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MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **COUNCIL** held on 29 June 2016 at 6.00 pm

Present

Councillors

W J Daw (Chairman)
Mrs E M Andrews, Mrs H Bainbridge,
Mrs A R Berry, Mrs J B Binks, K Busch,
R J Chesterton, Mrs C Collis,
Mrs F J Colthorpe, D R Coren, N V Davey,
Mrs C P Daw, R M Deed, R J Dolley,
J M Downes, C J Eginton, R Evans,
S G Flaws, Mrs S Griggs, P H D Hare-Scott,
P J Heal, T G Hughes, Mrs B M Hull,
D J Knowles, F W Letch, B A Moore,
R F Radford, Mrs J Roach, Mrs E J Slade,
Miss C E L Slade, C R Slade, T W Snow,
J D Squire, R L Stanley, L D Taylor,
N A Way, Mrs N Woollatt and R Wright

Apologies

Councillors

Mrs G Doe, F J Rosamond, J L Smith and
Mrs M E Squires

10 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs G Doe, F J Rosamond, J L Smith and Mrs M E Squires.

11 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

12 **Chairman's Announcements (00-04-21)**

The Chairman reminded Members that the official opening of the Waste and Recycling Depot would take place at 4pm on Friday 8 July.

13 **Public Question Time**

There were no members of the public present.

14 **Petitions**

There were no petitions from members of the public.

15 **Notices of Motions**

No motions had been received.

16 **Cabinet Report - 12 May 2016 (00-05-27)**

The Leader presented the report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 12 May 2016.

The Council had before it questions* submitted by Councillor Mrs J Roach in accordance with Procedure Rule 13.2 (1) together with responses from the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration and the Cabinet Member for Finance.

Councillor Mrs J Roach asked supplementary questions in accordance with Procedure Rule 13.2 (6)(a):

Statement of Community Involvement – the car parking consultation had received 11 responses and the Corporate Plan 150 responses, was there a need to reconsider the approach so that consultation was as effective as possible?

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration stated that other avenues could be looked at.

Revenue and Capital Outturn Report: the cost of the new Phoenix Chamber, the original estimates and where the additional funding had come from?

The Head of Finance responded stating that the additional funding had come from an underspend within the Property Services budget.

Note: *Questions and responses previously circulated, copy attached to minutes.

17 **Cabinet Report - 9 June 2016 (00-12-28)**

The Leader presented the report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 9 June 2016.

Arising thereon:

(1) National Assisted Burials (Minute 16)

The Leader **MOVED**, seconded by Councillor N V Davey

THAT the recommendation of the Cabinet as set out in Minute 16 be **ADOPTED**.

Upon a vote being taken, the **MOTION** was declared to have been **CARRIED**.

18 **Scrutiny Committee Report - 23 May 2016 (00-13-48)**

The Vice Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee presented the report of the meeting of the Committee held on 23 May 2016.

19 **Audit Committee Report - 31 May 2016 (00-26-10)**

The Chairman of the Audit Committee presented the report of the meeting of the Committee held on 31 May 2016.

20 **Managing the Environment Policy Development Group Report - 17 May 2016 (00-28-30)**

The Chairman of the Managing the Environment Policy Development Group presented the report of the meeting of the Group held on 17 May 2016.

21 **Decent and Affordable Homes Policy Development Group Report - 24 May 2016 (00-29-36)**

The Chairman of the Decent and Affordable Homes Policy Development Group presented the report of the meeting of the Group held on 24 May 2016.

22 **Economy Policy Development Group Report - 26 May 2016 (00-30-14)**

The Chairman of the Economy Policy Development Group presented the report of the meeting of the Group held on 26 May 2016.

23 **Community Well-Being Policy Development Group Report - 7 June 2016 (00-36-46)**

The Chairman of the Community Well Being Policy Development Group presented the report of the meeting of the Group held on 7 June 2016

24 **Planning Committee Report - 11 May 2016 (00-37-18)**

The Chairman of the Planning Committee presented the report of the meeting of the Committee held on 11 May 2016.

25 **Planning Committee Report 8 June 2016 (00-38-13)**

The Chairman of the Planning Committee presented the report of the meeting of the Committee held on 8 June 2016.

Note: Councillor Mrs J Roach declared a personal interest in Minute 27(a) (i) in that she was the applicant.

26 **Questions (00-40-03)**

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 13.2.

27 **Independent Remuneration Panel Report- Members Allowances (00-41-00)**

The Council had before it a *report of the Head of Communities and Governance providing Members with an update on the review of the Members Allowance Scheme.

The Chairman **MOVED, THAT:**

The Current Members Allowances Scheme be extended with no changes for an interim period.

Following discussion and upon a vote being taken, the **MOTION** was declared to have been **CARRIED**.

Note: * Report previously circulated, copy attached to minutes;

28 **Questions to Cabinet Members (00-44-38)**

Councillor Mrs J Roach asked the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration whether officers were anywhere near addressing the issue of an AONB for the Exe Valley.

The Cabinet Member responded stating that he would chase the issue up.

29 **Members Business (00-45-00)**

No issues were raised.

(The meeting ended at 6.45 pm)

CHAIRMAN

AMENDMENTS AND WRITTEN QUESTIONS – FULL COUNCIL – 29 JUNE 2016

AMENDMENTS

No amendments have been received.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

1. CABINET 12 MAY 2016

MIN NO 5 – STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FOR CONSULTATION

Questions submitted by Councillor Mrs J Roach and the response of the Cabinet Member for the Planning and Economic Regeneration

Did the Cabinet consider allocating finance to boost posts on social media when carrying out consultations?

Would they also consider using Parish Magazines, in Silverton our Parish Mag has a circulation of 400 and it is read!

RESPONSE

The Statement of Community Involvement sets out the Council's policy on consultation and public participation for planning related matters. It is currently in the process of being reviewed to reflect changes in the planning system and to reconsider the most effective methods of involving the community in the planning process. The draft review document is currently out for consultation until 18th July 2016 and is on our website here <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/media/205878/statement-of-community-involvement-consultation-draft-may-2016.pdf>. Individual Members are welcome to make representations as part of this consultation (to planningconsultations@middevon.gov.uk by 18th July midnight).

The document sets out minimum standards for consultation and does not prevent additional measures such as Parish Magazines being considered on a case by case basis dependent upon the site and issue in question. The consultation draft already identifies the use of social media. It is not proposed to allocate additional finance to social media. It forms one of a range of consultation methods that will be utilised, the cost of which is accommodated under the existing service budget.

2. CABINET – 12 MAY 2016

Min No 7 – FUTURE JOINT WORKING WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES

Question submitted by Councillor Mrs J Roach and the response of the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration.

Will any changes to the constitution be required to facilitate the joint working?

RESPONSE

At this point in time no changes to the constitution are specifically required (there already being provision for joint working within the constitution). However, the Cabinet is of course mindful that any future changes to the constitution in terms of governance will need to go through the Standards Committee and then on to Full Council.

3. CABINET – 12 MAY 2016

Min No 8 – REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT

Question submitted by Councillor Mrs J Roach and the response of the Cabinet Member for Finance

- a) The overspend of £417k is serious. What measures are going to be put in place to ensure that the Council stays within budget in the future?

RESPONSE

The revenue over spend of £417k for the financial year 2015/16 amounts to a 4.7% over spend against the net General Fund budget of £8.7m, or a 1% over spend against our gross revenue budget of £38mL. This over spend position was regularly reported to Cabinet and the 3 PDGs during the year – and in the main was as a result of 2 items outside of our control, i.e. the drop in value of glass recycling product – which reduced our recycling income by £54k and the GP surgeries refunds of circa £100k after a successful national rating appeal. In addition the Council made a number of redundancies in Customer First, Communications, Elections, Environmental Health, ICT and Leisure – this had an overall one-off cost of circa £350k – but was necessary in order to deliver necessary salary savings moving forward, so that the Council can continue to operate in an ever reducing funding envelope.

If you take these 3 items out of the 2015/16 outturn position the rest of the Council services actually under spent by £87k.

- (b) Should Council have been asked to approve a supplementary budget?

RESPONSE

As a Council we regularly report financial performance against budget and there was no requirement for a supplementary budget based on the above issues/decisions. The Council also continues to make an annual decision to hold a General Fund Balance (our reserves) at

25%, circa £2.2m, of our net spend in order to mitigate against one-off events, due to the relatively uncertain and challenging funding times that the Council is currently operating in.

(c) Referring to the Capital Programme - How are the plans for the market roof walkway progressing?

RESPONSE

With regard to the potential for a Pannier Market roof, officers are currently working up a scheme in consultation with the traders. A numbers of options are being considered which will be reported back to the Economy PDG at its next meeting.

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