



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

4 June 2020

7.00 pm – 8.51 pm

Remote Meeting

Minutes

3

Membership

Councillor Simon Pickering (Chair)	P	Councillor Haydn Jones	P
Councillor George James (Vice-Chair)	P	Councillor Norman Kay	P
Councillor Chris Brine	P	Councillor Skeena Rathor	P
Councillor Paul Denney	P	Councillor Haydn Sutton	A
Councillor Trevor Hall	P	Councillor Jessica Tomblin	A
Councillor Nick Hurst	P	Councillor Tim Williams	P

P = Present A = Absent

Officers in Attendance

Strategic Director of Place	Head of Community Services
Community Services Manager	Senior Neighbourhood Planning Officer
Corporate Policy & Governance Manager	Democratic Services & Elections Officer

The Chair announced a change to the order of the Agenda, the Committee agreed to take Agenda Item 7 after Agenda Item 10.

EC.001 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sutton and Tomblin.

EC.002 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Kay declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 5 and did not take part in the vote for this item.

EC.003 MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2020 are approved as a correct record.

EC.004 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Public questions were submitted. They were answered by the Chair, Councillor Pickering. Supplementary questions were also answered. (Refer to the [recording of the meeting](#)).

EC.005 **HORSLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN: PROGRESS TO REFERENDUM**

The Senior Neighbourhood Planning Officer introduced the above report and stated that a final submission version of the Horsley NDP was submitted on the 12 November 2019, following which the Council carried out a 6-week consultation and arranged for the plan to be independently examined. The examination concluded on the 5 March 2020 with the submission of the examiner's report. The referendum for the Neighbourhood Development Plan would normally need to be carried out within 56 working days, however due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and the new legislation that had been introduced, this could not be carried out until 6 May 2021. The Senior Neighbourhood Planning Officer confirmed that in response to this the Neighbourhood Planning Guidance had been revised so that the plan will carry significant weight in the decision making process following the approval by Committee and the publication of the subsequent decision statement.

Councillor Hurst commended the authors of the plan and asked whether the emerging Local Plan would address dark sky issues. The Strategic Director of Place confirmed that he would consult with the Head of Planning Strategy and provide a written response to the question.

In a response to a question regarding timescales the Senior Neighbourhood Planning Officer advised that they would recommend Neighbourhood Development Plans were revised every 5 years however they could begin reviewing it immediately if they wished.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was carried unanimously.

- RESOLVED**
- a. To accept all recommended modifications of the Examiner's Report (Appendix A);**
 - b. that the Horsley Neighbourhood Development Plan, as modified, meets the basic conditions, is compatible with the Convention rights, complies with the definition of a neighbourhood development plan (NDP) and the provisions that can be made by a NDP;**
 - c. to take all appropriate actions to progress the Horsley Neighbourhood Development Plan to referendum no sooner than May 2021.**

EC.006 **CAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN: PROGRESS TO REFERENDUM**

The Senior Neighbourhood Planning Officer stated that the final submission version of the Cam Neighbourhood Development Plan was received by the Council on 27 November 2019, following which the Council carried out a 6-week consultation and arranged for the plan to be independently examined. The examination concluded on the 20 February 2020 with the submission of the examiner's report. He also confirmed that due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and the new legislation the referendum would be unable to take place until 6 May 2021.

In a response to a question regarding how much weight the Neighbourhood Plan would carry if a referendum is not held until 2021 the Senior Neighbourhood Planning Officer confirmed that if the Committee were to approve the plan then it would hold significant weight and would need to be taken into consideration for planning matters. If the Neighbourhood Plan were to be approved by referendum, then it would hold as much weight as the Local Plan.

Councillor Denney congratulated Cam Parish Council and those who had helped formulate the Cam Neighbourhood Development Plan for the huge amount of work they had put in. He also expressed hope that the Neighbourhood Plan would hold the weight that they believed it should do if it was to be challenged by developers in the future.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was carried unanimously.

- RESOLVED**
- a. **To accept all recommended modifications of the Examiner's Report (Appendix A);**
 - b. **that the Cam Neighbourhood Development Plan, as modified, meets the basic conditions, is compatible with the Convention rights, complies with the definition of a neighbourhood development plan (NDP) and the provisions that can be made by a NDP;**
 - c. **to take all appropriate actions to progress the Cam Neighbourhood Development Plan to referendum no sooner than May 2021.**

EC.007 **PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

Councillors Brine and Sutton were appointed as Performance Monitors.

EC.008 **WORK PROGRAMME**

Councillor Hurst expressed concern about the little amount of time available to discuss the Local Plan. The Chair confirmed that additional informal meetings could be held to discuss the Local Plan before it comes to Environment Committee for a decision.

Councillor Kay asked whether a report on the Glover Review could be included on the Work Programme.

EC.009 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

There were none.

EC.010 **PAPER RECYCLING CONTRACT EXTENSION**

The Chair proposed and it was seconded by Councillor Jones, that should any questions or debate be required regarding the appendix for Agenda Item 7 they would enter a closed session because of the potential for disclosure of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED **That, pursuant to the provisions of Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Appendix 1 detailed at Agenda Item 7 the matter detailed at agenda item 4 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.**

The Community Services Manager introduced the above report. The Community Services Manager advised that the report laid out the financial implications of the resolution but highlighted the impact would depend on the market conditions that continue to fluctuate.

Councillor Denney asked if we could use the waste and recycling reserve to offset any short term losses. The Community Services Manager confirmed that the reserve could be used, he also confirmed that recycling credits were received from the County Council for each tonne of material that is recycled.

Councillor Hurst asked questions regarding the quality of recycle product, the Community Services Manager confirmed that discussions had been had with Palm Paper about the quality of the product and advised that they do all they can to provide a quality product. He also confirmed that they had tried to promote the use of lids on recycling boxes previously but was not sure whether it had much impact on the medium term. Councillor Hurst asked whether the lids could be trialled in a small area such as Minchinhampton to see if there was any considerable impact.

Councillor Jones advised that he had submitted written questions to the Community Services Manager ahead of the Committee meeting, the Community Services Manager confirmed that he would provide a written response to Councillor Jones to answer his questions.

The Chair proposed an amendment to the decision to include the following:

- “b. Request Officers to investigate the headline potential for enlarging the depot at Gossington, or other locations, exploring enhanced sorting and/or storage facilities, beneficial to minimising greenhouse gas emissions. An initial scoping report to be presented to committee in early 2021.
- c. To consider the above report (b) and if appropriate, form a Task and Finish Group to further investigate feasibility”

Councillor Williams seconded the proposed amendment.

The Chair advised that the contract with Ubico had been working very well and this would be an opportunity to look at the different options available to the Council. The Chair also referred to the let's recycle prices to show the potential price increases for sorted recylates.

Councillor Denney stated that this was something that they should look into further and that taking a long term view and looking at maximising revenue from the waste streams would be a good idea. He also asked whether there was sufficient Officer capacity to carry out this work. The Strategic Director of Place advised that this was a key consideration for Officers and it may be that they will need to re-prioritise other pieces of work.

Councillor Jones advised that he was happy to support the amendment however advised it would be good to look at working with other nearby Councils to explore additional possibilities.

On being put to the vote, the amendment and Motion was carried unanimously.

- RESOLVED**
- a. To extend the existing contract for a period of 12 months on the terms set out in this report.**
 - b. Request Officers to investigate the headline potential for enlarging the depot at Gossington, or other locations, exploring enhanced sorting and/or storage facilities, beneficial to minimising greenhouse gas emissions. An initial scoping report to be presented to committee in early 2021.**
 - c. To consider the above report (b) and if appropriate, form a Task and Finish group to further investigate feasibility.**

The meeting ended at 8.51 pm.

Chair