

Minutes

of a Meeting of

Yatton Parish Council

Monday 11 January 2010

held at Hangstones Pavilion

Meeting opened: 7.30 p.m. Meeting closed: 9.10 p.m.

Present: Councillors: David Crossman (Chairman), Clare Bessant, Trevor Bidwell-Ford, Mike Cox, Wendy Griggs, Martyn Hooper, Graham Humphreys, Rosey Knifton, Susan Morris, Ian Payne, Lucy Perrott, Viv Wathen and Jean Watson

In attendance: Clerk and North Somerset Councillor Tony Moulin

Prayers were led by Chris Steed

Public Participation

None

North Somerset Councillors' reports

Apologies were received from Jill Iles.

Tony Moulin reported:

- (1) The Full Council meeting to discuss the proposal to purchase Castlemead, Clevedon, would be on Thursday 14 January. There could be benefits in terms of rationalization but the Council should improve the 660 bus link between Yatton and Clevedon.
- (2) There was a campaign for greater transport integration in the Greater Bristol area but the proposed Integrated Transport Authorities would not have much power over rail companies.

Police report

The Clerk reported that PC Phil Kinsella was currently on sick leave. A new Clevedon sergeant, Debbie Budd, had recently started work and he would be meeting her on 15 January to discuss beat policing in Yatton and Claverham, and arrangements for reporting to the Parish Council.

Matters for decision

COU491: Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Jane Bollen, Jill Iles, Robert Jenner and Brian Phillips, and from North Somerset Council Parish Liaison Officer Karuna Tharmananthar.

COU492: Declarations of interests by Parish Councillors

None

COU493: Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14 December 2009

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

COU494: Finance

Payments were authorised and receipts and petty cash payments noted (Annex 1).

COU495: Retirement provision for the Council's staff

Members considered a report from the Clerk (Annex 2). The Clerk reminded members that if the Council designated all employees as eligible for the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), and all joined, there would be an extra staff cost in 2010/11 of around £8500 and similar extra costs in subsequent years.

The Finance, Personnel & Administration Committee had considered the report and recommended that staff be entitled to join the LGPS.

In discussion members emphasised the need to consider the well-being of staff, and also considered that a good pension scheme would assist in the recruitment of qualified and experienced staff.

RESOLVED that:

- As from 1 April 2010, all current employees be designated as eligible to become members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, subject in each case to the employee's agreement to a variation of their contract to substitute NALC/SLCC model clause 19.1 (membership of the LGPS) for current clause 13.1 (council may make provision for the payment of a gratuity)
- As from 1 April 2010, all future employees be designated as eligible to become members of the LGPS and that the contract offered to them reflect this.

COU496: Budget and precept for 2010/11

Members considered a report from the Clerk (Annex 3). The Clerk referred in particular to the changes set out in paragraph 3 of the report, and to the need to include provision of £8500 for pension contributions as a result of the decision to allow employees to join the LGPS (COU495). He referred also to the likely net transfer from reserves for 2009/10 identified in the report, and to the transfer from reserves included in the budget for 2010/11. However the Parish Council's reserves were excessive and should be reduced, either by reducing the precept or by using them to meet expenditure.

RESOLVED that the proposed budget for 2010/11, as amended by the inclusion of a provision of £8500 for pension contributions, be approved and that the precept for 2010/11 be set at £177,279.

COU497: North Somerset draft Housing Strategy

Members considered the draft summary of strategic actions (Annex 4), The Clerk summarised other provisions of the draft orally. Members were concerned that the strategic actions were mostly aspirations without any firm action plans.

RESOLVED that the draft be noted and that North Somerset Council be asked to keep the Parish Council updated as to progress.

COU498: Proposed relocation of some of North Somerset Council's staff to Clevedon

The Clerk reported orally. He emphasised that the only proposal currently before North Somerset Council for decision was the purchase of Castlemead, Clevedon. There were not yet any firm proposals for which staff would be relocated, or when.

In discussion members expressed a number of concerns:

- Staff were being relocated from locations with good rail links to a location with poor public transport links. This would inevitably result in more car use and more congestion at Junction 21, on the M5 and (when there are delays on the M5) through Yatton
- Infrastructure in Clevedon was inadequate for an increase in cars entering the town.
- Improving the 660 bus link from Yatton to Clevedon and the creation of a cycle path from Yatton to Clevedon should be an integral part of the relocation process.
- Members were unclear as to how a council which appeared to be in severe financial difficulties was able to borrow the large amount of money required to finance the acquisition of Castlewood.

RESOLVED that the Clerk pass on members' concerns to the Leader and Chief Executive of North Somerset Council.

Matters for information

COU499: Clerk's report

The Clerk drew attention to press reports of the honorary degree awarded to Martyn Hooper and members congratulated Martyn.

COU500: Future agenda items

Members asked for Christmas lights to be placed on a future agenda as they felt there was a need for a full review.

Chairman

___/___/2010