

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at Knowle, Sidmouth, on Wednesday, 17 October 2007

Present:

Councillors:

P A Diviani (Chairman)
Mrs P A Stott (Vice Chairman)

Miss V Ash	Mrs M L Hardy
D G Atkins	S Hughes
R Bloxham	D R H Hull
Mrs M J Boote	J Humphreys
R W Boote	H J Jeffery
G P Brown	Mrs S Jones
D G Button	D R A Key
G P Chamberlain	J A Knight
D Chapman	Mrs A E Liverton
I R Chubb	G K Liverton
T A Cope	S C Luxton
D J Cox	A T Moulding
A E J Dinnis	Mrs H E Parr
Mrs C E Drew	R C Peachey
Ms V Duval Steer	K C Potter
Miss J M Elson	Miss S M Randall Johnson
M Florey	A W J Reed
R G Franklin	P J Skinner
A R Giles	G M Troman
G Godbeer	J M Williamson
Mrs P A Graham	T Wood
S Hall	Mrs E E Wragg
J P Halse	S C Wragg

Apologies

Councillors:

P N Bowden	Mrs F I Newth
K W George	J B Nicholson
C F A Gibbings	Mrs M A Rogers
M J L Green	Mrs B O Taylor
B O Ingham	C T Tratt

The meeting started at 6.30 pm and finished at 8.10 pm.

*27

Minutes

The minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of the Council and of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on 18 July 2007, were confirmed and signed as a true record.

Long Service awards had been presented to:

Christopher Holland	10 years
Dave Collings	20
Steve Gammon	20
Chris McDonald	25
Patricia Lowe	25

***28 Notices**

The Chairman spoke in support of the Local Democracy Week initiative that the Council was actively taking part in by visiting schools and colleges in the District.

The Leader recommended Members read the front page of that day's Western Morning News where it was announced that Yvette Cooper, Minister of State for Housing, had allocated £10.2 billion to affordable housing which translated to an allocation of £789M in the South West (7 Counties). This was good news but the Council had to make sure that the funds were allocated to meet local need and where land was available. The Council needed to keep pressure on the housing corporation and associations which would be allocating the funds.

***29 Presentation of Best Kept Village Competition awards**

The Chairman presented the cups of the Best Kept Village Competition 2007. He said that the district had been particularly successful and thanked the villages involved.

The Baker Cup was presented to East Budleigh with Bicton as the village in East Devon which scored the highest number of points (after Kilmington, winner of the Devon-wide Best Kept Village award), in the Large Village category.

The Glanvill Cup was presented to Offwell as the village scoring the highest number of points in East Devon in the Small Village category.

Certificates were presented to the above winners and also to Kilmington as winner of the Devon-wide Best Kept Village Award (Large Village category) and to Sidbury, Uptontery and Dunkeswell as runners up within East Devon in the Large Village category and to Branscombe as runner up within East Devon in the Small Village category.

The Chairman congratulated the winning villages for their achievements and thanked them for taking part in the competition, acknowledging the hard work, dedication, and community effort involved.

The representatives of the winning villages thanked the Chairman and Council in response. Success in the competition gave a 'buzz of pride and achievement'.

***30 Long Service Awards**

The Chairman presented long service awards to the following East Devon District Council staff in appreciation of long and dedicated service:

William Prew	10 years
Carole Edwards	20
Jennifer Pike	25

***31 South West Britain in Bloom**

The Chairman acknowledged East Devon's success in the South West Britain in Bloom competition. Awards had been achieved across the district which the Chairman described as a magnificent result.

South West Silver-Gilt Award	– Sidmouth
St Bridget Cup	- Exmouth
Sargent Cup	- Sidmouth
Preece Cup	- Seaton
Ayre Cup	- Budleigh Salterton
Cox Cup	- Beer
Mary Mortimore Trophy	- East Budleigh (Gold) Littleham (Bronze)
Abbyss Cup	- Sea Life theme – Sidmouth
South West Tourism Salver	- Sidmouth

***31 South West Britain in Bloom (cont)..**

In the National Britain in Bloom Awards, Sidmouth won a Silver Gilt in the Achievement Award category.

Councillor Graham Liverton acknowledged the valued work of the Britain in Bloom Committees but said that credit should also be given to the Street Scene staff for their excellent contribution and support.

***32 Questions**

A series of questions had been put, pursuant to Procedure Rules No. 8.2, to the relevant Portfolio Holders and Leader about the work undertaken to date by the Champions who had been appointed at the Annual Council meeting. Members felt that the written replies were helpful. In reply to a supplementary question, pursuant to Procedure Rules No 8.5, the Portfolio Holder – Resources (Procurement Champion) acknowledged that the e-auction hosted by this Council for the purchase of refuse containers had been a success in terms of efficiency, partnership working and value for money. The exercise would be repeated should an appropriate opportunity arise.

The Portfolio Holder - Communities, pursuant to Procedure Rule No. 8.2 and 8.5 confirmed that she would support the Campaign for an alcohol free day. She also encouraged Members to read the Council's response to the Green Paper: Housing and confirmed that as Chair of Devon Supporting People she would make sure that the limited funds were fairly distributed across the County to address problems of isolation and to help people to continue to live in their own homes.

***33 Minutes of Executive Board and Committees**

RESOLVED (1) that the under-mentioned minutes be received and the recommendations approved

Executive Board	Minutes	48-76
Development Control	Minutes	5-26
Planning Inspections	Minutes	7-11
Licensing & Enforcement	Minutes	5-8
Licensing and Enforcement Sub A & B	Minutes	4-12(A) 6-7(B)
Audit and Corporate Governance	Minutes	13-23

(2) that the under-mentioned minutes be received.

The Executive Board (minutes 51 and 60) had noted or accepted the Scrutiny, Corporate Overview, Joint Scrutiny and Corporate and Overview and the Housing Review Board recommendations with or without amendment.

Scrutiny	Minutes	10-27
Corporate Overview	Minutes	9-14
Housing Review Board	Minutes	17-31

Arising from consideration of the above minutes:-

a) Seaton Seafront decorative lighting (Executive Board Minute 72)

In her absence, Councillor Cope thanked the Board for its decision to make a contribution to the cost of the Seaton Seafront decorative lighting and asked if further funding might be available. The Leader advised that the Council was looking at ways of reducing the amount of electricity it used and wondered if an alternative solution for towns to maintain lights could be investigated, such as solar lighting. She suggested that Devon County Councillors should pursue this possibility.

b) Recycling Pilot (Scrutiny Committee Minute 23)

The Portfolio Holder – Streetscene advised that dates for the pilot scheme were not yet available but that this was being progressed with SITA.

c) Choice Based Lettings Scheme (Housing Review Board Minute 28)

Mr J Mahoney had advised that he would not be on the Allocation Policy and Choice Based Lettings Scheme Task and Finish Forum. His place would be taken by the Vice Chairman of the Board.

***34 Committee Membership – Corporate Overview and Development Control**

- RESOLVED**
- (1) that Councillor G P Chamberlain replace Councillor Mrs B O Taylor on the Corporate Overview Committee,
 - (2) that Councillor T A Cope replace Councillor S C Wragg on the Development Control Committee

***35 Committee Membership – Joint Bodies**

- RESOLVED** that Councillors Mrs C E Drew, Mrs F I Newth and G M Troman be appointed to represent the District Council on the Sidmouth Traffic Group.

***36 Independent Remuneration Panel – independent membership**

- RESOLVED** that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder – Resources to appoint two new non-Councillor members to the Independent Remuneration Panel in such a way as to ensure true independence.

***37 Member Champions**

- RESOLVED** that the following additional Member Champions be appointed:

Culture	Miss V Ash
Data Quality	G Troman
Risk Management	R Bloxham
Young People	K D Nicholas

***38 Application to renew S30 Powers to Disperse – Exmouth Town Centre**

- RESOLVED**
- (1) that consent be given to the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary to renew the Dispersal Zone in Exmouth Town Centre with effect from 28 October 2007,
 - (2) that the Chief Executive be given delegated powers to agree future requests for renewal of S30 Orders until circumstances change.

***39 Up-date on Cranbrook**

Members of the Housing Review Board and Tenant Panel had been invited to attend the meeting as observers.

The Head of Planning and Countryside Services and the Major Projects Manager updated Members on the Heads of Terms of the Section 106 Legal Agreement which had been secured to help achieve a sustainable community, Cranbrook. The presentation is appended to these minutes.

The Portfolio Holder – Strategic Planning and Regeneration advised that the development was receiving national recognition in a positive way. He was proud of the way that the Officers had dealt with the complex negotiations and the level of detail included in the work.

The following issues were raised and discussed by Members:

- ❑ The Department of the Environment would not revisit the decision to build Cranbrook as flooding concerns had been taken into account when the application had been made,
- ❑ Self-build had not been incorporated into the plans but such a scheme could be incorporated if demand was identified,
- ❑ Local needs would be given priority when affordable housing was initially being allocated,
- ❑ The allocation of affordable housing included accommodation suitable for people with disabilities,
- ❑ Highway issues needed to be resolved but pressure was being put on the Highway Agency by Central Government and County Councillors were asked to try to help progress this matter,
- ❑ Public art would feature in the development,
- ❑ Consideration be given to trying to bring in quarter hourly bus services rather than the proposed half hourly
- ❑ A fire station could be included in a future phase of the development if a need is identified.
- ❑ The Council could not insist on a post office being included in the development but suitable units would be available for possible take-up,
- ❑ Discussion had taken place with local parish councils in respect of the footways and cycle ways and they were happy with the proposals that had been prepared to date.
- ❑ There was the possibility of a review of the schools provision and when these would be commenced,
- ❑ The faith worker's dwelling was included in the negotiations and the church building could be multi-faith,
- ❑ Use of the secondary school would be shared with the community and would be designed to include use for dance and theatre which was seen as appropriate to meet the needs of the community in the early stages of the development,
- ❑ Employment needs would be met by Skypark, the Science Park, the Inter-modal Rail Freight and Distribution Centre Facility and land set aside for employment units. All of these areas would be well linked by public transport, cycle lanes and walkways,

***39 Up-date on Cranbrook (cont)..**

- ❑ The Sports Centre would be dual use with the school and would include an outdoor all weather pitch. The Officers had been liaising with Leisure East Devon and a landmark activity such as a ski slope or climbing wall would be considered.
- ❑ The youth worker would progress the needs of young people. A building for young people would be looked at in the longer term when the community had decided what it needed. Land had been set aside for such a facility.
- ❑ Recycling issues needed to be further explored particularly if Exeter was to achieve unitary status.

The Chairman thanked Officers for the presentation which was informative and helpful. He also thanked Members for the quality of the questions and the discussion.

(Councillors A R Giles declared a prejudicial interest in Cranbrook due to earlier opposition to the principle of the development.

Councillor D G Button declared a personal interest due to earlier opposition to the development although since the application had been approved he supported the best possible development on the site.

The Leader declared a prejudicial interest as an employee of Flybe based at Exeter airport.

There was no requirement for the Councillors to leave the Chamber as the item was included on the agenda as an up-date and no decisions were made or voted on.)

Chairman

Date