

## MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on Monday, 20 May 2019 at the Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet commencing at 6.30 pm.

### COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Rob Ayres, Alison Barkshire, Eve Berry, Adam Boyden, Shannon Brooke, Josh Burr, Shane Collins, Nick Cottle, Jon Cousins, Michael Dunk, Drew Gardner, Michael Gay, Peter Goater, John Greenhalgh, Philip Ham, Francis Hayden, Steve Henderson, Bente Height, Edric Hobbs, Lucie Taylor Hood, Damon Hooton, Helen Kay, Garfield Kennedy, Tom Killen, Liz Leyshon, Lindsay MacDougall, Matthew Martin, Caroline McKinnell, Terry Napper, Janine Nash, Barry O'Leary, Sam Phripp, Richard Pinnock, Lois Rogers, Tom Ronan, Heather Shearer, Helen Sprawson-White, Alan Townsend, Laura Waters, Nigel Woollcombe-Adams and Ros Wyke.

### OFFICERS PRESENT:

Tracy Aarons	Deputy Chief Executive
Samphire Bartholomew	Committee Officer
Stuart Brown	Chief Executive
Jade Chant	Marketing and Media Officer
David Clark	Group Manager Law and Governance
Paul Deal	Section 151 Officer
Claire Dicken	Committee Officer
Lesley Dolan	Legal Advisor
Donna Nolan	Deputy Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer
Beth Price	Strategic Marketing and Media Manager
Ben Suggs	Committee Officer

### ALSO PRESENT:

Former Councillor Dick Skidmore, Chairman of the Council items 1 to 4

Agenda Item	Subject	Actioned by
1	<b>Opening comments</b>  The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2	<b>Evacuation Procedures, Induction Loop and Turning Off Mobile Phones</b>  The Chairman explained the evacuation procedures and informed everyone on the use of the induction loop. He requested that mobile phones be switched to silent.	

3	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Councillors Simon Carswell, John Clarke, Nigel Hewitt-Cooper, Chris Inchley, Barbi Lund, and Mike Pullin.</p>	
4	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
5	<p><b>Election of Chairman of the Council</b></p> <p>Councillor Ros Wyke nominated Councillor Helen Sprawson-White to be Chairman of the Council. There were no other nominations.</p> <p>Councillor Helen Sprawson-White was duly elected as Chairman of the Councillor.</p> <p>Former Councillor Dick Skidmore handed the Chair to Councillor Helen Sprawson-White.</p> <p>Councillor Helen Sprawson-White thanked the outgoing Members for their work, and congratulated the newly elected Members. Cllr Sprawson-White explained that she intended to use her position to work hard within the community, especially with regard to health and education. She remarked that Mendip residents had voted for change and for an authority that would work openly and progressively. Cllr Sprawson-White further remarked that the Council needed to send a clear message to the community that it was transparent, open and inclusive.</p>	
6	<p><b>Election of Vice Chair of the Council</b></p> <p>Councillor Ros Wyke nominated Councillor Bente Height to be Vice Chairman of the Council. There were no other nominations.</p> <p>Councillor Bente Height was duly elected as Vice Chairman of the Council.</p>	
7	<p><b>Former Chair's Engagements, Communications and Announcements</b></p> <p>Councillor Dick Skidmore remarked that he had accepted the challenge of Chairing the Council along with Councillor Brian Beha as Vice Chair. Together they had attempted to promote the District wherever possible, holding more than 50 events in 2018 and raising significant charitable donations. Cllr Skidmore wished the new Chair and Vice Chair well and hoped that they would continue this work over the next four years. Cllr</p>	

	<p>Skidmore noted that the Council had a substantial amount of work ahead of it, including development of Saxonvale and the ongoing delivery of its investment strategy. He thanked the Strategic Leadership Team for their work over the years, along with all Mendip District Council staff.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Public Participation</b></p> <p>a) Items on the agenda</p> <p>b) Items not on the agenda</p> <p>Robin Houghton was invited to speak. Mr Houghton remarked that Shepton Mallet had not been represented on Mendip District Council's Planning Committee for six years. He asked that the Council appoint representation for Shepton Mallet to the Planning Committee.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Photograph of Full Council</b></p> <p>Members went outside for a group photograph.</p>	
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the Council</b></p> <p>Members noted that the reference to the 'Chief Inspector' of Avon &amp; Somerset Constabulary on page 18 of the minutes should be amended to 'Chief Constable'. The minutes of 25 February 2019 were agreed pending this amendment.</p>	<b>Claire Dicken</b>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Election of the Leader of the Council</b></p> <p>It was confirmed that Councillor Ros Wyke had been elected by the Liberal Democrat Group to be the Leader of the Council.</p> <p>Councillor Ros Wyke remarked that the opportunity to address a new Council as leader of its largest group was a great privilege and responsibility. She noted the new Council's diversity and gender balance. Cllr Wyke recognised the work of former Councillor Harvey Siggs and the previous administration, along with the work of Officers. Cllr Wyke explained that independent Members had been elected as Chair and Vice Chair of the Council to demonstrate a commitment to collaboration. Similarly, she supported a Conservative Member for the chair of the Scrutiny Board. Cllr Wyke remarked that the climate emergency was the biggest challenge faced by the Council. Cllr Wyke stated that the Council would promote the Strawberry Line as an alternative transport route for local people. She further remarked that the Council would work to ensure that residents were aware of new planning developments and protect the landscape. Cllr Wyke applauded the previous Council's proactive approach to the</p>	

regeneration of Saxonvale. She stated that the Council would address the lack of affordable homes in the District and would focus on poverty and deprivation. Cllr Wyke noted that the next four years would bring significant challenges including exit from the European Union, the possibility of a Somerset unitary authority and provision of services under continued funding pressure. She remarked that the Council was committed to succeeding for the residents that it represented, regardless of political divisions.

Councillor Shane Collins was invited to speak as the group leader for the Green Party. He remarked that climate change was an issue that all Members were united on, and applauded the cross party support for the climate emergency motion. Cllr Collins noted a national shift in public opinion, and remarked that he wanted to ensure Mendip produced net zero CO2 emissions by 2030.

Councillor Tom Killen was invited to speak as the group leader for the Conservative Party. He congratulated Councillors Helen Sprawson-White and Ros Wyke on their appointments, as well as all new Members on their election to the Council. Cllr Killen paid tribute to the Members who had left the Council and remarked that while a significant amount of experience had been lost the Council must move forward. He further remarked that the changes resulting from the election had been dramatic, and both the public and Officers would welcome a period of stability. Cllr Killen commented that while he understood the challenges faced by new Members finding time for their responsibilities, it was important to ensure that local residents and businesses did not suffer as a result. Cllr Killen remarked that the Council's Officers were its greatest asset, and this asset should be handled with care. He noted the exciting projects that should be continued including Saxonvale and the climate change agenda, and hoped that the previous Council's planned investment into young people along with Town and Parish Councils would be honoured. He remarked that the Conservative Party would work with the new Council to achieve the best possible outcome for Mendip residents.

Councillor Ros Wyke recognised that the budget was fragile as a result of national circumstances. She further noted that this meeting of Full Council had been delayed by a week as a result of the significant changes to the Council following the recent election. Cllr Wyke recognised that Officers were the Council's most valuable asset and recognised the hard work of the outgoing Members.

12

**To Consider Membership of Boards, Committees and Panels**

Councillor Ros Wyke explained that Cabinet had been increased in size in order to drive the climate change agenda, share its workload and broaden its range of views and ideas.

Councillors were appointed by the Leader as Members of Cabinet:

**Cabinet**

Liberal Democrat Members (11)	
Cllr Ros Wyke	Leader of Mendip District Council
Cllr Janine Nash	Deputy Leader of Mendip District Council
Cllr Tom Ronan	Portfolio Holder for Strategic Policy and Climate Change
Cllr Barry O’Leary	Portfolio Holder for Enterprise and Finance
Cllr Peter Goater	Portfolio Holder for Economic Development
Cllr Simon Carswell	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services and Performance Management
Cllr Damon Hooton	Portfolio Holder for Development Management and Enforcement
Cllr Janine Nash	Portfolio Holder for Planning Policy and Local Plan
Cllr Richard Pinnock	Portfolio Holder for Housing Services
Cllr Heather Shearer	Portfolio Holder for Community Health Services and Enforcement
Cllr Nick Cottle	Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services and Enforcement

b) Members of the Scrutiny Board

- i. Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny Board
- ii. Substitute Members of the Scrutiny Board

**Scrutiny Board**

Councillor John Greenhalgh proposed Councillor Philip Ham as Chair of the Scrutiny Board, which was seconded by Councillor Liz Leyshon and agreed by Council.

Councillor Liz Leyshon proposed Councillor Garfield Kennedy as Vice Chair of the Scrutiny Board, which was seconded by Councillor Sam Phripp and agreed by Council.

Liberal Democrat Members (6)	Conservative Members (2)	Green Party Members (3)	Ind Members (1)
Cllr Garfield Kennedy	Cllr Nigel Woolcombe-Adams	Cllr Michael Dunk	Cllr Chris Inchley
Cllr Liz Leyshon	Cllr John Greenhalgh	Cllr Barbi Lund	
Cllr Joshua Burr		Cllr Alison Barkshire	
Cllr Lois Rogers			
Cllr Drew Gardner			
Cllr Sam Phripp			
<b>Substitutes</b>			
Cllr Nigel Hewitt Cooper	Cllr Adam Boyden	Cllr Eve Berry	Cllr Mike Pullin
Cllr John Clarke	Cllr Michael Gay	Cllr Helen Kay	

c) Members of the Licensing Board

i. Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Licensing Board

**Licensing Board**

Councillor Garfield Kennedy proposed Councillor Sam Phripp as Chair of the Licensing Board, which was seconded by Councillor Lois Rogers and agreed by Council.

Councillor Garfield Kennedy proposed Councillor Simon Carswell as Vice Chair of the Licensing Board, which was seconded by Councillor Lois Rogers.

Liberal Democrat Members (7)	Conservative Members (3)	Green Party Members (3)	Ind Members (2)
Cllr Sam Phripp	Cllr Alan Townsend	Cllr Michael Dunk	Cllr Helen Sprawson-White
Cllr Simon Carswell	Cllr Terry Napper	Cllr Francis Hayden	Cllr Bente Height

Cllr Garfield Kennedy	Cllr Shannon Brooke	Cllr Lindsay MacDougall	
Cllr Barry O'Leary			
Cllr Damon Hooton			
Cllr Lois Rogers			
Cllr Nick Cottle			

d) Members of the Planning Board

i. Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Planning Board

ii. Substitute Members of the Planning Board

**Planning Board**

Councillor Caroline McKinnell proposed Councillor Damon Hooton as Chair of the Planning Board, which was seconded by Councillor Nick Cottle and agreed by Council.

Councillor Damon Hooton proposed Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper as Vice Chair of the Planning Board, which was seconded by Councillor Eve Berry and agreed by Council.

Liberal Democrat Members (8)	Conservative Members (3)	Green Party Members (3)	Ind Members (1)
Cllr Damon Hooton	Cllr Nigel Hewitt-Cooper	Cllr Lindsay MacDougall	Cllr Steve Henderson
Cllr Caroline McKinnell	Cllr Eve Berry	Cllr Helen Kay	
Cllr Nick Cottle	Cllr Mike Pullin	Cllr Francis Hayden	
Cllr Ros Wyke			
Cllr Matthew Martin			
Cllr Peter Goater			
Cllr Heather Shearer			
Cllr Edric Hobbs			

**Substitutes**

Cllr Lucie Taylor-Hood	Cllr Garfield Kennedy	Cllr Laura Waters	Cllr Nigel Woollcombe-Adams
Cllr Alan Townsend	Cllr Tom Killen	Cllr Jon Cousins	Cllr John Clarke
Cllr Barbi Lund			

e) Members of the Standards Committee

i. Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Standards Committee

**Standards Committee**

Councillor Nick Cottle proposed Councillor Richard Pinnock as Chair of the Standards Committee, which was seconded by Councillor Heather Shearer and agreed by Council.

Councillor Drew Gardner proposed Councillor Heather Shearer as Vice Chair of the Standards Committee, which was seconded by Councillor Nick Cottle and agreed by Council

Liberal Democrat Members (4)	Conservative Members (2)	Green Party Members (2)	Ind Members (0)
Cllr Richard Pinnock	Cllr Nigel Woollcombe-Adams	Cllr Shane Collins	
Cllr Heather Shearer	Cllr Tom Killen	Cllr Jon Cousins	
Cllr Drew Gardner			
Cllr Nick Cottle			

f) Members of the Audit Committee

i. Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Audit Committee

ii. Substitute Members of the Audit Committee

iii. The constitutional mechanism for co-opting an independent member to the Audit Committee was highlighted

**Audit Committee**

Councillor Adam Boyden proposed Councillor Joshua Burr as Chair of the Audit Committee, which was seconded by Councillor Lois Rogers and agreed by Council.

Councillor Joshua Burr proposed Councillor Liz Leyshon as Vice Chair of the Audit Committee, which was seconded by Councillor Lois Rogers and agreed by Council.

Liberal Democrat Members (3)	Conservative Members (2)	Green Party Members (2)	Ind Members (0)
Cllr Liz Leyshon	Cllr John Greenhalgh	Cllr Michael Gay	
Cllr Laura Waters	Cllr Nigel Hewitt-Cooper	Cllr Jon Cousins	
Cllr Adam Boyden			
<b>Substitutes</b>			
Cllr Matt Martin	Cllr Philip Ham  Cllr Alan Townsend	Cllr Francis Hayden  Cllr Alison Barkshire	

It was noted that the Audit Committee would consider the position regarding the co-option of a member at their next meeting.

g) Members of the Council Tax Setting Committee

Councillors Janine Nash, Barry O’Leary, Tom Killen and Shane Collins

i. Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Council Tax Setting Committee

Councillor Barry O’Leary proposed Councillor Janine Nash as Chair of the Council Tax Setting Committee, which was seconded by Councillor Damon Hooton and agreed by Council.

Councillor Liz Leyshon proposed Councillor Barry O'Leary as Vice Chair of the Council Tax Setting Committee, which was seconded by Councillor Damon Hooton and agreed by Council.

h) Members of the Wells Recreation Ground Trust Committee

Councillors Barry O'Leary, Janine Nash, Rob Ayres, Caroline McKinnell, Lois Rogers and Heather Shearer.

i. Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Wells Recreation Ground Trust Committee

Councillor Caroline McKinnell proposed Councillor Barry O'Leary as Chair of the Wells Recreation Ground Trust Committee, which was seconded by Councillor Lois Rogers and agreed by Council.

Councillor Caroline McKinnell proposed Councillor Janine Nash as Vice Chair of the Wells Recreation Ground Trust Committee, which was seconded by Councillor Lois Rogers and agreed by Council.

i) Members of the Phoenix Sponsorship Board

Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holder for Enterprise and Finance, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and the Leader of the Green Party Group.

i. Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Phoenix Sponsorship Board

Councillor Barry O'Leary proposed Councillor Ros Wyke as Chair of the Phoenix Sponsorship Board, which was seconded by Councillor Janine Nash and agreed by Council.

Councillor Barry O'Leary proposed Councillor Janine Nash as Vice Chair of the Phoenix Sponsorship Board, which was seconded by Councillor Ros Wyke and agreed by Council.

j) Members of the Assets of Community Value Panel

Councillors Janine Nash, Peter Goater and Barry O'Leary

i. Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Assets of Community Value Panel

Councillor Barry O'Leary proposed Councillor Janine Nash as Chair of the Assets of Community Value Panel, which was seconded by Councillor Peter Goater and agreed by Council.

	<p>It was agreed that one nomination each from the Green Party and the Conservative Party would be confirmed in writing with the Deputy Chief Executive, and that those nominations would form part of the membership of the Assets of Community Value Panel.</p> <p>k) Constituted Partnerships, Joint Committees and Companies:</p> <p>Those Bodies requiring Full Council Nomination of Representation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Axe and Brue Internal Drainage Board</li> <li>2. Boyle Cross Joint Committee</li> <li>3. Joint Staff Consultative Committee (JSCC)</li> <li>4. Joint Waste Scrutiny</li> <li>5. Police and Crime Panel</li> <li>6. Shape Housing Ltd</li> <li>7. Somerset Building Control Partnership</li> <li>8. Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board</li> <li>9. Somerset Rivers Authority</li> <li>10. Somerset Rivers Authority Joint Scrutiny Committee</li> <li>11. Somerset Waste Board</li> </ol> <p>Those Bodies requiring Full Council Confirmation of Representation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Employee Appeals Panel</li> <li>2. Five Councils Partnership Corporate Services Joint Committee</li> <li>3. Keyring Lettings Board of Directors</li> <li>4. PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London) Adjudication Joint Committee</li> <li>5. Safer Somerset Partnership</li> <li>6. Somerset Growth Board</li> <li>7. South West Audit Partnership</li> </ol> <p>Full Council resolved that these appointments would be delegated to the first meeting of Cabinet.</p>	
13	<p><b>To Consider the Appointment of a Somerset Armed Forces Champion</b></p> <p>Cllr Damon Hooton was nominated to be the Council's Somerset Armed Forces Champion. There were no other nominations.</p>	Claire Dicken

	<p>Councillor Damon Hooton explained that the purpose of the Somerset Armed Forces Champion was to represent veterans and current servicemen and women and ensure that they and their families were treated fairly. The Champion also provided a point of contact between the Council and various charities.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>That Cllr Damon Hooton be the Council's Somerset Armed Forces Champion.</p>	
14	<p><b>Update on the Standards Committee and the Ethical Standards Regime</b></p> <p>Mike Hillman, one of the Independent Persons on the Standards committee gave a verbal update.</p> <p>Mr Hillman remarked that the Council should be thankful for the work previous members, who had set a very good example. Mr Hillman noted that the Standards Committee had only met twice in 2018, and had held one hearing. The majority of complaints were resolved informally by the Monitoring Officer. Mr Hillman also noted the high standards of conduct maintained by Parish Councillors, and congratulated both new and returning Members on their election.</p>	Donna Nolan
15	<p><b>The Council's Constitution - Confirmation</b></p> <p>The Deputy Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer presented a report detailing that pursuant to Section 4 of the Council's Constitution, the Council was required to confirm the Constitution for the coming year (including the Scheme of Delegation to officers set out in Section 18) and approve any changes.</p> <p>Changes to the Constitution had been made throughout the year by the Council through its consideration of matters referred to it by the Monitoring Officer. In addition, the Monitoring Officer also had delegated authority to make amendments to the Constitution during the course of the year.</p> <p>It was important that the Constitution of the Council was always kept under review to ensure it was modern and fit for purpose. The Council had recently reviewed the current document to identify any issues which needed to be addressed. This had concluded that the constitution was sound, compliant and effective. However, the review had identified a number of areas where the document could be improved (whilst retaining intact the current overall structure).</p>	Samphire Bartholomew

In summary these were:

- a. There were places in the constitution where cross referencing would help to make the document much easier to understand.
- b. Hyperlinking related sections and supporting documents (enabling users to click on words in the document and be taken to another relevant section or an associated document) would make the constitution easier to navigate and understand.
- c. There were sections that could be streamlined and clarified.
- d. There were sections of the document that had entered the Constitution over many years and while important, did not legally have to be included in the Constitution of a Council. The Council could decide to retain these, or they could be taken out and located elsewhere on the Council's website or accessed from the current document by hyperlinks.

This review was ongoing and proposed revisions to the current document would be reported to the Standards Committee in due course (which would then be recommended to the Council in September).

There was a debate regarding whether the ward member would be able to veto an officer recommendation to devolve the Council's planning control making functions to a neighbouring Planning Authority with respect to cross boundary planning applications. The Deputy Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer clarified that was not the position, but that an amendment to the constitution to ensure that a ward member could seek a review of an officer recommendation in such a critical issue was important, and an option to refer the matter to Planning Board or Council was reasonable.

Members were asked to note and endorse a number of amendments to Schedule 6 of the Constitution, the Cabinet Scheme of Delegation of the Constitution. These amendments encompassed changes to the Portfolios.

Members were also asked to note and endorse amendments to the membership of Audit Committee, the Terms of Reference for the Wells Recreation Ground Trust Committee and the membership of the Phoenix Board.

Members remarked that it was difficult to vote on the late papers regarding the constitution, as there was no time to read the additional material.

	<p>It was determined that the Council would delegate authority to group leaders to approve the changes to the constitution outlined in the late papers, following appropriate time for consideration.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>The Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Confirmed the Constitution, including the amendments outlined in this report.</li> <li>2. Delegated authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer to amend the constitution to devolve the Council's planning control making functions in consultation with the relevant Ward Member, to a neighbouring Planning Authority with respect to cross boundary planning applications, subject to an appropriate decision making process should the Ward Member not agree with a proposed devolution.</li> <li>3. Noted the ongoing review of the Constitution and that the outcome of that review would be reported to Full Council in September 2019.</li> <li>4. Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the two Leaders of the Opposition to make amendments to the Constitution arising from the updating papers, as necessary.</li> </ol> <p><b>Reasons for the Resolution</b></p> <p>To comply with the Local Government Act 2000; and ensure the good governance of the Council; and expedite the planning decision making process to neighbouring Local Authority with respect to cross boundary planning applications.</p>	
16	<p><b>Approve the Calendar of Meetings for the Coming Year</b></p> <p>The draft calendar of public meetings for 2019/20 was prepared for approval.</p> <p>The Calendar was much the same as the previous year. Efforts had been made to avoid conflicts with meetings of the County Council and the Parish/Town Councils within the district.</p>	Claire Dicken

	<p>Meetings of the full Council would fall outside of school holidays.</p> <p>In order to make quarterly performance reports to the Scrutiny Board and the Cabinet at the earlier opportunity, it would be necessary for Cabinet to meet on the third Monday of each month.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>The dates of public meetings for Mendip District Council, from May 2019 through to May 2020, were approved.</p> <p><b>Reasons for the Resolution</b></p> <p>To ensure that council business was dealt with in a timely and orderly manner.</p>	
17	<p><b>Review of Polling District and Polling Places</b></p> <p>The Group Manager for Law and Governance presented a report stating that local authorities were statutorily required to divide every constituency into polling districts for the purposes of UK Parliamentary elections, to designate a polling place for each polling district, and to review these at least once every five years. The current review period was for 16 months which began on 1 October 2018. Council was asked to establish a working group to progress the review and report back to the September meeting.</p> <p>A polling district was a geographical area created by the subdivision of a constituency, ward or division into smaller parts. Each parish was to be a separate polling district unless there were special circumstances. This meant that a parish must not be in a polling district which had a part of a different parish within it.</p> <p>Within a polling district, the polling place must be small enough to indicate to electors in different parts of the district how they would be able to reach the polling station. A polling place was the building or area in which polling stations would be selected by the (Acting) Returning Officer.</p> <p>A polling station was the room or area within the polling place where voting took place. Unlike polling districts and polling places which were fixed by the local authority, polling stations were chosen by the (Acting) Returning Officer for the election.</p>	Steven Lake

	<p><b>Options Considered</b></p> <p>The Council had no option but to carry out the review. It was important that everyone who wanted to comment should have the opportunity to do so, and therefore it was considered important to involve as many people as possible in the process.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>Council resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That a cross party working group be established to progress the review on behalf of the Council.</li> <li>2. That the cross party working group include the Leader of the Council (or Deputy), the Leader (or Deputy) of one of the Opposition Parties t the Portfolio Holder and the Shadow Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services and Performance Management.</li> </ol> <p><b>Reasons for the Resolution</b></p> <p>The timescale to carry out the review was relatively short, and there might be a need for meetings at short notice, therefore a working group would give the flexibility to deal with issues quickly.</p> <p>This was a cross party matter, and it was important to have cross party views from the Council.</p>	
18	<p><b>Member Development Activity During 2018-2019 and Member Development for 2019-20</b></p> <p>The Democratic Services Supervisor presented a report detailing how Member training and development was one way the Council provided support for its elected Members.</p> <p>In September 2017 Mendip District Council was awarded with the SW Charter Plus accreditation for Member Development.</p> <p>Starting last year the Council had fundamentally refreshed its approach to organisational development. This workstream created an opportunity to review Member Development ensuring alignment and consistency of approach to development of staff and members across the spectrum of the Council's activity; this workstream was known as Shape our Future.</p> <p>The report provided an update on Member development activity during 2018-19 and the Member Induction and Development Programme suggested for 2019-20 would assist</p>	Claire Dicken

in delivery of the Council's priorities set out in the Corporate Strategy.

The report also asked Members to suggest any additional areas for inclusion in the programme.

The aim of Member development was to support both the individual needs of Members and assist Members to deliver the Council's Corporate Strategy.

Elected Members were central in delivering the vision for the authority and as such the Council needed to support its Members in carrying out their roles. Member development was one way the Council provided support to enable Councillors to be better equipped to deliver the vision and priorities for the Council and to be effective community leaders.

All Councillors were advocates for their communities and "case workers" for their individual constituents. As a result of the Localism Act 2011 the role of the Councillor had become more important and the demands placed on them had increased. Their effectiveness depended on the quality of development and level of support they received. Development in all Councillor roles was essential to enable them to succeed.

#### **Options Considered**

No alternative options had been considered as the Council was committed to undertaking a programme of self-improvement. It would be necessary to review the Policy and Strategy from time to time and update as necessary to reflect best practice.

Members thanked Officers for revising the training schedule on short notice. In response to comments from Members, the Leader noted that it would be beneficial to reintroduce a Member Development Group to oversee Member development and training.

In response to questions from Members, the Deputy Chief Executive explained that Members sitting on the Planning and Licensing Boards that are unable to attend the requisite training should contact Democratic Services to discuss their availability.

Members noted that individuals and businesses relied on the Council conducting its business effectively in order to make decisions. Members suggested that a temporary arrangement be explored to ensure that the June meeting of Planning Board was not delayed.

The Leader noted that the decisions taking by the Planning and Licensing Boards were critical, and training was part of the

	<p>commitment that Members made when standing for election. Training would be provided in an accessible and cost effective way to ensure functioning boards.</p> <p>Members noted that Planning and Licensing were statutory functions of the Council, and any decisions overturned at appeal represented a financial risk to the authority.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>Full Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Noted the outcomes following Member development activity during 2018-19, and</li> <li>b) Suggested topics for inclusion in the Member Induction and Development Programme for 2019-20.</li> <li>c) Confirm that the Member Development Group should be reconstituted.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reasons for the Resolution</b></p> <p>The Member Development Policy would assist the Council achieve its aims and objectives set out in the Corporate Strategy by supporting elected Members in carrying out their roles.</p> <p>The Member Development Programme would enable Councillors to have opportunities to update their knowledge and learn new skills to enable them to play an effective role in delivering the priorities for the Council.</p>	
<b>19</b>	<p><b>Motions to Council</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
<b>20</b>	<p><b>Questions from the Public</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
<b>21</b>	<p><b>Questions from Members</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
<b>22</b>	<p><b>Urgent Business</b></p> <p>Councillor Jon Cousins noted that boulders had been placed on a piece of Council owned land by Pomparles Bridge in Glastonbury. Cllr Cousins remarked that Glastonbury residents were dissatisfied with the situation.</p>	

	<p>The Deputy Chief Executive explained that the Council's position was under review by the Group Manager, Neighbourhood Services, who would provide a written update to Members.</p> <p>The Leader explained that urgent business was normally submitted in advance to allow a response to be drafted. She suggested that the matter be raised with the Portfolio Holder.</p>	
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The meeting closed at approximately 8.30 pm