

Mid Devon District Council

Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 1 August 2018 at 2.00 pm
Exe Room, Phoenix House, Tiverton

Next ordinary meeting
Monday, 13 August 2018 at 2.15 pm

Those attending are advised that this meeting will be recorded

Membership

Cllr F J Rosamond
Cllr Mrs H Bainbridge
Cllr Mrs F J Colthorpe
Cllr Mrs C P Daw
Cllr Mrs G Doe
Cllr Mrs S Griggs
Cllr T G Hughes
Cllr Mrs B M Hull
Cllr F W Letch
Cllr Mrs J Roach
Cllr T W Snow
Cllr N A Way

A G E N D A

Members are reminded of the need to make declarations of interest prior to any discussion which may take place

- 1 **APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**
To receive any apologies for absence and notices of appointment of substitute Members (if any).

- 2 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
To receive any questions relating to items on the Agenda from members of the public and replies thereto.

Note: A maximum of 30 minutes is allowed for this item.

- 3 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** (*Pages 5 - 12*)
Members to consider whether to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting held on 18th June 2018.

The Committee is reminded that only those members of the Committee present at the previous meeting should vote and, in doing so, should be

influenced only by seeking to ensure that the minutes are an accurate record.

4 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive any announcements that the Chairman of Scrutiny Committee may wish to make.

5 **MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT NEIL PARISH**

The Committee to welcome Neil Parish (MP) and put the following questions:

1. Could he briefly discuss the implications of Brexit in relation to agriculture and the rural areas? What are the implications for food, farming and the environment in Mid Devon as a consequence of Brexit as currently envisaged? What preparations are being contemplated in response to "no deal"?
2. Do you consider that proposals for an alternative route via Longwood Lane, for the quarry lorries, avoiding Burlescombe has now hit the buffers or is there still a realistic hope that it may still go ahead.
3. Would you be prepared to lobby the Housing Minister concerning the five year land supply which Mid Devon has been unable to show and probably never will as we do not sit on swathes of redundant industrial land. This unrealistic target has left us hostage to several undesirable planning applications.
4. There is significant interest amongst the 3 Head teachers in 11-16 schools in Tiverton, Cullompton and Uffculme in respect of engaging in a review of future options of A level provision in Mid Devon, particularly in the light of the major housebuilding programme of over 8000 houses envisaged in the MDDC Local Plan. Could we call upon your services to navigate the options with the Department of Education in considering such a review?
5. Should the government look again at "right to buy" from council stock?
6. Universal superfast broadband coverage remains an elusive concept in Mid Devon, especially in rural areas. A recent report states that the UK slipped to 35th in the global table of broadband speeds, below the likes of Madagascar and Bulgaria. Locally a DCC Scrutiny report called for greater transparency in a critical analysis of the performance of Connecting Devon and Somerset which appears to have been rejected by CDS. How do we hold CDS to account? When will the project be completed? Will the 95% coverage be achieved? What happens to the remaining 5%?
8. Michael Gove has proposed a Protected Landscapes Review of designated landscapes (10 National Parks, 34 AONBs) What are the terms of Reference and how will those working in and for them be able to input into the process directly?
9. Will the Review allow for the consideration of a possible AONB designation for the Exe Valley- a beautiful part of the country?
10. Natural England is being scaled back- how does this fit (or not) with the ambitions of the 25 Year Environmental Plan (25YEP) which

seeks to deal with the environmental impact of "unprecedented expansion in population consumption, energy use waste and population"?

11. Natural England has informed the AONB that they are no longer able to provide monitoring data free of charge- information used to fulfil a statutory function of the designation. Will DEFRA be offering additional funds to cover the shortfall or can the policy be re-thought?

12. As many experts forecast, Universal Credit is associated with growing rent arrears which impacts on Councils. Is Government monitoring the situation to protect local Councils?

6 SCRUTINY OFFICER REPORT

To receive a report from the Scrutiny Officer

7 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Members are asked to note that the following items are already identified in the work programme for the next meeting:

Anaerobic Digester Working Group update

Whistleblowing 6 month update

Maintenance of Local Improvement Schemes

Palmerston Park/Birchen Lane cost report

RIPA 6 month update

Community Safety Partnership

Cyber Security

Note: - this item is limited to 10 minutes. There should be no discussion on items raised.

Stephen Walford
Chief Executive
Tuesday, 24 July 2018

Anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings may do so unless the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting or there is good reason not to do so, as directed by the Chairman. Any filming must be done as unobtrusively as possible from a single fixed position without the use of any additional lighting; focusing only on those actively participating in the meeting and having regard also to the wishes of any member of the public present who

may not wish to be filmed. As a matter of courtesy, anyone wishing to film proceedings is asked to advise the Chairman or the Member Services Officer in attendance so that all those present may be made aware that is happening.

Members of the public may also use other forms of social media to report on proceedings at this meeting.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to discussion. Lift access the first floor of the building is available from the main ground floor entrance. Toilet facilities, with wheelchair access, are also available. There is time set aside at the beginning of the meeting to allow the public to ask questions.

An induction loop operates to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter. If you require any further information, or

If you would like a copy of the Agenda in another format (for example in large print) please contact Carole Oliphant on:

Tel: 01884 234209

E-Mail: coliphant@middevon.gov.uk

Public Wi-Fi is available in all meeting rooms.