

EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th February, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

Present:-

Councillor S. G. Flower - Chairman
Councillor A. A. J. Clarke - Vice-Chairman

Present: Councillors M. C. Birr, D. B. F. Burt, Mrs L. J. Clark, Mrs Q. N. D. Comfort, Mrs J. Dover, M. R. Dyer, Mrs G. S. Elliot, Mrs A. Holland, Mrs P. A. Hymers, J. E. Little, D. G. L. Packer, Mrs P. A. Reynolds, G. W. Russell and D. J. Wallace.

Also in attendance: Councillor M. G. Simper

469. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S. C. Hearn and Mrs B. T. Manuel.

470. Declarations of Interest

Councillors D. B. F. Burt, A. A. J. Clarke and Mrs P. A. Hymers declared personal and prejudicial interests in Minute No. 477 (Capital Strategy 2009-2014) in relation to recommendation (b) and left the room during the discussion and voting thereon on this recommendation.

Mr A. Breakwell (Chief Executive) and Mr N Farmer (Head of Community Services) declared personal interests in Minute No. 480 (Verwood Hub) and remained present.

471. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th February, 2009 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

In relation to these minutes and the late submission of a report at Minute No. 480 Members requested that the Constitution be reviewed in relation to the deadline dates by which reports must be circulated to Members prior to a meeting. It was agreed that whilst there is no current provision within our Constitution, that the Committee Manager would look at the current practice of other Local Authorities and their Constitutional provisions, and that a report would be brought to a future meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee for their consideration.

472. Presentations by the Public

A petition was presented by Mr and Mrs Dodds on behalf of the residents of Handley Park, sixpenny Handley.

Mr and Mrs Dodds read out a letter which the residents had recently sent to the Head of Community Services at East Dorset District Council, Mr Neil Farmer informing the Council of their current situation in relation to an

ongoing dispute with one of the residents in the park.

Further to this Mr and Mrs Dodds informed Members that they along with other residents' feel that they have been let down by the Council and other agencies who have been involved in resolving the long running neighbour dispute including the police, and in addition to this felt that their lives were being made a total misery.

The Head of Community Services, Mr Neil Farmer informed Members that the nuisance neighbour dispute had been ongoing for over two and a half years and that Mr Bob Bailey (Anti Social Behaviour Officer for East Dorset District Council) had been working closely with all parties trying to resolve the situation.

Further to this Members were advised that a restorative justice meeting had been held last year including all parties in order to establish steps in order to resolve the situation, it was reported that unfortunately this meeting hadn't been as successful as it was hoped in finding a solution.

Mr Farmer highlighted that the Council were unable to take sides in the situation but that it is recognised that this is a difficult case and the Council will continue to work with all parties to find a solution.

Members requested that a full report regarding the situation be submitted to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

473. **Revised Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Dorset**

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were advised of the outcome of the Public Consultation on the draft revisions to the Joint Dorset Waste Management Strategy and were requested to recommend the adoption of the revised document.

RECOMMENDED that the Strategy attached at Appendix 5 of the report be approved.

Voting: 11:1 (3 Abstentions)

474. **Memorandum of Understanding between the Dorset Waste Authorities**

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to approve a new Memorandum of Understanding between the Dorset Waste Authorities.

RECOMMENDED that;

a) the Memorandum of Understanding attached at Appendix 1 to the report be approved; and

b) the Chief Executive and Director of Environment of Dorset County

Council be given delegated authority to approve minor changes subsequently required by the Cabinets or Committee of the Dorset Waste Authorities.

Voting: Nem. Con. (4 Abstentions)

DELEGATED BUSINESS

475. Review of the Furzehill Cash Office

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'C' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to review the level of service provided by the Furzehill cash office.

RESOLVED that;

- a) the recommendation of the Performance and Resources Scrutiny and Policy Development Sub-Committee on the Furzehill cash office be noted; and**
- b) Officers be asked to investigate and consult on the future of the cash office and report back to the Policy and Resources Committee on the 15th April, 2009.**

Voting: Recommendation (a) Nem. Con. (1 Abstention) and Recommendation (b) Nem. Con. (2 Abstentions)

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

476. Medium Term Financial Strategy

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'D' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to review the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

RECOMMENDED that the revised Medium Term Financial Strategy be approved.

Voting: Nem. Con. (4 Abstentions)

477. Capital Strategy 2009-2014

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'E' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to determine the Council's capital strategy for 2009-2014.

RECOMMENDED that;

- a) the capital programme as set out in Appendix 2 of the report be approved with the addition of the purchase of the land currently**

used as an overflow car park at MVCP;

- b) the £500,000 match funding for the Priest House lottery bid be removed from the capital programme; and
- c) no other schemes are approved for the capital programme until any future land sales are complete

Voting: Recommendation (a) 10:1 (4 Abstentions), Recommendation (b) Unanimous and Recommendation (c) 10:3 (2 Abstentions)

(Councillors D. B. F. Burt, A. A. J. Clarke and Mrs P. A. Hymers declared personal and prejudicial interests in this item (in relation to recommendation (b)) and left the room during the discussion and voting thereon this recommendation.)

DELEGATED BUSINESS

478. Reference from the Q.E. Leisure Centre Consultative Group

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'F' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to consider a request from the Q.E. Leisure Centre Consultative Group to approve the budgets for running costs for the Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre for 2009/10.

RESOLVED that the budget for the running costs of the Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre for 2009/10 as set out in the report be approved.

Voting: Nem. Con. (3 Abstentions)

479. Analysis of the Rent Deposit Scheme

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'G' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to consider a recommendation from the Housing Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED that Members;

- i. **accept the analysis of the Rent Deposit Scheme as appended to the report;**
- ii. **continue to seek financial support for the Scheme to prevent homelessness; and**
- iii. **request the ICT Working Party to examine the introduction of a suitable computerised process for debt recovery.**

Voting: Unanimous

480. Verwood Hub

The submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each

Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'H' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to consider a report in relation to the Verwood Hub.

RESOLVED that;

a) the loan facility of £65,000 be converted to a grant; and

b) an additional grant of £60,000 be made in 2008/09.

Voting: 11:3 (1 Abstention)

(Mr A Breakwell (Chief Executive) and Mr N Farmer (Head of Community Services) declared personal interests in this item and remained present.)

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

481. **Revenue Budget 2009/10**

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'I' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to consider and recommend the Band D Council Tax for 2009/10.

RECOMMENDED that;

a) the Council's revenue budget for 2009/10 be set at £10,826,552.

b) the Band D Council Tax for 2009/10 be set at £186.27 an increase of 4.49% (£8.00 per year).

Voting: 10:3 (1 Abstention)

The meeting ended at 1.25 p.m.

CHAIRMAN