

EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL
CABINET COMMITTEE (ONE YEAR STRATEGY)

Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 February 2019 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr S S Tong – Chairman

Cllr A A J Clarke – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr R Bryan, Cllr S G Flower, Cllr P R Harrison and Cllr A Parry

Also in attendance: Cllr S Bartlett, Cllr D B F Burt and Cllr D Morgan

30. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were received on this occasion.

31. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2018 were confirmed and signed as accurate record.

32. Presentations by the Public

Councillor Mrs K Webb from Wimborne Minster Town Council told the Committee of their appreciation that their report had been seriously considered.

33. Capital Programme Update

The Head of Community and Leisure provided Members with a verbal update on the Capital Programme.

The officer informed Members that at least 40 items on the Capital Programme had either been, or will have been completed by the end of the financial year.

The officer highlighted the Alderholt Pavilion as a project where progress had stalled, and would be unlikely to move forward.

Councillor Flower joined the meeting at 18:04.

The officer also highlighted the amber status of Enabling Housing, and informed Members it would be unlikely that the funding set aside for this project would be committed by the end of the financial year.

Following questions, the officer informed Members the Alderholt Pavilion project had experienced delays as the original proposal had to be scaled down. However, an alternative, compromise design had not yet been agreed. Members suggested that discussions needed to take place

between the Leader of the Council and the Section 151 Officer in order to determine whether the funds could be reassigned to another project.

Members wished to highlight the success of the transformational work at the Heatherlands Centre.

Members congratulated and thanked all the officers involved in the work on the Capital Programme.

34. Community Asset Transfers - Update

The Head of Community and Leisure 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 updated on progress to date with regard to the transfer of assets to the Town and Parish Councils.

The Locum Property Lawyer updated Members on progress of asset transfers, since the report had been published. The officer informed Members that the transfer to Colehill Parish Council had been agreed in principle, subject to approval from Fields in Trust, and estimated this would take between three to four weeks.

Members were also informed that Corfe Mullen Parish Council had agreed to the transfer of both assets and the transfer to Holt Parish Council had also been agreed in principle.

The Committee agreed that the officer should be given the authority to direct solicitors acting on behalf of Town and Parish Councils, who had not recently been in contact with the officer, that for the purpose of consistency and expediency and, given that several Town and Parish Councils had accepted the draft transfer documents all should now be approved as drafted.

Councillor Harrison joined the meeting at 18:18.

Members wished to congratulate the team working on this project, and the speed at which they had worked.

Members also wished to thank the Chairman for the time and commitment he had given the project.

RESOLVED that the report is noted.

Voting: Nem. Con

35. Wimborne Town Council - additional asset for consideration

The Head of Community and Leisure 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 considered approval for an additional asset to be transferred to Wimborne Town Council.

Following questions from Members, the officer stated that it was unlikely this transfer would be completed before 1 April 2019, but that it would be continued under the new authority.

The Members agreed that officers could continue to progress the conveyance, whilst bringing any objections back to Members if necessary.

RESOLVED that:

(a) The request for the transfer of the Valognes Garden to Wimborne Town Council is supported subject to the outcome of the consultation and;

(b) That the site is advertised in accordance with S.123 (2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 and if objections are received, these are referred back to Cabinet for consideration.

Voting: Unanimous

36. Wimborne Town Council - Supporting a Sustainable Future

The Head of Community and Leisure 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 asked to consider a request for funding from Wimborne Town Council linked to their potentially increased workload and future sustainability following Local Government Reorganisation.

Members commented that the report fitted very well with the aims of the Committee and the legacy left by the Council.

Members agreed that the reasons for rejecting the items in recommendation (b) were well founded.

Some concerns were raised regarding recommendation (a) (iii) and it was questioned whether this went beyond the remit of the Committee.

The Ward Member for Wimborne Minster informed Members that the precept for Wimborne Minster Town Council was already high in comparison to others across the district, and therefore would not want to raise it further to complete the projects detailed in the recommendations.

RESOLVED that:

(a) Members consider the request from Wimborne Town Council in full and make a recommendation to Cabinet with regard to funding the following projects up to a maximum of £75,000:

- **Upgrading Council Chamber, including décor, furniture, IT and additional accessibility - £25,000 approx.**
- **Upgrade ICT, including hardware for Members - £23,000 approx.**
- **New 'Mower' – larger scale to make working more efficient, especially in relation to larger scale areas - £25,000 approx.**

and;

(b) The request for funding of the following projects is rejected:

- **Compensation payment to tenant to surrender lease of offices (provides space for up to 4 additional staff) – including legal costs - £15,500**
- **Additional office furniture and decoration of above offices on release (1st February 2019) - £2,000**
- **Legal costs in relation to community asset transfers - £9,000.**

Voting: (a) 5:0 (1 abstention); (b) Unanimous.

37. Sale of Furzehill

The Strategic Director 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.

The Committee was updated regarding the sale of Furzehill.

Members expressed their disappointment that this matter had not been resolved.

Members stated they would like more information regarding the issues listed in paragraph 2.3. Members suggested this be presented to the Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee as a restricted item, if necessary.

RESOLVED that the Committee notes the report, with disappointment.

Voting: Unanimous

The meeting ended at 7.05 pm

CHAIRMAN