

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Mid Sussex District
Council Cabinet held on Monday, 8 May 2017
from 4.00 p.m. to 4.24 p.m.**

Present: Councillors: Jonathan Ash-Edwards, Andrew MacNaughton, Gary Marsh, Garry Wall (Leader), Mandy Thomas-Atkin and Norman Webster.

Also present: Councillors: Pete Bradbury and Rod Clarke.

Officers: Kathryn Hall, Tom Clark, Judy Holmes, Peter Stuart, Simon Hughes, Terry Stanley and Mark Bristow.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

2. APOLOGIES

None.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

4. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

5. OUTTURN REPORT FOR 2016/17

Peter Stuart, Head of Corporate Resources introduced the report stating that it was a satisfactory conclusion to the end of year. The Report was before Cabinet a month earlier than normal, in anticipation of new requirements.

The positive income position has resulted from the acquisition of the Orchards Shopping Centre increased fee income from Development Management and increased Car Parking revenue, which has exceeded forecasts.

The Leader welcomed the Report and endorsed the strong fiscal control of the Council's finances.

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Growth welcomed the strong position the Council was in, which will enable the Council to remain resilient and to seize opportunities. He stated that the Council's investment strategy was making effective use of taxpayer's money. The Report demonstrated that investments that have been made to date have been prudent.

The Cabinet Member for Community agreed that the investments that had been made have had a positive effect on the Council's resources. The Council is legally obligated to use assets wisely and by doing so the Council is able to provide good services for residents.

The Cabinet Member for Service Delivery welcomed the increased parking income.

The Cabinet Member for Planning noted the extra income from Development Management fees and attributed this to attractiveness of the District to the development sector. Despite the increase in planning applications being submitted, staff have continued to maintain targets.

The Leader noted the depth and variety of the Capital Programme and noted that whilst this Outturn Report was positive the future remained uncertain and challenging.

RESOLVED

Cabinet resolved to note the contents of the report, and to recommend to Council:

- (i) that grant income as set out in paragraph 16 to 19 of this report be transferred to Specific Reserve;
- (ii) that grant income as set out in paragraph 20 of this report be transferred to General Reserve;
- (iii) that windfall income as set out in paragraph 21 of this report be transferred to General Reserve;
- (iv) that balance of interest totalling £342,000 as set out in paragraph 25 is transferred to the General Reserve;
- (v) that Dividend income totalling £84,626 as set out in paragraph 28 is transferred to the General Reserve;
- (vi) that the 2017/18 capital programme be increased by £79,000 as a result of slippage of some 2016/17 capital projects as detailed in Table 3.
- (vii) that the revenue underspending in 2016/17 be transferred to Reserves as follows:
 - a) £222,024 be transferred to Reserves as set out in Table 1 and paragraph 15;
 - b) £230,000 be transferred to Specific Reserves as set out in Table 2;
 - c) £195,000 balance to be transferred to General Reserve

6. LAND ADJACENT TO NEWBURY, COURTMEAD ROAD, CUCKFIELD; PRESERVATION OF PLANNING

Peter Stuart, Head of Corporate Resources introduced the report and stated that although this could be dealt with under Delegated Authority, it was deemed that it should be brought to Cabinet owing to the level of interest in the issue. There were two minor errors in the Report in relation to Paragraph 3 and the dates therein. As such he reported that amended recommendations had been tabled. He emphasised that these minor errors did not affect the substance of the report.

He stressed that in relation to paragraph 5 more information will be required before it could be recommended that any dwelling should be built on this site. As the report

stated, he had neither a properly tendered builder of a dwelling, nor a firm sale price of any such dwelling. He could not therefore recommend any further action for Cabinet save that outlined in this report. This was solely in relation to Paragraph 8, that the planning permission expires on 9th October 2017, and it was therefore recommended that this permission is implemented in a minor way in order to safeguard the planning permission.

The Head of Corporate Resources also pointed out that whilst the last sentence of Paragraph 8 stated that the permission would be implemented between the end of September and the expiry of the permission, this would actually only be some 9 days. It was therefore expected that work on the site would have to commence during September to make implementing the permission practically viable.

The Head of Corporate Resources finished by stating that the minimum level of works would be undertaken to implement the planning permission and that this was expected to be well within the estimate of £20k contained within the report.

The Leader confirmed with all Members that the revised recommendations were in front of them and that a decision had to be reached as the landowner. He further noted that it was a reasonable action to take.

The Cabinet Member for Planning agreed that it was a sensible way forward and that there is a need to keep the permission valid.

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Growth confirmed that the Council as landowner secured the planning permission and that it was sensible to implement it.

The Cabinet Member for Community stated that he was portfolio holder at the time the planning application was made and that we could confirm that the Council was careful to keep its landowner function and planning function separate. The monies from the asset are to be used to better the lives of the community.

The Leader read out the tabled recommendations and these were agreed.

RESOLVED

Cabinet resolved to:

- (i) Approve the actions outlined within the Report to implement the existing Planning Permission on the site at Courtmead Road, noting that outline Planning Permission was December 2013 and Reserved Matters Permission expires on 9th October 2017 and paragraph 3 of the Report be corrected accordingly.

The meeting was closed at 4.24 p.m.

Chairman.