



Minutes of a meeting of Council held remotely on Wednesday, 17 March 2021.

Councillors present:

Nigel Robbins – Chair

Dilys Neill – Vice-Chair

Stephen Andrews
Julian Beale
Tony Berry
Gina Blomefield
Claire Bloomer
Ray Brassington
Patrick Coleman
Rachel Coxcoon
Tony Dale
Andrew Doherty

Mike Evemy
Jenny Forde
Joe Harris
Stephen Hirst
Robin Hughes
Roly Hughes
Nikki Ind
Sue Jepson
Julia Judd
Richard Keeling

Juliet Layton
Andrew Maclean
Nick Maunder
Richard Morgan
Richard Norris
Ray Theodoulou
Gary Selwyn
Lisa Spivey
Steve Trotter
Clive Webster

Officers present:

Chief Executive
Monitoring Officer
Managing Director
Strategic Manager
Executive Director - Commissioning

Deputy Chief Executive
Housing Manager

Democratic Services

CL.80 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Mark Annett and Mark Harris.

CL.81 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Tony Berry declared an interest, as he was currently the Interim Chair of the Friends of the Corinium Museum.

CL.82 Minutes - 24 February 2021

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 24 February 2021 be approved as a correct record.

Record of Voting – for 30, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 4.

CL.83 Announcements from the Chair, Leader or Chief Executive

The Leader thanked everyone in the NHS and all volunteers, for their hard work in making the vaccination programme a success.

He thanked Val Brassington, for her service to the Council in Development Management over 35 years and wished her well in her retirement.

He also thanked Christine Gore, who was retiring from her role as Executive Director. Whilst in her role as Interim Chief Executive, the advice, hard work and dedication had been evident and well received, particularly in a difficult year, throughout the Pandemic.

He announced that the new Cabinet Support Officer had been appointed.

There were no announcements from the Chair or Chief Executive.

CL.84 Public Questions

A record of public questions and answers are available in the schedule attached to these minutes. Questions were asked by Rebecca Halifax and David Fowles to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council, Rob Gibson to Councillor Jenny Forde, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing and Tim Gilling to Councillor Webster, Cabinet Member for the Planning Department and Town and Parish Councils.

CL.85 Member Questions

A record of Member questions and answers are available in the schedule attached to these minutes. Questions were asked by:

- Councillor Nikki Ind to Councillor Rachel Coxcoo, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Forward Planning and Councillor Lisa Spivey, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness.
- Councillor Julian Beale to Councillor Tony Dale, Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills
- Councillor Steve Trotter to Councillor Juliet Layton, Chair of Planning and Licensing Committee.
- Councillors Tony Berry, Claire Bloomer and Roly Hughes to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council.
- Councillor Juliet Layton to Councillor Mike Evemy, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance.
- Councillor Mark Harris to Councillor Andrew Doherty, Cabinet Member for the Environment, Waste and Recycling.

CL.86 Ubico Contract Extension

Councillor Doherty introduced this item, highlighting that the current contract with Ubico, the Council's primary service partner for waste, cleansing and cemeteries, ended on 31 March 2022. The recommendation was that the contract be extended by 5 years, noting that the Council was a shareholder and had a good relationship with Ubico, who had an embodied knowledge of the District. As a shareholder, the Council would have influence in how the company provides the services. There was a potential, in the future, to look at pooling and procurement on behalf of the shareholders, to make services more cost effective throughout Gloucestershire.

Councillor Bloomer seconded the recommendation noting that over the past year, the teams had done exceptionally well through difficult circumstances.

The Council thanked all the Ubico teams for their hard work during the last 12 months, when problems arose they always worked hard to carry out their roles effectively and efficiently.

RESOLVED that the current Ubico contract be extended by 5 years from 1st April 2022 until 31st March 2027, with a break clause at 2 years, as contained within Annex A of the report.

Record of Voting – for 32, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 2.

CL.87 Update to Council Contract Rules

Councillor Every introduced the report, highlighting that a review of the contract rules should take place every five years. The Procurement Team had worked on reviewing the contract rules in the light of the UK's withdrawal from the EU. Audit Committee had also reviewed them. Amongst the changes, one of the main alterations was for contracts between £10,000 and £25,000, to obtain three written quotes. Contracts above £25,000 there would be subject to a competitive tendering process.

This was seconded by Councillor Coleman who commended the contract rules to fellow Councillors.

RESOLVED that the updated Contract rules be approved.

Record of Voting – for 32, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 2.

CL.88 Change of Parish Council Name - Kemble Parish Council

Councillor Webster introduced this report, commenting that residents of Kemble and Ewen consider themselves to be one community, this would also make sure that neighbourhood plans match reality.

Councillor Berry seconded the proposal, commenting that this would be an exciting future for the communities.

RESOLVED that the change of name from Kemble Parish Council to Kemble and Ewen Parish Council be approved.

Record of Voting – for 32, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 2.

CL.89 Planned Expenditure of the Homeless Prevention Grant 2021-22

Councillor Spivey introduced the report explaining that the proposed expenditure of the grant would mean that the Council could plan how to use the monies to help the most vulnerable in communities of the District. Initially the money would be used to resource a shared post for an Officer to help prevent homelessness, helping people into more temporary accommodation and also helping people who may need more permanent accommodation.

This was considered by all Councillors to be a positive move by the Government, as every person who becomes homeless was a tragedy. Concern was expressed that when people become homeless and a home is found, occasionally this could be outside the District and away from support networks, it was reiterated that wherever possible people should remain in the District, close to their support networks.

RESOLVED that in order for the Council to meet the expectation set by the MHCLG, the Homelessness Prevention Grant be allocated as follows:

Complex Case Prevention Officer - New post 1 year fixed term	£33,000
Flexible Prevention Fund	£48,271
Private Rented Deposit Fund	£20,000
B&B Move on Fund	£10,000
Shared Temporary Accommodation Move on Officer - Two New One year fixed term Posts	£22,000
Total:	£133,271

Record of Voting – for 32, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 2.

CL.90 Adoption arrangements for Assessing Allegations under the Code of Conduct

Councillor Coleman introduced the report and explained that this completed the work of the Audit Committee and recommended it for approval.

RESOLVED that the arrangements for dealing with complaints under the Code of Conduct about District and Town & Parish Councillors, be adopted.

Record of Voting – for 32, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 2.

CL.91 SLM Financial Support - April 2021 - July 2021

Councillor Every introduced this report noting that this was the third report and was very much hoping that it was the last time that the Council would be discussing financial support for the leisure contractor SLM. The facilities were very important for residents and as soon as restrictions allowed, the leisure centres would open. The request was for additional funding from April to July 2021, and for the funding for the November 2020 to March 2021 period to be used across the period, rather than on a fixed month by month basis. The change for the November 2020 to March 2021 period reflected the fact that at the time of the Council approving the funding for the period, the SLM forecast did not foresee the loss in visits to the centres between January and March 2021 as a result of a third national lockdown.

The Museum had received £110,000 from the Culture Recovery Fund. The Government road map currently allowed the Gyms and Swimming provision to open on 12 April 2021, with the Museum opening on 7 May 2021. He reiterated that it was the Council's responsibility to support the leisure centres and museum, as they were in the Council's ownership. There were Government grants to support this funding and a financial summary was set out in the report.

Councillor Forde seconded the recommendations.

Councillor Andrews referred back to a previous Council meeting on 21 October 2020, that resolved to set up a cross party Member Working Group to consider an appraisal of the options to be considered in Quarter 3 of 2021. He commented that this group had not yet been set up and future arrangements should be measured, in order to have a better understanding of the leisure provision.

'The cross-party Working Group that is to be established by June 2021 as part of the Cabinet approved Cotswold Leisure Strategy shall monitor the delivery of that agreement.'

Councillor Theodolou seconded the amendment, highlighting his concern that there should be a better understanding of the support the Council was giving to such a big company as SLM. He supported this amendment as it was incumbent on the Council to support the leisure centres.

The Monitoring Officer clarified with Councillor Andrew that the amendment related only to the monitoring of the legal agreement in paragraph (e) of the recommendations and not the whole agreement.

The meeting adjourned at 8.10pm for members to discuss the proposed amendment and reconvened at 8.30pm.

Following the adjournment Councillor Every commented that the Leisure Strategy was passed by the Cabinet and the Working Group would look at the future leisure provision for the District, not scrutinise the finances of the existing contractor, Officers would perform the due diligence work on the contractor. The amendment would not be accepted, as it was not considered that the Working Group was the appropriate methodology for monitoring the agreement, there were provisions in the Overview and Scrutiny process to scrutinise issues such as this.

Following debate, Councillor Andrews wanted the amendment to stand and a vote was taken:

On being put to the vote, the record of voting was as follows: for 14, against 17, abstention 0, absent 2; 1 Member could not vote due to technical reasons. The vote on the amendment was LOST.

Councillor Forde in seconding the proposals commented that the leisure centres needed to open as soon as possible. She thanked Officers for their work on monitoring the contract and highlighted that the Council was awarded funding for the Museum to be able to reopen, in August last year, it was important for the residents of the District to have the centres reopen. She was hoping that there would be no need to discuss this issue again.

Councillor Every summed up, commenting that this had been a costly exercise for the Council, it was hoped that some Government support would be available and he, too, hoped this would be the last time this issue would be discussed, although it was right thing to do to support the centres, in order for them to re-open.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the financial support package for SLM for April 2021 - July 2021, at a capped total cost of £280,403, be approved;
- (b) the requirement for SLM to pay the Council a monthly management fee of £10,462 for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 July 2021 (total lost income to the Council of £41,848) be waived;
- (c) the financial support package for SLM for November 2020 - March 2021 be adjusted to be capped at a total cost of £291,000 (rather than to be capped on a monthly basis) be approved;
- (d) Council approves a profit share mechanism to recover the support offered to SLM as set out at recommendations a) and b). The Council will be entitled to take a 75% share of profits in excess of the tendered financial submission until the funding is recovered;
- (e) authority to finalise and sign an agreement with SLM confirming the terms upon which this financial package is based, be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council or in his absence with the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing.

Record of Voting – for 32, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 2.

CL.92 Affordable Housing Schemes - Expenditure of S106 Commuted sums

Councillor Spivey introduced the report explaining that affordable housing was one of the Council's key priorities. This proposal would deliver, truly affordable homes for social rent. The money would be spent to provide 15 homes for social rent for local people in Moreton in Marsh and homes in Avening, for shared ownership and social rent. She was also requesting that the Council commit to enhancements to these properties to tackle climate change.

Councillor Coxcoo seconded the proposals commenting that social housing in Moreton in Marsh and Avening was needed, it was regrettable that some green space would be lost in Moreton in Marsh, but was necessary to gain the social housing.

Councillor Morgan, Ward Member for Avening commented that something better could be done to enhance the housing and proposed an amendment to add another recommendation, which read:

'(g) approves new negotiations to commence with the developer to provide enhanced environmental and sustainability "bolt on" items (up to a maximum value of £40,000) for the 14x houses at The Sunground in Avening. The additional environmental bolt on's (like solar panels or rainwater harvesting for example) will be funded directly by Cotswold District Council in line with the Council's priorities and climate emergency declaration and in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness and the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Forward Planning. The additional items should be bolt on extras, and they should not interfere with the existing planning consents or slow down construction of these new homes in any way.'

Councillor Hirst seconded this amendment.

Following debate, Officers confirmed that the recommendations included air source heat pumps, rainwater harvesting and external charging points for electric vehicles. Solar panels could be included and were affordable within the £400,000 allocated.

On this assurance from the Officers which would be recorded in the minutes Councillor Morgan withdrew the amendment, commenting that this would be a unique opportunity for residents of his ward.

Councillor Spivey summed up, commenting that this was an excellent opportunity, which was desperately needed for the District.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the current position on Section 106 commuted sums as shown in Annex A, to the report, be noted;
- (b) the allocation of a capital grant of £478,500 to develop 15 social rented homes in Moreton in Marsh as detailed in paragraph 2.4.4 of the report, be approved. The

award of the capital grant to be included within the Council's capital programme and funded from the Section 106 commuted sums;

- (c) the allocation of a further capital grant of £102,000 to enhance the environmental sustainability of 15 social rented homes in Moreton in Marsh as detailed in paragraph 2.4.5, of the report, be approved. The award of the capital grant to be included within the Council's capital programme and funded from the Section 106 commuted sums;
- (d) the allocation of a capital grant of up to £400,000 to deliver affordable housing at The Sunground, Avening, be approved. The award of the capital grant to be included within the Council's capital programme and funded from the Section 106 commuted sums;
- (e) delegated authority, be granted, to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness to approve the final amount of grant to the Registered Provider for The Sunground, Avening scheme up to £400,000;
- (f) delegated authority, be granted, to the Chief Finance Officer to update the Capital and Treasury Management Strategies accordingly.

Record of Voting – for 31, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 2.

1 Member could not vote due to technical issues.

CL.93 Next meeting - Annual General Meeting - Wednesday 26 May 2021, 2.00pm

The Meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and closed at 9.35 pm

Chair

(END)