musgrave, A Pound and R Sayner

Also Present: Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Managing Director of Access Selby, Executive Director (s151), Development Manager, Lead Officer – Media and Communications and Democratic Services Manager.

John Moore and Ian Marr – NYnet

Press: 0

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74. The Late Former Councillor Winnie May

A minutes silence was held in tribute to the Late Former Councillor Winnie May. The Council heard a number of tributes to her work and character.

75. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

76. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11 December 2012 were confirmed as a correct record.

Resolved:

To approve the minutes for signing by the Chairman.

77. Presentation from North Yorkshire County Council and NYnet – Superfast Broadband for North Yorkshire

The Council received a presentation on the Superfast Broadband for North Yorkshire project from John Moore and Ian Marr.

Resolved:

To note the presentation.

78. Communication

None.

79. Announcements

None.

80. Petitions

None received.

81. Public Questions

None received.

82. Councillors' Questions

Councillor Mrs McCartney had submitted a question to the Leader of the Council regarding car park fees within Selby town. The Leader outlined that the Council's pricing strategy was to create greater turnover in short stay car parks to encourage more custom for the town's retailers. People wishing to stay for longer periods of time should use long stay car parks at a significant saving. He added that Selby's car parks were well priced in comparison to other local towns.

Councillor J McCartney had submitted a question regarding the Council's Legal Team and the time taken to prepare a lease, the size of the backlog of work and the extent of outsourcing. The Leader of the Council responded by outlining that the Legal Team was, in the majority of cases, able to prepare leases expediently. He gave details of the backlog of cases and some examples of long standing issues which were taking a significant period of time to resolve.

83. Reports from the Executive

The Leader of the Council reported on the work he had recently undertaken. His report outlined on going discussions to create job opportunities in Selby District. The Leader of the Council responded to questions on the Government's welfare reforms. He stated that the impact of the new underoccupancy rules was an item for discussion at the forthcoming meeting of LGYH. In response to a question the Leader defended the Council's use of consultants in its recruitment of a Chief Executive.

Councillor Ellis raised the concerns of residents of Church Fenton regarding the planned route of HS2 past the village. Councillor Ellis stressed the impact on both current and future property prices. He urged the Council to lobby for an alternative route. The Leader of the Council stated that he would meet with residents to understand their concerns and look to progress the matter.

Councillor Mrs G Ivey, Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Executive Member for External Relations and Partnerships, reported on her latest work. She stated that the midnight football project had started successfully as part of the Council's programme to deliver sport in the community.

Councillor Lunn, Lead Executive Member for Finance, reported on the work he had undertaken within his remit. This included Housing Rents, Employer Sponsored Volunteering and Homelessness Prevention.

Councillor J Mackman, Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping, reported on his latest work. He reminded the Council that the Examination in Public on the Core Strategy would reconvene on 27 February 2013 and responded to a question regarding the provision of a suitable site for the Travelling Community.

Councillor C Metcalfe, lead Executive Member for Communities, presented his report. He updated the Council in respect of the lease between the Council and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT) for Barlow Common. The Council discussed the Management Plan for Barlow Common and the level of expertise within YWT. Councillor C Metcalfe would provide a copy of the lease to Councillor J McCartney as it became available.

Resolved:

To receive and note the reports from the Executive.

84. Reports from Committees

The Chair of Policy Review Committee, Councillor Jordan, reported on work of the Committee since the last Council meeting. He highlighted the Committee's work regarding green waste.

Councillor Mrs W Nichols, the Chair of Scrutiny Committee, outlined the recent work of the Committee. Her report covered the Committee's recent scrutiny of Police and the Fire and Rescue Service.

Councillor Mrs E Casling, the Chair of Audit Committee, gave an update to Council regarding the matters covered at the last meeting.

Resolved:

To receive and note the reports from the Committees.

85. Motions

- A. Councillor Shaw-Wright moved the following motion which was seconded.

The Labour Group requests that our authority adopts a policy to ensure that empty building sites are properly fenced and enclosed from the time of purchase rather than just at the time when development begins which may be a number of years later. Such enclosures should clearly display the names of the owners or

their agents together with contact numbers to report any danger, damage, fly-tipping etc.

Councillor Shaw-Wright outlined that the purpose of the motion was to improve the appearance of some areas of the District.

Following debate, the Leader of the Council acknowledged the intent of the motion. However, he clarified that the motion was outside the remit of Planning Policy and consequently the Council could not support it.

Resolved:

To take no further action.

- B. Councillor Shaw-Wright moved the following motion which was seconded.

The Labour Group is concerned that building sites within the District make no allowance for contractors and sub-contractors' vehicles to be parked off- road by ensuring areas are set aside for these vehicles within the site.

We request that SDC adopts a practice of placing conditions on planning permissions that:

a) All contractors and sub-contractor vehicles must be parked within the site boundary and not on public roads.

b) A regular programme of road washing during the winter months is guaranteed to keep roads clean of mud and debris.

The Council debated the motion. The Leader of the Council outlined that in a number of instances there was not sufficient space to allow contractors and sub contractors to park on site.

The Council agreed to refer the motion to Policy Review Committee where the issues could be examined in more detail.

Resolved:

To refer the motion to Policy Review Committee.

86. Budget, Reserves and Balances

The Executive Director (s151) presented the 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.

Resolved:

To have regard to the Executive Director's statements in paragraphs 2.6 and 2.12 when setting the Council Tax.

87. The Budget and Council Tax 2013/14

Councillor Lunn presented the report on the Executive's recommended budget and capital programme for 2013/14 to 2015/16.

Councillor Lunn stated that despite Central Government funding cuts, changes to the Council Tax Benefit scheme, growing demand for benefits and housing services and continuing economic uncertainty, the Council was on course to deliver a balanced and sustainable budget.

He outlined that the proposals included a Council Tax freeze, thereby qualifying for the Government's Council Tax Freeze Grant in 2013/14 and 2014/15. The budget proposals did not include charging for green waste collection at this time but options for savings on this discretionary service would be explored over the coming year.

An amended set of appendices A to D was circulated which included updates to a number of parish council precepts.

Resolved:

- i) To approve the revenue budgets and capital programmes for 2013/14 at appendices E and F to the report;**
- ii) To hold Council Tax at the 2012/13 level of £158.88 per Band D property, for 2013/14;**
- iii) To approve the formal Council Tax resolution set out at Appendix B to the report.**

88. The Treasury Management Strategy

Councillor Lunn presented the report on the proposed Treasury Management Strategy together with the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, Annual Investment Strategy for 2013/14 and Prudential Indicators 2013/14.

Councillor Lunn clarified that the recent downgrade of the UK credit rating would have no significant impact on the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

Resolved:

- i) To set the Operational Borrowing Limit for 2013/14 at £71m;**
- ii) To set the Authorised Borrowing Limit for 2013/14 at £75m;**

- iii) **To delegate authority to the Executive Director (s151) to effect movement within the agreed authorised boundary limits for long-term borrowing for 2013/14 onwards;**
- iv) **To delegate authority to the Executive Director (s151) to effect movement within the agreed operational boundary limits for long term borrowing for 2013/14 onwards;**
- v) **To approve the treasury management strategy statement 2013/14;**
- vi) **To approve the minimum revenue provision policy statement for 2013/14;**
- vii) **To approve the treasury management investment strategy for 2013/14;**
- viii) **To approve the prudential indicators for 2013/14 these reflect the capital expenditure plans, which are affordable, prudent and sustainable.**

89. Pay Policy Statement

The Leader of the Council presented the report on the implementation of the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2013/14.

The Leader of the Council set out that the Pay Policy Statement was a requirement under the Localism Act 2011. The Statement articulated the Council's policy toward the pay of the workforce, particularly senior staff and the lowest paid.

Resolved:

- i) **To approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2013/14 at appendix 1 to the report;**
- ii) **To endorse the Terms and Conditions relating to Pay at appendix 2 to the report.**

90. Programme for Growth – Housing Trust

Councillor J Mackman presented the report on one of the 'Programme for Growth' projects. The project had been established to consider the feasibility of a Housing Trust. The Trust would aim to deliver new build affordable housing and bring empty properties back into use. In appropriate circumstances the Trust could also be used to improve and let existing empty Council dwellings if the properties were transferred into the Trust.

Councillor J Mackman set out the need to build more affordable homes within the district and that the establishment of a Housing Trust was a successful method of delivery used elsewhere.

The Council debated the report and the below amendment to recommendation ii) within the report was moved and seconded:

- ii) **To Delegate authority to the project board to approve the governance documents of the company:**

A vote was taken and the amendment was lost.

The Council discussed the possible transfer of empty Council homes to the Trust. The Leader of the Council clarified that the report before the Council did not authorise the transfer of any Council properties to the Trust. He stated that any future transfer of any Council properties in to the Trust would require a separate report, specific justification and a subsequent, appropriately authorised decision to proceed.

Resolved:

- i) **To approve the establishment of a charitable company limited by guarantee;**
- ii) **To delegate authority to the Executive to approve the governance documents of the company;**
- iii) **To delegate authority to the Executive to appoint up to three directors on the Board.**

91. Constitutional Amendments

Councillor Crane presented the report on the review of the Constitution and proposed minor amendments to improve its operation and correct any anomalies, oversights or errors.

Resolved:

To amend the Constitution, with effect from the 1 March 2013, as set out in the report.

92. Schedule of Meetings 2013/14

The schedule of meetings 2013/14 was circulated for comment and consideration. The Council asked officers to make contact with Selby AVS regarding the clash between some Eastern Community Engagement Forums and Planning Committee meetings.

Resolved:

To approve the schedule of meetings for 2013/14.

93. Nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman

Resolved:

- i) **To nominate Councillor Michael Dyson to the office of Chairman Elect for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year;**

- ii) **To nominate Councillor John Cattanach to the office of Vice Chairman Elect for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year.**

94. Urgent Action

The Chief Executive informed the Council that he had taken emergency action to appoint Councillors Mrs C Casling, Cattanach, Ellis and Reynolds to Escrick Parish Council to enable the Parish Council to function until an election could be held.

Resolved:

To approve the action taken by the Chief Executive.

95. 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:

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 8.33 pm