

18 JUNE 2012

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a special meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday 18 June 2012.

- p Cllr Mrs A E McEvoy – Chairman
- p Cllr Ms L C Ford – Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

- p A R Alvey
- p Mrs D E Andrews
- p G C Beck
- p Ms R Bellows
- p Mrs S M Bennison
- ap J E Binns
- p D A Britton
- p Mrs D M Brooks
- p S J Clarke
- p Mrs J L Cleary
- p G F Dart
- p S P Davies
- p W H Dow
- p A T Glass
- p M R Harris
- p C J Harrison
- p D Harrison
- p E J Heron
- p J D Heron
- ap Miss A J Hickman
- p Mrs A J Hoare
- p Mrs M D Holding
- p Mrs P Jackman
- p M J Kendal
- p A N G Kilgour
- p C Lagdon
- p Mrs M E Lewis
- p Mrs P J Lovelace
- ap B D Lucas

Councillors:

- p Mrs M McLean
- p A D O'Sullivan
- p N S Penman
- p J Penwarden
- p L R Puttock
- p A W Rice
- p B Rickman
- ap W S Rippon-Swaine
- p Mrs M J Robinson
- ap Mrs A M Rostand
- D J Russell
- p R F Scrivens
- p Miss A Sevier
- p M D Southgate
- p A J Swain
- p M H Thierry
- p A R Tinsley
- p D B Tipp
- p F P Vickers
- p M S Wade
- p S S Wade
- p R A Wappet
- p Mrs C V Ward
- p J G Ward
- p C A Wise
- p Mrs B M Woodifield
- p P R Woods
- p Mrs P A Wyeth

Officers Attending:

D Yates, R Jackson, J Mascal, Miss G O'Rourke, Mrs R Rutins and Ms M Stephens.

11. MINUTES (REPORT A)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2012 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No declarations of interest were made by members in connection with any agenda items.

13. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Standing at Council meetings

The Chairman asked that during her year in office all members of the Council, where possible, stand when they addressed the Council during meetings.

Cllr Michael Pemberton

The Chairman referred to Cllr Pemberton's resignation from the Council on 11 June 2012 because he had moved away. Cllr Pemberton was first elected to the Council at a by-election in 2002 and had served the Milford ward continuously since then. The Chairman thanked Cllr Pemberton for all he had done during his time on the Council and wished him well for the future.

14. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Leader of the Council announced that the Cabinet meeting on 4 July had been cancelled due to a lack of business.

15. REPORT OF CABINET (REPORT B).

Cllr Rickman, the Leader of the Council and the Chairman of the Cabinet, presented the report of the Cabinet held on 6 June 2012 insofar as it referred to the Local Plan Part 2: Sites and Development Management Plan and the Community Infrastructure Levy – Draft Charging Schedule.

On the motion that the report be received and the recommendations adopted:

Local Plan Part 2: Sites and Development Management

In moving the report, the Leader of the Council said that when the Cabinet considered this matter at their meeting on 6 June they had been aware that the Plan was in its final stages following a rigorous and lengthy process, including extensive consultation. All representations made during the formal consultation process would be included when the final document was submitted to the Secretary of State. The Leader of the Council asked members to support the Cabinet's recommendations so that the Plan could be submitted to the Secretary of State without any delay.

Cllr Kendal, whilst agreeing with the Leader of the Council that submission of the Plan should not be delayed, asked that the Plan be amended to take account of strong objections from the residents of Milford on Sea. He moved an amendment that recommendation (a) of item 1 of the Cabinet report be amended to read: -

That the Local Plan Part 2 (Sites and Development Management), together with the proposed changes and corrections set out in Appendix 2 but with the

further amendment of Policy MoS1 to read “provision of up to 10 houses” to Report A to the Cabinet (and any other minor corrections and clarification changes), be submitted to the Secretary of State to go forward into a Public Examination.

The motion was seconded.

Cllr Kendal said that during the consultation process Milford on Sea Parish Council had asked for a reduction in the number of houses to be allocated under policy MoS1 relating to land north of School Lane, Milford on Sea a prominent site in the green belt. There was strong local opposition to the proposals. The Parish Council had advocated that the number of dwellings allocated for this site should be reduced to 10, with the shortfall in the land that the Core Strategy required to be allocated for housing being made up from windfall sites that came forward in due course. The recommended policy had been amended to reduce the number from 30 to 20. Cllr Kendal believed that the lower allocation requested by the Parish Council would allow the ultimate development of this site to be more in keeping with the surrounding development, and maintain the character of this important approach to Milford Village. He expressed the view that this minor amendment would not cause any delay to the Plan submission deadline.

The Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder, Cllr Vickers, reminded Members that work on the Sites and Development Management Document had commenced after the adoption of the Core Strategy in October 2009, and that the process was now very far advanced with there having been numerous opportunities for the current proposal to be considered at a much earlier stage in the process. During the consultation processes Milford on Sea Parish Council had objected to all the 14 sites put forward for consideration in Milford, apart from the allocation under policy MoS1. They had not put forward any alternative sites. There could be no guarantee that the suggested further reduction to 10 dwellings would be made up through ‘windfall’ sites. The Portfolio Holder said that a compromise, reducing the number of dwellings from 30 to 20, had already been reached at the Cabinet meeting. The correct course of action was now for the Parish Council to pursue its objections through the public inquiry.

Some members expressed the view that a further reduction should be made to the number of allocated dwellings on this sensitive site. Others felt that a compromise had already been made and that this issue should now be taken up by the Parish Council not the District Council.

Cllr Kendal whilst accepting that there was a need for affordable housing within Milford on Sea, felt that the proposal would mean that too many affordable homes would be crammed onto one site. He felt that there were more suitable sites within the village for development. Large farmland sites could be used instead. Residents of Milford on Sea were very aggrieved by this issue. He asked members of the Council to agree the amendment and support local residents.

In replying to the debate the Leader of the Council said that the Council should not delay the Plan. He felt that it was important that this process be moved forward.

Upon a vote the amendment was lost.

The substantive motion was put and upon a vote was agreed.

Cllr Swain referred to Policy LYM2 (land north of Alexandra Road) in his ward. He had, over the past two years, attended all the preliminary meetings and a road show. He said that whilst he was uncomfortable with the idea of building on green belt land, when faced with the other options, he felt that he could agree with the proposals.

Cllr Swain said that during the process he had not been approached by any of his constituents on the subject despite the fact his contact details were readily available to residents. However he had recently received an email from a constituent claiming that although 57 representations had been made against Policy LYM2, only 13 were being forwarded to the Inspector. He asked officers to look into this matter.

The Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder, Cllr Vickers thanked the Head of Planning and Transportation and other officers involved in preparing the Plan for their hard work. It had taken 2-3 years to develop the Core Strategy and 30 months to process the submission document. This had been a large task and the efforts of officers were greatly appreciated.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Cabinet dated 6 June 2012 be received and the recommendations adopted.

16. LOCALISM ACT 2011 – STANDARDS (REPORT C).

Members considered arrangements for dealing with various ethics and probity issues arising from the Localism Act 2011, and audit related matters.

With reference to recommendation 4.8.2, the Chief Executive reported that the Council had received a good response to the recruitment process for two Independent Persons. Six applicants had been interviewed by the Leader of the Council, the Leader of the Opposition, himself and the Monitoring Officer. They recommended that Mr David Hewit and Mr David Nottage be appointed as the two Independent Persons.

In response to a question the Chief Executive confirmed that the Council's procedure provided that members would be made aware of any complaints lodged against them.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be received and the recommendations adopted; and
- (b) That Mr David Hewit and Mr David Nottage be appointed as Independent Persons for the purpose of Section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011 for the remainder of the term of office of the Council, that is until May 2015.

17. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF AUDIT COMMITTEE.

RESOLVED:

That Cllrs Mrs Andrews, Harris, C Harrison, O'Sullivan, Tipp, Wappet, Wise and Mrs Woodfield be appointed to serve on the Audit Committee for the remaining term of office of the Council, that is until May 2015.

18. ANY OTHER ITMES WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT.

Owing to the recent resignation of Cllr Pemberton, the Conservative Group proposed a number of changes in the membership of Committees and Panels.

RESOLVED:

That the following changes in the membership of Committees and Panels be agreed:

- a) That Cllr Rippon-Swaine be appointed to serve on the Planning Development Control Committee in place of Cllr Pemberton;
- b) That Cllr Penwarden be appointed to serve on the General Purposes and Licensing Committee in place of Cllr Rippon-Swaine; and
- c) That Cllr Penwarden be appointed to serve on the Appeals Committee in place of Cllr Pemberton.

CHAIRMAN

CL180612