

## MIDSOMER NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber at The Town Hall, Midsomer Norton on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2011 Commencing at 7.00pm

**Present:** Mayor: Cllr P Myers  
Deputy Mayor: Cllr Mrs L Dunford  
Councillors: Cllr M Evans, Cllr Miss J Lewis, Cllr S Plumley, Cllr Mrs L Robertson, Cllr R Robertson, Cllr J Slade

**Also Present:** One member of the Public and one member of the Press

**In Attendance:** Michael Curry - Town Clerk

#### **96. Fire Safety – Evacuation Procedure**

The Officer present explained the fire evacuation procedure as detailed in the Agenda.

#### **97. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P Moccock, Councillor Miss J Lewis, Councillor S Wellington who were all away on holiday, and Councillor B Lawrence who has suffered a recent bereavement.

The Council passed on their sympathies to Councillor Lawrence

**Resolved:** To accept the apologies with the reasons given.

#### **98. Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor, Councillor P Myers wanted to acknowledge what had been achieved in the first five month's of the Council's tenure as he was conscious of how easy it was to lose sight of this when engrossed in the ongoing business.

He cited the signing of the West Clewes Lease, recruiting staff, establishing the Council's office, setting-up the committee and working parties, and starting seven major projects.

#### **99. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mrs L Dunford declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item Number 104 as Treasurer of the Sarah Ann Trust.

Councillor P Myers declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item Number 104 as Secretary of the Sarah Ann Trust.

**100. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

To agree any items to be dealt with after the Public (including the Press) has been excluded under Standing Order 28.1.

**Resolved:** That Agenda item 108 be treated as confidential and dealt with after the Public (including the Press) had been excluded.

**101. Minutes of Midsomer Norton Town Council Meeting – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Midsomer Norton Town Council Meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011 be signed and adopted as a correct record.

**102. Standing Committees**

The Minutes of the Council's Standing Committee had been circulated in the Agenda:

a) Planning Committee Meeting – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011 be noted.

**103. Operations Working Party**

Members considered recommendations from the Operations Working Party:

a) To apply for a Designated Public Place to be established within Midsomer Norton and to establish a Community Alcohol Partnership

b) In relation to B&NES potentially devolving assets to the Council, mandate nominated members of the Operations Working Party to explore options for a governance structure/asset management plan. This will give context to any negotiations with B&NES

c) To adopt the following as priorities when tackling litter:

- i) Form a Litter Heroes Group to co-ordinate the deep litter picks; focus on over-used bins; look at educational initiatives
- ii) Liaise with Fast Food Outlets to reduce the litter from their products;
- iii) Identify litter hotspots

d) To approve the editorial scheduled for the Council's Newsletter.

**Resolved:** That the Council accept the recommendations of the Operations Working Party without change except for item 103 (a) where the Council resolved to apply for a Designated Public Place (to be determined) to be established within Midsomer Norton and to establish a Community Alcohol Partnership

#### **104. Accounts for Payment**

Members were asked to review and approve a schedule of Accounts for Payment.

Councillors Mrs L Dunford and P Myers left the meeting at 8:15 pm

**Resolved:** That the Schedule of Accounts for Payment is approved and cheque signatories would be Councillors R Robertson and J Slade

Councillors Mrs L Dunford and P Myers rejoined the meeting at 8:18 pm

#### **105. Bath & North East Somerset Council (Withies Lane, Midsomer Norton) Public Path Creation Order 2011**

Members received a letter from Graeme Stark, Senior Rights of Way Officer, Bath & North East Somerset Council in respect of the above Creation Order.

**Resolved:** To support the creation order

#### **106. Impact on the New Layout of the Silver Street/Charlton Road Junction**

Members considered the concerns expressed on the impact of the remodelled layout of the Silver Street/Charlton Road Junction.

The Council reported the expression of concern and complaint by members of the public through contact and letter. The Council supported the views contained in the open letter from the Headmaster of Norton Hill School on the subject.

The difference in the actuality of the project and what was presented to Norton Radstock Town Council for consideration as part of the planning process was highlighted.

**Resolved:** To write to the appropriate authorities to:

- a) Express regret at the change to the route of the cycle path without consulting the Town Council
- b) Stress the need to understand the process of how it happened in order to prevent a similar occurrence
- c) Begin a dialogue to formally review the state of affairs in light of the feedback from the public and identify options available to ameliorate the situation

#### **107. The Core Strategy**

Bath & North East Somerset Council updated the Town Council on the development of the Core Strategy in the light of the Inspector's initial comments.

Councillor P Myers welcomed Cllr Cherry Beath, Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development, John Betty Strategic Director Development and Major Projects, and Kaoru Jacques Planning Policy from B&NES.

He outlined the importance of securing a prosperous, sustainable future for Midsomer Norton and how frustration at the lack of progress over the years had

brought about the creation of the new Town Council. He emphasised the need for the Town Council and B&NES to work in partnership.

Kaoru Jacques took the Council through the development and current status of the Core Strategy, and the timetable for final approval. She explained how the B&NES decision not to include a contingency in the housing allocation in response to the Inspectors' initial comments stemmed from the flexibility available under the existing arrangements and how this approach matched the ethos of localism by not imposing top-down allocations. 2,000 out of 2,700 new homes in the Core Strategy were already committed.

Three strands of work are now underway to build the portfolio of the Local Development Framework:

- a) The Site Allocation and the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation
- b) The Neighbourhood Planning Protocol
- c) The Community Infrastructure Levy

John Betty clarified that the target for employment creation was a nett increase not a static target number. Staff are continually monitoring the employment situation in the area.

Councillor Cherry Beath, concurring with the Mayor on the need for partnership working, concluded the session by congratulating the Council on what it had achieved and its drive to improve Midsomer Norton.

**108. Resolved – that in view of the confidential nature of the business transacted, the press and public were excluded during consideration of this item – Commercial in Confidence.**

**Resolved:**

*Economic Development*

- a) To work with B&NES to develop a feasible economic development plan for Midsomer Norton and establish a working party that includes representation from the wider business community to take that plan forward.

*Ground Services*

- b) That Midsomer Norton Town Council ceases the agreement with Westfield Parish Council on the provision of ground services with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012. Westfield Parish Council as lead Authority will initiate formal consultation with the Foreman, Deputy Foreman and Grounds Person and the relevant Trade Union with regard to the possible consequences of the termination of the provision of ground services between Westfield Parish Council, Radstock Town Council and Midsomer Norton Town Council and any subsequent redundancies which may be required as a consequence of the reduction in work for the Foreman, Deputy Foreman and Grounds Person.

- c) It is paramount that any obligations arising from the Re-organisation Order in relation to the cessation of the ground services agreement be concluded before the 31<sup>st</sup> March. The Council will take the necessary

steps such as calling special meetings to facilitate the achievement of this timescale.

d) Clarification be sought on the extent of any legal fees arising from the decision in resolution (b) above

*Allotments*

e) The Allotment Working Party proceed with preparations to secure the offered land for allotments including:

- I. Maximise the length of the lease
- II. Establish a budget cost in order to secure the necessary provision for the Council's income
- III. Conduct appropriate 'due diligence' with respect to the site and the necessary provisions e.g. water provision, soil samples, etc
- IV. Explore the potential for cultivation under cover of stocks for the Town decoration
- V. Determine relevant planning permissions required

f) That the Council's gratitude to Councillor R Robertson for his work to secure the potential site be recorded

*Minutes*

g) No minutes of this meeting be published pending approval of the Council at its meeting on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November

**Meeting finished at 9:57 pm**

***A signed copy of the minutes can be viewed at the Town Council Offices***

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:** .....