



This information is available free of charge in electronic, audio, Braille and large print versions on request.

For assistance in understanding or reading this document or specific information about these Minutes please call Christine Laver on 01629 761300 or e-mail committee@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Thursday 19 June 2014 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Geoff Stevens, MBE - In the Chair

Councillors Jennifer Bower, Richard Bright, Steve Bull, Sue Burfoot, Bob Cartwright, Albert Catt, David Chapman, Tom Donnelly, Ann Elliott, Steve Flitter, Chris Furness, Tony Millward, Jean Monks, Garry Purdy, Irene Ratcliffe, Mike Ratcliffe, Lewis Rose, OBE, Peter Slack, Jacque Stevens, Colin Swindell, Philippa Tilbrook, Judith Twigg and Carol Walker.

Paul Wilson (Corporate Director), Peter Foley (Corporate Director), Phil Colledge (Head of Resources), Tim Braund (Head of Environmental Health), Sandra Lamb (Head of Corporate Services), Karen Henrikson (Accountancy and Exchequer Manager) and Jackie Cullen (Committee Assistant).

1 member of the public.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jacque Bevan, David Fearn, Richard FitzHerbert, David Frederickson, Cate Hunt, Mike Longden, Barrie Tipping and Jo Wild. Late apologies were received on behalf of Councillor Andrew Lewer.

Councillor Geoff Stevens, MBE, congratulated Councillor Tony Millward on behalf of the Council for his recent award of the British Empire Medal for services to the community in Ashbourne, Derbyshire. Councillor Stevens also congratulated David Walker who was awarded an OBE for his services to people with disabilities, and David Wheatcroft, former chief executive of Derbyshire Dales District Council, who had been made a Member of the Victorian Order.

PRESENTATION

Mr Neil Moulden, Chief Executive Officer at Derbyshire Dales CVS, gave a presentation entitled 'The Great Escape Project' which was a collaboration between the Derbyshire Councils and the Charity, Council for Voluntary Service. Through this project, the CVS enables residents who live in supported accommodation, or who are supported in their own

homes, to access leisure activities, services, wellbeing groups etc. in order to increase their quality of life and participation in general.

The scheme had been a great success and future objectives included encouraging people in receipt of such support to become involved in planning new activities, setting up their own groups and generally becoming more engaged with the project.

Mr Moulden then took questions from the floor.

33/14 – MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Geoff Stevens MBE, seconded by Councillor Albert Catt and

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 29 May 2014 be
(unanimously) approved as a correct record, with the addition of Councillor Steve Flitter to the apologies received.

The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

34/14 – CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Carol Walker, Chairman of the District of Derbyshire Dales, reported on her attendance at recent civic engagements; in particular her attendance at ARC Matlock for the defibrillator presentation which was set up by the Peter Wood Memory Trust; and also the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings, which was held at Ashbourne. Councillor Walker said it had been a privilege and pleasure to meet the veterans at this event.

Councillor Walker drew Members' attention to forthcoming events, and circulated a copy of a letter which had been e-mailed to various parties regarding the 'Health and Beauty' theme for her year of office as Chairman of the District of Derbyshire Dales. This correspondence outlined Councillor Walker's plans to run a competition to enhance the appearance of areas of the Dales, with prizes and a presentation evening later in the year.

35/14 – MINUTE BOOK

It was moved by Councillor Tony Millward, seconded by Councillor Tom Donnelly and

RESOLVED That the reports of the committees listed in the Minute Book for the
(unanimously) period 6 to 15 May 2014 be received.

36/14 – GENERAL FUND OUT-TURN 2013/14

Council considered a report which advised Members of the final expenditure for 2013/14 and recommended that the under-spend be transferred to reserves.

The final accounts showed an under-spend on the General Fund of £763,264. The main variations with the revised budget were summarised in Appendix 1 to the report. The overall position on revenue reserves was attached as Appendix 2 to the report. It was considered that the reserves would need topping up to meet future needs, and the suggested allocation of the under-spend was set out in para.1.4 of the report.

An updated medium-term financial plan was attached as Appendix 3 to the report, which reflected that approximately £600,000 of the under-spend would continue in future years. A reviewed calculation had been made in light of the under-spend, which showed an overall savings requirement of approximately £1.35 million over the next 5 years

The recommendations of the Council would be reflected in the Statement of Accounts, to be signed by the Head of Resources before 30th June 2014.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose, seconded by Councillor Albert Catt and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. That Members note the General Fund under-spend of £753,624 in 2013/14.
2. That the General Fund under-spend of £753,624 be transferred to the following reserves:
 - Technology Renewals 1. £50,000
 - Property Repairs Reserve 2. £150,000
 - Economic Development Reserve 3. £300,000
 - Replacement Car Parking Machines Reserve 4. £250,000
 - General Reserve 5. £3,624

37/14 – CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUT-TURN 2013/14 – ESTIMATES 2014/15 TO 2017/18

The Council considered a report which informed members of the out-turn of the 2013/14 Capital Programme; determined the revised Capital Programme and financing arrangements for 2014/15; and outlined the Capital Programme proposals for 2015/16 to 2017/18.

The detailed out-turn of the 2013/14 Capital Programme in the sum of £1,643,903 was shown in Appendix 1 to the report.

The revised Capital Programme for 2014/15 was summarised in the report, as set out below:

Priority	2014/15 Recommended Capital Programme
Housing which meets local needs	£925,558
A clean, green and prosperous Dales	£1,400,972
Safe and healthy communities	£664,165
Other	£571,703
Capital Salaries and Support Services Charges	£28,376
TOTAL	£3,590,774

The overall financing package proposed for the revised 2014/15 Capital Programme was set out in the report.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose, seconded by Councillor Albert Catt and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. That the out-turn of the Capital Programme for 2013/14 in the sum of £1,643,903 be noted and approved.
2. That the revised Capital Programme and financing arrangements for 2014/15 in the sum of £3,590,774 be noted and approved.
3. That the revised Capital Programme proposals for 2015/16 to 2017/18 as detailed in Appendix 1 be noted.

38/14 – TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT

The Council considered a report informing Members of Treasury Management activities during the 2013/14 financial year and updating the Treasury Management Policy Statement where appropriate.

The Treasury Management function of the Council was to enable the efficient investment of surplus funds on a daily basis. The CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services regulates this function by setting out good practice, and requires that, as a minimum, the following are reported to Full Council: an annual report on the performance of the treasury management function; the effects of decisions taken; the transactions executed in the past year and any circumstances of non-compliance with the Treasury Management Policy Statement.

The Treasury Management Policy Statement was approved in 1993 and had been revised regularly from 1995.

It was currently considered that the Treasury Management Policy was sufficient to allow the Council to carry out its Treasury Management Operations, and further amendments were unnecessary.

The Head of Resources advised the Council that in accordance with best practice it was suggested that in the new financial year the Council employs Capita on a 1-year trial basis at a favourable fee rate. This would enable the Council to utilise Capita's expertise, which was not always available in-house.

It was moved by Councillor Steve Bull, seconded by Councillor Jennifer Bower and

RESOLVED
(Unanimously)

That Treasury Management activities for 2013/2014 be noted and approved.

39/14 – REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Councillor Peter Slack left the meeting at 6.52pm during discussion of this item.

The Council considered a report which set out the basis, scope and methodology for a comprehensive review of the District Council's Development Management Function and

asked for approval to engage Planning Officers Society Enterprises to carry out an independent appraisal of the Service.

The review of the District Council's Development Management Service was one of 3 major reviews scheduled for 2014/15 and provided an opportunity to completely re-focus the delivery of the service as well as securing financial efficiencies.

The officer team for the review of discretionary grants was selected by Corporate Management Team and consisted of Jon Bradbury (Development Manager) as Review Leader, Paul Wilson (Corporate Director), Tim Braund (Head of Regulatory Services), Ian Brailsford (Business Support Technician), Karen Brough (Customer Service Manager), Isabel Frenzel (Rural Housing Enabler), Amanda Goodwill (Principal Officer – Environmental Health) and Karen Ludditt (Senior Accountant).

The key questions to be considered in undertaking the Review, as well as areas for consideration within the current policies and procedures, were listed in the report. A table outlining the elements of the Development Management Service to be included in the Review was set out in the report.

To ensure that the Review achieved the best results and was given independent rigour, Corporate Management Team considered that Planning Officers Society Enterprise be approached to provide an estimate to undertake consultancy work to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the existing Service, assess how it compares with best practice, examine and compare staff resources and costs, identify potential savings, consider the effectiveness of processes and procedures, and comment upon the suitability of the current management structure.

The estimated cost of undertaking this work had been quoted as £16,560 plus VAT and expenses. Full details of the proposal were attached to the report as Appendix 1.

Development Management was a high profile, public facing service and Members would need to be engaged in the review process and the consideration of service options. The precise nature and extent of Member engagement would be determined in the early stages of the review and would be reported back to a subsequent meeting of Committee or Council.

It was moved by Councillor Chris Furness, seconded by Councillor Jacquie Stevens and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. That the scope and methodology of the review of Development Management are approved.
2. That Planning Officers Society Enterprises are engaged to provide an independent appraisal of the Service as it currently operates as outlined in Appendix 1 to this Report.
3. That the cost of appointing Planning Officers Society Enterprises be initially met from the Invest to Save Reserve, to be recovered through savings identified as part of the service review process.

40/14 – APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Richard Bright left the meeting at 7.01 during discussion of this item.

The Council was invited to nominate representatives to serve on the Dales Community Connect Forum of Dales Housing and Sheffield City Region's Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose, seconded by Councillor Steve Bull and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. That the following representatives be nominated to serve on the new Dales Community Connect Forum of Dales Housing.

Councillor Ann Elliott
Councillor Jacque Bevan
Councillor Jennifer Bower, and
Councillor Colin Swindell

2. That Councillor Chris Furness is appointed as the Council's representative to serve on Sheffield City Regions Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

41/14 – SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

It was moved by Councillor Judith Twigg, seconded by Councillor Carol Walker and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

That the common seal of the Council be affixed to those documents, if any, required to complete transactions undertaken by Committees or by way of delegated authority to officers since the last meeting of the Council.

MEETING CLOSED 7.03PM

CHAIRMAN