

MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on Monday, 7 October 2019 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Shepton Mallet commencing at 6.30 pm.

COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Nick Cottle	Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services
Peter Goater	Portfolio Holder for Economic Development
Janine Nash	Deputy Leader of Mendip District Council and Portfolio Holder for Planning Policy and Local Plan
Barry O'Leary	Portfolio Holder for Enterprise and Finance
Richard Pinnock	Portfolio Holder for Housing Services
Tom Ronan	Portfolio Holder for Strategic Policy and Climate Change
Heather Shearer	Portfolio Holder for Community Health Services
Ros Wyke	Leader of Mendip District Council

ASSISTANT PORTFOLIO HOLDERS PRESENT:

Councillors Edric Hobbs, Liz Leyshon, Matthew Martin and Caroline McKinnell

OTHER COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Councillors Alison Barkshire, John Clarke, Michael Gay, John Greenhalgh, Philip Ham, Helen Kay, Chris Inchley, Tom Killen, Mike Pullin and Alan Townsend

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Stuart Brown	Chief Executive
David Clark	Group Manager, Law & Governance Services
Paul Deal	Corporate Finance Advisor, Section 151 Officer
Lesley Dolan	Legal Adviser
Beth Price	Strategic Marketing & Media Manager
Julie Reader-Sullivan	Group Manager, Planning and Growth Services
Sara Skirton	Group Manager, Corporate Services
Ben Sugg	Committee Officer

Agenda Item	Subject	Actioned by
1	<p>Chair's Announcements</p> <p>The Leader of the Council explained the procedures in the case of an emergency and asked that all mobile devices be switched to silent.</p> <p>The Council had taken a request from a third party to make an audio recording of agenda items 1 - 6 inclusive.</p> <p>The Leader asked whether anyone had an objection to being recorded. There were no objections.</p>	
2	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Simon Carswell, Damon Hooton and Lucy Taylor-Hood.</p>	
3	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>None.</p>	
4	<p>Public Participation</p> <p>a) Items on the agenda:</p> <p>b) Items not on the agenda:</p> <p>Mrs Heather Hall had requested to speak on the topic of Tor Sports and Leisure, Glastonbury. Mrs Hall explained that she was the Chair of Glastonbury Cricket Club. She noted that she had spoken at Cabinet three months prior regarding a Fields in Trust proposal which the club had not been consulted on. Mrs Hall noted that she had been informed that the Fields in Trust plan now included the cricket pitch in its entirety, and hoped that with the previous uncertainty removed, Fusion Leisure would be able to operate a sports and leisure facility to be proud of.</p> <p>Karen Churchill had requested to speak on the topic of the 5G Government Consultation Process. She explained that the government survey was due to close on 4 November 2019. She questioned the proposed reforms to permitted development rights for</p>	

	<p>5G masts and claimed that there was overwhelming evidence of harm caused by 5G radiation. Ms Churchill remarked that under the proposed permitted development rights, masts could be taller and wider without requiring planning consent. She questioned whether residents and businesses in the district required faster mobile data services and remarked that the Council had a duty of care to Mendip residents.</p> <p>Chris Baker had also requested to speak on the topic of the 5G Government Consultation Process. Mr Baker remarked that Members had a responsibility toward their communities. He explained that he had travelled across the country and in Europe to give talks about the health risks of 5G. Mr Baker remarked that local authorities were responsible for the health of their residents under the Social Health Act (2012) including the effects of ionising or non-ionising radiation. Mr Baker further remarked that 5G was an untested technology and further research should be undertaken on its health implications.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>The minutes for the Cabinet meeting held on 2 September 2019 were agreed subject to the following changes:</p> <p>That the attendance for the meeting be amended to list Councillor Richard Pinnock as the Portfolio Holder for Housing Services, not an Assistant Portfolio Holder.</p> <p>That page 11 of the minutes be amended to reflect the discussion around the increased costs of glyphosate replacements that took place.</p> <p>That on page 2, the last paragraph read: "Cllr Barbi Lund was invited to speak on the same item. She said that local residents, Mr and Mrs Parsons, had asked her to say that they were concerned about the level of consultation with regard to the inclusion of part of their property in LGSNSP004. A further modification is now recommended to remove this from the designation. She then summarised her reasons for her support for the Plan and supported the recommendation that the Norton St Philip Neighbourhood Plan, as modified, proceed to referendum."</p> <p>That on page 11, the first paragraph be changed to</p>	<p>Claire Dicken</p>

	<p>say: "Councillor Michael Gay was invited to speak. He supported the protection of trees and wished the Council would maximise the planting of new trees. He gave evidence to show that Mendip's tree coverage was lower than the average for the UK, so that we needed to double our planting just to catch up with the average. He hoped the Council's Tree Officer could be brought into these plans."</p> <p>That on page 11, a paragraph be added to read "Councillor Josh Burr asked the Officer to clarify if the new measures around grass cutting would be communicated with the public and parishes through a concerted PR campaign. In response the Officer said the project would ensure a media campaign in order to provide information to communities as quickly as possible. In addition, parish councils would be engaged with through the Parish Forum as part of the project governance."</p> <p>And that on page 16, a paragraph be added to read "Councillor Josh Burr asked the Officer to confirm whether rural parishes would be consulted within the parking review and could he be informed of this process. In response the Officer said rural parishes would be consulted. It was intended that parishes would be consulted through the Parish Forum as part of the project governance."</p>	
6	<p>Mental Health and Wellbeing Champions</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Community Health Services presented a report which stated that the Council plays a crucial role in improving both the physical and mental health of our community.</p> <p>The report noted that, in March 2016, the Council approved the appointment of a District Councillor to act as a Mental Health Champion, who would raise awareness of the issues of mental ill health and tackle the stigma around mental health issues and ensuring that our own policies and procedures do not discriminate. By raising awareness amongst staff and Councillors of the issues around mental health, the Council could begin to create a positive environment and offer effective support.</p> <p>The report asked the Cabinet to continue its support for the appointment of a Mental Health Champion(s), delegating to the Leader the responsibility of appointing an existing Councillor(s) to the role and the delegation to the Group Manager, Community Health</p>	<p>Claire Malcolmson</p>

to identify an officer to take the lead officer role to support the member Champion.

The report further noted that the model of appointing Councillors as Champions had resulted in increased networking and raised awareness both in our District and in councils across the UK. It was suggested the Mental Health Champion be considered as part of a wider scheme of Champions that could influence positive actions and seek to improve the health and wellbeing within the communities of Mendip.

During the discussion that followed, Members noted the work of the previous Mental Health Champion, former Councillor Peter Bradshaw, and recognised the work of Community Health Connectors.

Members noted that many homeless people also had mental health issues.

Members remarked that the role of the Champion was to ensure that all aspects of mental health were considered across all of the Council's activities.

The Chair welcomed the involvement of any Members who may wish to volunteer their assistance.

RESOLVED

Cabinet

- Approved the continued support for the appointment of Mental Health Champion from amongst the District Councillors to champion the awareness and understanding of mental health issues.
- Agreed the re-launch of the Mental Health Champion(s) at the Mental Health Event on 10th October 2019.
- Delegated authority to the Leader to appoint further Champions linked to wellbeing, giving oversight to the Portfolio Holder for Community Health.
- Required nominated Champions to provide and annual report of outcomes achieved.

	<p>Reasons for the Resolution</p> <p>Mental health problems are a significant issue and result in lives being blighted where support is not provided. The stigma around mental health is such that people often avoid tackling problems. As a member of the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board the District Council already supports the Somerset Joint Mental Health Strategy. However, the appointment of a Member Champion will enable it to focus its support at a local level.</p> <p>Extending the Champion concept to other areas of health and wellbeing further supports the Council's commitment to improving lives of our communities.</p>	
7	<p>Local Plan Part 2 Examination Update</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Planning Policy and Local Plan presented a report on the Interim Note and changes sought by the examination Inspector to the Mendip Local Plan Part 2.</p> <p>During the discussion that followed, the Portfolio Holder explained that Neighbourhood Plans were a more appropriate vehicle for the designation of local green spaces than the Local Plan Part 2.</p> <p>In response to questions from Members, the Portfolio Holder explained that the financial implications of a delay to the implementation of the plan had been budgeted for.</p> <p>The Chair noted that the delay to the implementation of the plan was necessary in order to undertake additional work identified by the examination.</p> <p>Members noted the issues identified in the inspector's report and their potential impact on local communities. Members suggested the formation of a working group to consider changes to the plan prior to its resubmission to the inspector.</p> <p>The Group Manager, Planning & Growth Services explained that discussions were being undertaken with other local authorities around how to balance the inspector's findings against the needs of the district. She remarked that it could prove dangerous to jeopardise the Local Plan Part 2, and invited Parish Councils to raise any issues they may have directly with the author of the report.</p>	<p>Andre Sestini</p>

The Chair explained that the Council was constrained by the response from the inspector.

Members welcomed the plans for Frome and asked that the Town Council be involved in the development of transport plans.

In response to questions from Members, the Group Manager, Planning & Growth Services explained that the revised timescales for the Local Plan Part 2 were due to the availability of the inspector. Should housing numbers fall below the identified 5 Year Supply level as a result of this delay, the Council would be positioned to defend this.

Members asked that a briefing be provided to Town and Parish Councils explaining the inspector's findings.

RESOLVED

Cabinet

- Noted the post-hearing advice note received from the Local Plan Part 2 Inspector and the need for Main Modifications.
- Requested officers prepare Main Modifications to Local Plan Part 2 to be agreed with the Examination Inspector for public consultation.
- Delegated authority to the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Planning Policy and Local Plan and Shadow Portfolio Holder for Planning Policy and Local Plan to review and finalise the Main Modifications and consider the options around designation of Local Green Spaces.

Reasons for the Resolution

To ensure the preparation of Main Modifications and consultation takes place as quickly as possible, and minimise delay in the progress of the Part 2 examination process and forthcoming review of Local Plan Part 1.

8	<p>Portfolio Holder Decisions</p> <p>2019 320 Coach Parking in Glastonbury and Wells</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder remarked that Glastonbury and Wells were heavily reliant on tourism, and this Decision represented a step forward for both towns.</p> <p>2019 321 Energy Audit</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder explained that this Decision concerned improvements to the Council's estate, and not a wider green energy strategy.</p>	
9	<p>Forward Plan</p> <p>The Forward Plan was noted.</p>	
10	<p>Minutes for Information</p> <p>Draft minutes of Scrutiny Board 19 August 2019 were noted.</p> <p>The Chair of Scrutiny Board explained that all four Scrutiny Working Groups were now in operation, and he noted the need to co-ordinate with other working groups to avoid duplication of efforts.</p> <p>Members expressed concerns regarding Connecting Devon & Somerset and suggested that alternative options be considered. The Portfolio Holder explained that involvement in Connecting Devon & Somerset provided access to government funding, and noted that similar schemes had been successful in remote areas.</p>	
11	<p>Urgent Business</p> <p>No further urgent business.</p>	
12	<p>Exclusion of the Press and Public</p> <p>Cabinet was asked to consider whether a resolution should be passed to exclude the press and public from the meeting during items 13 and 14 on the grounds that exempt information (as defined in Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972) of the following description was likely to be disclosed:</p> <p>Category 1 Information relating to any individual</p>	

	<p>Category 2 Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual Category 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including those of the Council).</p> <p>CIRCULATION OF PAPERS</p> <p>In accordance with Section 100B (2) of the Local Government Act 1972, reports and documents relating to items 13 and 14 disclosing exempt or confidential information had been distributed only to elected Members and Officers of the Council.</p>	
	<p>Please refer to the confidential element of the these minutes for the full discussion of the following items:</p>	
13	<p>Loan to Somerset Waste Partnership for Waste Vehicles and Associated Infrastructure</p>	Paul Deal
14	<p>Berkley Marsh Public Space Protection Order Update</p>	Haylee Wilkins