

Chairman - Councillor P M M Farrington

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:-

- F Beatty - Economic Development and Planning Portfolio
- F A Finlay - Environment Portfolio
- J M Pert - Community Portfolio
- R M Smith - Deputy Leader and Leisure Portfolio

Also present:-

Councillors R J Draper, A T A Godfrey, J Hood and J K Price  
Mr N Richardson

Officers in attendance:-

- Mr T Clegg - Chief Executive
- Mrs T Redpath - Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager
- Mr W Conaghan - Press and Communication Manager
- Mr J Dean - Democratic Services Officer

**CAB11 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2018 were submitted and signed.

**CAB12 Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor K S Williamson.

**CAB13 Stone Article 4 Direction**

Considered a report seeking approval of a new Stone Article 4 Direction, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 245 of 3 August 2018.

The Cabinet Member highlighted the proposal as set out in paragraph 2 of the report, to which the Cabinet moved directly to voting on the recommendation.

RESOLVED:- that the proposal of the Cabinet Member - Economic Development and Planning Portfolio be approved as follows:-

that authority to make a new Stone Article 4 Direction, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, be delegated to the Head of Development (including all steps necessary to bring the new Direction into effect from the making of the Direction, consideration of any representations received, confirmation of the Direction where appropriate, and cancellation of the previous Direction).

**CAB14 Final Accounts 2017-18**

Considered a report setting out the final accounts position for 2017/18, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 245 of 3 August 2018.

The Leader of the Council highlighted paragraphs 3.1 - 3.4 of the report, before inviting the Portfolio holders to comment on their individual budgets. He then referred to the proposal as set out in paragraph 2 of the report, to which the Cabinet voted on the recommendations.

RESOLVED:- that the proposals of the Cabinet Member - Resources Portfolio be approved as follows:-

- that:- (a) the final accounts position for the year ending 31 March 2018 be approved, and the figures be referred on to the appropriate Scrutiny Committees for information;
- (b) the financing of the capital programme as outlined in the report be approved.

**THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES.**

**CAB15 Capital Programme**

Considered a report proposing changes to the capital approval and monitoring process as recommended by the Resources Scrutiny Committee, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 245 of 3 August 2018.

The Leader of the Council highlighted the proposal as set out in paragraph 2 of the report, to which the Cabinet moved directly to voting on the recommendation.

RESOLVED:- that the proposal of the Cabinet Member – Resources Portfolio be approved as follows:-

that the proposed changes to the capital approval and monitoring process be approved.

**CAB16 Council Tax and Business Rates Arrears Submitted for Approval to Write-Off – Part Confidential**

Considered a report seeking approval for the writing off of Council Tax and Business Rates arrears, as set out in the confidential appendix of the report, as detailed in Section 2 of Digest No 245 of 3 August 2018.

The Leader of the Council highlighted the proposal as set out in paragraph 2 of the report, to which the Cabinet moved directly to voting on the recommendation.

**RESOLVED:-** that the proposal of the Cabinet Member – Economic Development and Planning Portfolio be approved as follows:-

that the arrears as listed in the Confidential Appendix of the report be written off.

**CAB17 Land at Tilling Drive, Stone - Part Confidential**

Considered a report seeking approval to proceed with the sale of a part of the Council owned land at Tilling Drive, Stone, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 245 of 3 August 2018.

The Leader of the Council confirmed that following legal advice, the press and public would be allowed to remain in the meeting whilst the following item was being discussed on the understanding that no confidential items were referred to.

The Leader of the Council then invited Mr N Richardson to address the Cabinet, during which he made the following points:-

- Concern that the Council was eroding green space in Stone
- The new sports Centre and swimming pool were welcomed
- Concern at the sale of other facilities to pay for the development
- Tilling Drive was currently an oasis of calm
- Suggested the Council could defer the sale part of the land at Tilling Drive until the outcome of the Stone Neighbourhood Plan was known
- Believed that the decision to sell part of the land had already been made and there should be further scrutiny
- The people of Stone had been misled
- Representation had been made to the Member of Parliament
- The outcome of public consultation had not been published
- Urged Cabinet not to sell the land
- Suggested other funding streams could be available in the future

The Cabinet discussed the proposal and raised a number of issues, including:-

- Acknowledged the concerns of Mr Richardson
- In addressing comments that the Borough Council had forced extra housing development on Stone, it was pointed out that the new housing had to be in accordance with the local plan which had been consulted on widely before adoption
- The opposition to various Leisure developments in Stone over recent years was discussed as was the huge support for them from the general public once provided
- Alleyne's Pool was in urgent need of repair and was coming to the end of its life and the Borough Council has stepped in to keep the pool open in the interim
- Only heard evidence of those against the proposals and not from those who supported them
- Although green space was important in Stone, so were improvements to the facilities on offer and a balance had to be made
- The Council were investing £9.6m in leisure facilities in Stone and it was disappointing that this was not being recognised
- The proposal would be beneficial to Stone
- All matters had been taken into account in the preparation of these proposals
- The proposals were fundamentally linked to the Council's Corporate Business Plan
- It was important to promote sustainable economic growth and invest in new facilities that were important to local people
- A significant amount of the Council's corporate investment was located in Stone
- Clarification of the objections received and the key reasons for the recommendation
- Concern that confidential aspects of the report had been disclosed in the public domain and the need for all Councillors to follow the Members Code of Conduct
- Confirmation that the requirements of Section 123 2(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, which stated that "A principal council may not dispose under subsection (1) above of any land consisting or forming part of an open space unless before disposing of the land they cause notice of their intention to do so, specifying the land in question, to be advertised in two consecutive weeks in a newspaper circulating in the area in which the land is situated, and consider any objections to the proposed disposal which may be made to them" had been met
- Confirmation that there were no proposals to build any houses, supermarkets or any car parks on the land

Mr N Richardson was then invited to sum up his representations following which the Cabinet voted on the recommendation.

RESOLVED:- that the proposals of the Cabinet Member - Economic Development and Planning Portfolio be approved as follows:-

that the sale of a part of the Council owned land at Tilling Drive, Stone (as identified on the enclosed plan at Appendix 1 of the report) based on the most appropriate bid made be agreed. The capital receipt should be ring-fenced to Phase 2 of the Stone Leisure Strategy which will deliver new and improved play and football facilities at Tilling Drive and Westbridge Park, Stone.

*Recording of the meeting was suspended at this time.*

**CAB18 Exclusion of Press and Public**

RESOLVED:- that pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting whilst the next following item of business be discussed, on the grounds that it includes the disclosure of exempt information of the type specified in paragraph 7 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

**CAB19 Land at Parkside – Confidential**

Considered a confidential report regarding land at Parkside, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 245 of 3 August 2018.

RESOLVED:- that the proposal of the Cabinet Member – Environment and Health Portfolio, as set out in paragraph 2 of the Confidential Report be approved.

CHAIRMAN