

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover, on Monday, 4th January 2010 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor E. Watts – Chair

Councillors K. Bowman, A. J. Hodkin, D. Kelly, D. McGregor, B.R. Murray-Carr, A. Syrett (from Minute No 599) and A.F. Tomlinson.

Officers:-

W. Lumley (Chief Executive Officer), S. Tomlinson (Director of Neighbourhoods), J. Brooks (Director of Resources), J. Fieldsend (Senior Principal Solicitor), P. Campbell (Head of Housing) (left during Minute No 601), L. Hickin (Head of Leisure) (to Minute No 600), M. Connley (Special Projects Officer) (to Minute No 600), C. Bamford (Senior Accountancy Assistant)(to Minute No 603), B. Truswell (Head of Shared Procurement) (from Minute No 606)) and A. Bluff (Democratic Services Officer).

594. APOLOGY

An apology was received on behalf of Councillor J.E. Bennett.

595. URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

596. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Minute No	Member	Level of Interest
605	D. McGregor	2

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597. MINUTES – 30th NOVEMBER 2009

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor A. Tomlinson
RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Executive held on 30th November 2009 be approved as a true record.

598. ICT STRATEGY

The Director of Resources presented a report in respect of the ICT Strategy for the period 2009 to 2011 and highlighted some of the key achievements undertaken. The ICT department were currently focusing on the possibility of a joint service with North East Derbyshire District Council, the continuing delivery of service with reduced staffing and the identification of efficiencies to assist the Council.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Kelly the Director of Resources confirmed that not all CRM scripts were currently in place.

Councillor Kelly further raised concern that Environmental Health were continuing to experience problems with the Academy system and that a member of staff from ICT had to spend extended periods of time trying to resolve the problems.

The Director of Resources agreed to look in to the matter and report back to Cabinet. The Chief Executive Officer added that this problem had also been discussed at Senior Management Team and a separate group had been set up to look at this specific issue.

Moved by Councillor A.J. Hodkin, seconded by Councillor E. Watts
RESOLVED that the ICT Strategy be approved.

(Director of Resources)

Reason for decision: To approve the ICT Strategy.

Councillor Syrett entered the meeting at this point.

599. BOLSOVER DISTRICT PLAY STRATEGY

The Head of Leisure presented a report in respect of the Bolsover District Play Strategy. He advised Members that if the Play Strategy were approved it would be reviewed and monitored by the quarterly performance management tool, PERFORM.

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Councillor Kelly raised issues concerning Section 106 monies which were affecting certain areas of the District.

The Head of Leisure advised Members that a group had now been set up to enable all information regarding Section 106 issues to be brought together to help avoid the issues raised by Councillor Kelly.

Further to a question raised by Councillor McGregor, the Special Projects Officer reported that regular monitoring of lottery fund monies for play areas in the District was undertaken and quarterly reports sent to the Big Lottery. The end of February 2010 was the end of year 1 funding and a full report would be made to the Big Lottery.

Members raised further questions and discussion took place.

Councillor Watts requested that achievements for the Council's play areas be publicised in the 'In Touch' Magazine at the relevant times and that local Members also be informed when play areas were being looked at.

Councillor Syrett welcomed the report and commented that it was important that Planning provided their guidance also for input into the Play Strategy.

Moved by Councillor A.M. Syrett, seconded by Councillor E. Watts
RESOLVED that the Bolsover District Play Strategy be approved.

Reason for decision: To approve the Bolsover District Play Strategy.

The Head of Leisure and the Special Projects Officer left the meeting at this point.

600. WINTER MAINTENANCE POLICY

The Head of Housing presented a report in respect of the Winter Maintenance Policy which covered the role of the Council during periods of snow and ice.

Members asked questions and discussion took place.

Moved by Councillor K. Bowman, seconded by Councillor D. Kelly
RESOLVED that the policy be approved.

Reason for decision: To approve the Winter Maintenance Policy.

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601. BUDGET REPORTS

The Director of Resources presented the following four budget reports including a slide presentation which gave some updated figures to the reports.

- Fees and Charges 2010/11
- Capital Programme 2010/11 to 2012/13
- Housing Revenue Account Budgets 2009/10 - Estimated Outturn of 2010/11
- General Fund Budgets 2009/10 - Estimated Outturn of 2010/11

Fees and Charges 2010/11;

The Director of Resources presented the report in respect of Fees and Charges 2010/11.

Members raised concern with regard to the estimated figure for Planning Fees income for 2011/12 and 2012/13 and queried how the figure had been arrived at.

Further to lengthy discussion, Members agreed that as a matter of urgency and before the next scheduled Executive meeting, Members required further background information with regard to;

- Planning Fees and Charges
- Bulky Waste
- Cesspools
- Grounds Maintenance

Moved by Councillor A.J. Hodkin, seconded by Councillor E. Watts

RESOLVED that (1) the proposed Fees and Charges for 2010/11, with exception to trade refuse, cesspools and bulky refuse, be agreed and recommended to Council,

(2) subject to Members receiving further background reports as detailed above, as a matter of urgency and before the next scheduled Executive meeting, the other information relating to income is noted,

(3) no charges be levied for domestic drain-rodding services or for car parking.

(Director of Resources)

Reason for decision: To set the level of Fees and Charges for 2010/11.

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Housing Revenue Account Budgets 2009/10 - Estimated Outturn of 2010/11

The Director of Resources presented the report in respect of Housing Revenue Account Budgets 2009/10 and Estimated Outturn of 2010/11.

Members raised various questions.

Further to lengthy discussion regarding garages, buggy parking and lifeline services, Members agreed that recommendations 4 and 5 of the report be deferred.

Moved by Councillor K. Bowman, seconded by Councillor E. Watts
RESOLVED that (1) recommendations 4 and 5 be deferred,

(2) the estimated outturn for 2009/10 is approved,

(3) the proposed Housing Revenue Account budget for 2010/11 is approved,

(4) dwelling rents be increased in accordance with the Rent Restructuring guidelines by an average of 3.65% for 2010/11, subject to confirmation of the rent determination,

(5) consultation with tenants with district heating takes place to inform the setting of future fees and charges.

(Director of Resources)

Reason for decision: **The budget for 2009/10 is revised at this time to align it with the expected outturn. This is good financial management.**

The Council is required to approve a balanced budget for 2010/11 based on the rent levels set.

The Head of Housing left the meeting at this point.

General Fund Budgets 2009/10 - Estimated Outturn of 2010/11

The Director of Resources presented the report in respect of General Fund Budgets 2009/10 and Estimated Outturn of 2010/11.

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Members raised various questions and especially in relation to council tax and casual staffing.

Lengthy discussion took place.

With regard to recommendation 8, it was noted that the date for Council should read 10th February 2010 and not 1st February 2010.

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor A.F. Tomlinson

RESOLVED that (1) the proposals for budget changes / targets detailed in paragraph 14 are accepted as part of the budget for the estimated outturn for 2009/10 of £11,670,340 be approved,

(2) the proposals for budget changes / targets detailed in paragraph 51 are accepted as part of the budget for 2010/11 of £11,196,841 be approved,

(3) a Council Tax increase of 1.9% be approved, subject to the presentation of the Sensitivity Analysis being reported to the Executive on 1st February 2010,

(4) enhanced monitoring arrangements of the budget feature in the quarterly financial management reports to the Executive,

(5) the Budget Strategy reflects changes to enhance Members consideration of the budget setting process for 2011/12,

(6) work is undertaken in 2010/11 to prevent a deficit budget in 2011/12,

(7) the report be presented to Scrutiny on 12th January 2010 for their consideration and comment,

(8) based on any comments from Scrutiny being considered by Cabinet the budget be presented to Council on 10th February 2010.

(Director of Resources)

Reason for decision: **The budget for 2009/10 is revised at this time to align it with the expected outturn. This is good financial management.**

The Council is required to approve a budget for 2010/11 on which the Council Tax can be based. This must be a balanced budget.

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602. LUNCHTIME ADJOURNMENT

The time being 1230 hours, consideration was given as to whether the day's business could be concluded by 1400 hours.

Moved by Councillor A.F. Tomlinson, seconded by Councillor A.M. Syrett
RESOLVED that the meeting continue.

601. BUDGET REPORTS CONTINUED

Capital Programme 2010/11 to 2012/13

The Director of Resources presented the report in respect of Capital Programme 2010/11 to 2012/13.

Members asked various questions and discussion took place.

The Director of Resources indicated a separate report would follow detailing funding for mobile working.

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor A.F. Tomlinson
RESOLVED that (1) the estimated outturn for 2009/10 of £11,661,083 be approved,

(2) the proposed Capital Programme for 2010/11 to 2012/13 be approved,

(3) any surplus Capital Receipts (above the level required for current commitments) be diverted to the projects in priority order as detailed in the report,

(4) a further report be submitted to Executive outlining the proposed Housing Schemes to be financed by the Major Repairs Allowance (MRA),

(5) the Prudential Indicators be adopted,

(6) the Director of Resources has delegated authority, within the total limit for any individual year, to effect movements between the separately agreed limits for borrowing and other long term liabilities.

(Director of Resources)

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The Senior Accountancy Assistant left the meeting at this point.

603. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor A.F. Tomlinson
RESOLVED that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the stated Paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and it is not in the public interest for that to be revealed.

604. TARRAN BUNGALOWS EXEMPT PARAGRAPH 3

Members were advised that the Tarran Bungalow report had been deferred to a Special Executive meeting to take place at 9.15 am before Council on 13th January 2010.

(Head of Democratic Services)

Councillor McGregor declared a level 2 interest in the following item and left the meeting.

605. CRESWELL MINERS WELFARE SPORTS GROUND EXEMPT PARAGRAPH 5

The Senior Principal Solicitor presented a detailed report in respect of Creswell Miners Welfare Sports Ground.

On 16th June 2008, Executive approved in principle (subject to Planning Committees views), the taking of a lease from Welbeck Estates of the Creswell Miners Welfare Cricket Ground with a simultaneous sub-lease to Elmton with Creswell Parish Council.

A number of recommendations were made by Executive and these now needed to be revisited following ongoing negotiations between the Council's Solicitor and Welbeck Estates solicitor.

Members asked questions and discussion took place.

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Moved by Councillor A.M. Syrett, seconded by Councillor D. Kelly

RESOLVED that (1) taking a 97 year lease of the Creswell Miners Welfare Cricket Ground at a peppercorn rent from Welbeck Estates Company Ltd and the subsequent sub-lease to the Elmton with Creswell Parish Council on terms agreed by the Senior Principal Solicitor in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council be approved,

(2) the Section 106 commuted sum for maintenance of £44,823.79 be passed on to the Parish Council upon receipt from Welbeck Estates Ltd be approved,

(3) the resolutions of this Executive replace the resolutions of the Executive held on 16th June 2008.

Reason for decision: **To endorse the proposed arrangement for the lease and sub-lease of the Creswell Miners Welfare Sports Ground in order to enable the future improvements to the Sports Ground.**

Councillor McGregor returned to the meeting.

The Head of Shared Procurement entered the meeting.

606. TENDER – RAISING ASPIRATIONS EXEMPT PARAGRAPH 3

The Head of Shared Procurement explained to Members that the Raising Aspirations Tender had been advertised as an 'open' tender which meant that no prequalification of candidates had been necessary.

He also added that it was now anticipated that the value of the tender would be £300k and not £400k as specified on the tender sheet.

The date for evaluation of the tenders would be Thursday 7th January 2010 at 1pm in the Executive meeting room.

Seven Tenders had been received before the deadline date.

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Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor A.F. Tomlinson
RESOLVED that (1) Executive witness the opening of the tenders,

(2) the tenders be passed to the Evaluation Team for final evaluation,

(3) once evaluation has been completed, a Report for Information be submitted for Members.

(Head of Shared Procurement)

Reason for decision: **In order to secure the lowest tender and best value for money in accordance with Standing Orders Contracts.**

The meeting concluded at 1300 hours.