

## Minutes of the Environment & Planning Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024

**Present:** Cllr Cambell, Cllr Irven, Cllr Murphy, Cllr Richards, Cllr Westcott, and Cllr Whetlor

**In attendance:** Jo Grellier - Town Clerk, Annie Robinson – Deputy Clerk Town Clerk

Meeting commenced: 6.40pm

24/89B **To Receive Apologies for Absence:** (LGA 1972, section 85 (1))  
Cllr Whetlor proposed that '*apologies given by Cllr Moss and Cllr Campbell are approved*'. Seconded by Cllr Richards  
Carried.

24/90B **To receive any Declaration of Interests** under Watchet Town Council's Code of Conduct (adopted on 9 July 2012) issued in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 SI No: 1464

24/91B **To receive and sign the minutes of the previous Environment and Planning meeting** - (22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024) and adopt the Resolutions and Recommendations contained therein. (LGA 1972, SCH12 Para 41 (1)) - (*Paperwork circulated to members prior to the meeting via Appendix 1*)

24/92B **Watchet Coastal Working Group:**

(i) Update – *update if required*

The Committee Clerk informed members that a chaser email was sent to Paul Tucker, Somerset Council again today. She also advised that the Geckoella SLA to monitor the West Street Allotment/car park subsidence will be expiring at the end of March 2024. A follow-up review will be held with Geckoella and reported back to the Committee in April to establish if a further SLA is required. Members noted.

Cllr Irven gave a verbal update on recent cliff falls and Cllrs agreed that monitoring must continue.

Cllr Whetlor noted that NALC have a coastal group and that Cllr Irven could attend.

24/93B **Entran Transport Road Traffic Analysis Parsonage Farm** – *Verbal update if required by Cllr Irven*

Cllr Irven gave a verbal update. Production of report is now underway with a focus on an integrated communal travel plan.

24/94B **Somerset Council budget cuts:**

(i) Somerset Highways maintenance devolution April 2025 - (*Paperwork circulated to members prior to the meeting via Appendix 2*)

The Committee Clerk presented a notification from Somerset Council regarding the devolution of Somerset Highways maintenance. A discussion ensued. Cllr Murphy advised that the report encourages Councils to work with neighbouring parishes and that Watchet should initiate discussions.

It was noted that the Highways Subgroup would be meeting for the first time and Cllr Whetlor would report back on progress to the Clerk.

Cllrs noted that once further information had been acquired, next steps with a possible partnering with Williton could be discussed.

(ii) Somerset Council with Somerset Rivers Authority notification to remove the provision of sandbags for residents - Somerset Highways maintenance devolution April 2025 - (*Paperwork circulated to members prior to the meeting via Appendix 3*)

The Committee Clerk presented a notification from Somerset Council regarding the removal of their sandbag supply provision. A discussion ensued. Cllr Murphy noted that due to the limited lifespan of sandbags, SC likely to have little stock. Cllrs agreed that sand and sandbags would need to be purchased.

Cllr Whetlor proposed that '*the Clerk write to Somerset Council to ask where sandbags should be purchased from*'. Seconded by Cllr Richards. Carried.

LAW5

24/95B **Acorn variation to a S106 on application 3/37/08/034 & 3/37/12/014 – update from Committee Clerk**  
The Committee Clerk informed members that she had contacted all housing associations and Land Trusts who had not replied directly to Acorn to ascertain their position on the recent s106 Variation Application. Unfortunately, none were able to help at this time although support was expressed. A discussion ensued.  
Cllr Murphy presented a report on the 'West Somerset Housing Emergency'.  
Potential measures mentioned in the report could be escalated if Somerset Council declared a housing emergency.  
Cllr Murphy proposed that **'a letter be sent to Somerset Council, with a copy of the Somerset Housing Emergency report, asking them to declare a housing emergency and for Watchet Council to explore any potential means this may enable us to use'**. Seconded by Cllr Whetlor.

24/96B To address items received from the planning authority requiring attention prior to the next Somerset Council planning meetings.  
None

#### Plans received for discussion

**SCC/4094/2024**                      **Watchet Water Recycling Centre, Cleeve Hill, Watchet, TA23 0JP**  
Demolition of an existing motor control centre kiosk building replacing it with a new like for like kiosk replacement of almost identical dimensions (reduction of roof height of approx. 350mm)  
Cllr Murphy noted that the application to replace a like for like kiosk at Watchet Water Recycling Centre could not be found under its planning number.  
As no accompanying material has been supplied the Council stated that their response was 'No comment – insufficient information'.

24/97B **Matters for the next meeting** – verbal, no discussion

- Geologist subsidence reporting SLA – update & recommendation
- Highway Maintenance Report update
- Potholes on Whitehall and conclusion of who is responsible.

The meeting closed at 7.34pm

Date... March 2024

Signed... L. A. Whetlor