

EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th June, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

Present:-

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

Present: Councillors M. C. Birr, Mrs J. Dover, M. R. Dyer, Mrs G. S. Elliot, Mrs A. Holland, Mrs P. A. Hymers, J. E. Little, Mrs B. T. Manuel, D. G. L. Packer, Mrs P. A. Reynolds, G. W. Russell, S. S. Tong and D. J. Wallace.

63. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D.B.F. Burt and Mrs L.J. Clark and S. C. Hearn.

64. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Mrs J. Dover and D.J. Wallace declared a personal interest in Minute No. 74 (Colehill Parish Council Provisional Allotments) and remained present.

65. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th May, 2009 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

66. Presentations by the Public

There were no questions, petitions or deputations received on this occasion.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

67. Section 151 Officer

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 requested to consider the appointment of the Head of Financial Services as the Council's Section 151 Officer from the 1 August 2009.

RECOMMENDED that from 1 August 2009;

- (a) under article 10.2 of the Council's Constitution, the Council designate the Head of Financial Services as the Section 151 Officer;**
- (b) under article 10.2 of the Council's Constitution, the Council designate the Financial Services Manager as the Deputy Section 151 Officer;**

- (c) **the appropriate changes to be made to the constitution to reflect A & B above;**
- (d) **the Financial Services Manager be authorised under financial regulation 27.22 to write off debts up to £10,000.**

Voting: Unanimous

68. Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Energy efficiency Strategy and Action Plan for endorsement by the Council

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 consider and endorse the strategy. Further to this Members discussed ways in which the Council could be made more energy efficient, and in relation to this felt that looking at the Councils Energy Efficiency could be a potential topic to be suggested for Scrutiny and Policy Development to consider.

RECOMMENDED that;

Members endorse the Strategy and Action Plan and authorise the Head of Public Health Services to complete and submit the Energy efficiency Strategy Endorsement form to Dorset County Council and on their behalf.

Voting: Unanimous

DELEGATED BUSINESS

69. Housing Advice and Homelessness Agency - In-house provision of services

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 support the principle that the Housing Advice and Homelessness Agency be brought back in-house.

In relation to this Members felt that the Project Plan to be brought back to the Policy and Resources Committee should be based on the service being brought in house by April/May 2010.

RESOLVED that Members support the principle that the Housing Advice and Homelessness Agency be brought back in-house.

Voting: Unanimous

70. Housing Options Service

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 support the funding of the Housing Options

Service as an integral element of the new County wide Home Improvement Agency contract from 2010/11.

RESOLVED that the Revenue budget of £2,750 be allocated in 2010/11 and thereafter for the duration of the Home Improvement Agency (HIA) contract to fund this Council's contribution towards the Housing options element of the HIA service.

Voting: Unanimous

71. Draft Asset Management Plan 2009-2012

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 accept the proposed draft Asset Management Plan 2009-2010 for consultation with relevant partner organisations.

RESOLVED that Members accept the proposed draft Asset Management Plan 2009-2012 for consultation with relevant partner organisations.

Voting: Unanimous

72. Consultation on Administration of the Concessionary Fares System

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 this Council's response to the consultation launched by the government on the future operation of the Concessionary Fares System.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the Council supports the transfer of the responsibility for the administration of the Concessionary Fares system to the County Council; and**
- (b) Council support is given provided that District/ Borough Councils retain the discretion for flexibility of a local scheme outside of the national guidelines.**

Voting: Unanimous

73. Colehill Parish Council Provisional Allotments

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 agree an amendment to the draft terms of agreement already approved.

RESOLVED that the draft terms agreed by this Committee at its meeting held on the 3 September 2008 be amended accordingly:

- (a) The lease will be for a period of 50 years with an annual rent of a**

peppercorn if demanded;

- (b) This Council will have the right to serve two years notice to vacate the site, but only if it has an appropriate alternative site to offer the Parish Council. The Council will consider assisting the Parish Council with their relocation costs once they are known.**

Voting: Unanimous

Councillor Mrs J. Dover and D.J. Wallace declared personal interests in this item and remained present.

74. Motion

In addition to the items on the agenda Councillor Mrs Holland proposed a motion in relation to the forthcoming awaited outcome of the regional spatial strategy. The motion read as follows;

"In view of the change of Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government this Council writes to John Denham MP expressing our objections to urban extensions in the green belt plus the extra thousand infill houses proposed in the South West Regional Spatial Strategy"

This motion was seconded by Councillor Hearn and upheld unanimously by Members.

RESOLVED that this Council writes to John Denham MP as detailed within the Motion above.

Voting: Unanimous

DELEGATED BUSINESS

75. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that in view of the nature of the business to be transacted it is likely that if members of the public were present during the following items there would be disclosure to them of 'exempt information' as described in the categories indicated and they be therefore excluded from the meeting in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

76. Management of Verwood Hub Community Centre

Exempt Information – Category 3 (Personal financial or business affairs)

The Chief Executive 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 support the request from the Verwood Hub Community Association.

The meeting ended at 12.02 p.m.

CHAIRMAN