

Cherwell District Council

Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 29 May 2014 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Lawrie Stratford (Chairman)
Councillor Kieron Mallon (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Ken Atack
Councillor Andrew Beere
Councillor Claire Bell
Councillor Fred Blackwell
Councillor Norman Bolster
Councillor Ann Bonner
Councillor Mark Cherry
Councillor Surinder Dhesi
Councillor John Donaldson
Councillor Diana Edwards
Councillor Michael Gibbard
Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE
Councillor Simon Holland
Councillor Alastair Milne Home
Councillor Chris Heath
Councillor David Hughes
Councillor Russell Hurle
Councillor Tony Ilott
Councillor Ray Jelf
Councillor Matt Johnstone
Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes
Councillor James Macnamara
Councillor Melanie Magee
Councillor Nigel Morris
Councillor D M Pickford
Councillor Lynn Pratt
Councillor Nigel Randall
Councillor G A Reynolds
Councillor Alaric Rose
Councillor Les Sibley
Councillor Rose Stratford
Councillor Lynda Thirzie Smart
Councillor Douglas Webb
Councillor Bryn Williams
Councillor Douglas Williamson
Councillor Barry Wood

Apologies
for
absence: Councillor Maurice Billington
Councillor Colin Clarke
Councillor Andrew Fulljames
Councillor Carmen Griffiths
Councillor Nicholas Mawer

Councillor Jon O'Neill
Councillor Neil Prestidge
Councillor Barry Richards
Councillor Daniel Sames
Councillor Trevor Stevens
Councillor Nicholas Turner
Councillor Sean Woodcock

Officers: Sue Smith, Chief Executive
Karen Curtin, Director (Bicester)
Ian Davies, Director of Community and Environment
Martin Henry, Director of Resources / Section 151 Officer
Richard Hawtin, Team Leader Property & Contracts
Dave Parry, Democratic and Elections Officer

84 **Declarations of Interest**

Members declared interests in the following agenda items:

4. Build! Housing Development Programme.

Councillor Nigel Randall, Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, as Custodian Trustee Cherwell Community Land Trust and would withdraw from the Council Chamber and take no part in the discussions or voting on this item.

85 **Communications**

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all newly elected and re-elected Members and advised Council that this was a special meeting called due to the need for a decision relating to the Build! Programme before 31 May 2014 and this was the only item of business on the agenda. All matters relating to the appointment of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Committees will be dealt with at the scheduled Annual Council meeting on Monday 16 June 2014.

Post

The Chairman reminded Members to collect any post from pigeon holes.

86 **Build! Housing Development Programme**

The Head of Regeneration and Housing submitted a report which sought support and approval to the delivery of the Build! Programme as set out in the report (annex to the minutes as set out in the minute book) at an additional capital cost to the Council of £9.5m.

The report informed Council that the Build! Programme must be completed to the relevant qualifying standard for each property subject to grant by no later than 31 March 2015 to ensure the allocated Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) grant was paid. The grant element under particular scrutiny was

identified in the exempt appendix 2 within the summary Build! Programme chart under the affordable Housing Programme.

The report further informed Council that one element of grant relating to specialist housing totalling £880K could be claimed up to 31 March 2016. This grant funding came from a different HCA grant source given the specialist nature of the housing to be provided.

Members were supportive of the proposals, acknowledging the numerous benefits accruing from the redevelopment and regeneration of the various sites identified. The successful delivery of the programme would establish the Council as leaders in this innovative field, and demonstrate a track record which would benefit the Council when bidding for future grant monies from the Homes and Communities Agency.

Resolved:

- (1) That the financial due diligence report at exempt Appendix 1 (exempt annex to the minutes as set out in the minute book) be noted.
- (2) That the full delivery of the Build! Programme as identified under the Build! Housing Summary Chart in exempt Appendix 2 (exempt annex to the minutes as set out in the minute book) be supported.
- (3) That the necessary capital resources of £9.5m, to be funded from the Council's own capital reserves to enable the delivery of the schemes identified be approved
- (4) That officers be requested to submit a further report to the Council at the completion of the development programme to further identify and conclude the financial position.

(The motion was passed unanimously).

87 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

Resolved

That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that they could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

88 **Build! Housing Development Programme - Exempt Appendices**

Council considered the exempt appendices to the Build! Housing Development Programme. The Lead Member for Financial Management, Councillor Atack, confirmed he was happy with the consideration given by Officers to the financial implications, and subsequently responded to a number of questions from Members on financial aspects.

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The meeting ended at 7.06 pm

Chairman:

Date: