

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Economic Development Portfolio Holder's Meeting held on
Wednesday, 10 December 2014 at 2.00 p.m.

Portfolio Holder: Nick Wright

Councillors in attendance:

Opposition spokesmen: Tumi Hawkins and Bridget Smith

Also in attendance: Anna Bradnam, Lynda Harford and Hazel Smith

Officers:

Nicole Kritzinger

Jo Mills

Ian Senior

Development Officer

Planning and New Communities Director

Democratic Services Officer

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor James Hockney (a Member for Waterbeach) declared a non-pecuniary interest as Chairman of the Working Group tasked with developing a business plan for securing a sustainable future for the Tithe in Landbeach (Minute 3 refers).

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder signed, as a correct record, the Minutes of the Economic Development Portfolio Holder meeting held on 10 September 2014.

3. HERITAGE GUARDIANSHIP SITES: LANDBEACH TITHE BARN

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder considered a report updating him about the future of Landbeach Tithe Barn

Councillor James Hockney (a local Member) summarised the steps being taken to establish a Board of Trustees, and a Friends Group specific to the Barn. Development of a Business Plan was underway, and a number of funding streams were being pursued. Councillor Hockney referred to the Barn as unique and special, and said a number of uses were being considered. The Portfolio Holder reminded him that a surveyor's report as to the Tithe Barn's state of repair was needed as a matter of urgency.

Those present welcomed the progress made to date, and discussed a number of opportunities that the Barn might offer.

The Portfolio Holder stressed the essential nature of a surveyor's report, and importance of having a solid core of Trustees.

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder

- (a) **Noted** the progress that had been made regarding the future of Landbeach Tithe Barn, including development of an outline Business Plan;
- (b) **Agreed** further work; in association with local Members and other interested parties, to develop a robust proposal to enable the Council to lease the Barn to a local trust to be set up to restore and maintain the Barn; and

- (c) **Instructed** officers to present a further report to the Economic Development Portfolio Holder meeting in March 2015.

4. **COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID: INTERNAL REVIEW PROCEDURE**

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder considered a report seeking his agreement to amend the South Cambridgeshire District Council Community Right to Bid Internal Review procedure.

The Portfolio Holder was pleased to see clarification as to an owner's right to compensation.

Those present discussed the new process, including options for internal review, judicial review and first tier tribunal hearings.

The Portfolio Holder said that the key issue for consideration was that of change of use.

Those present noted the risks involved; they said it would be useful to see some case studies.

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder **adopted** the proposed new procedure for Internal Reviews (Appendix A of the report), which continues to conform with the regulations, in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's Community Right to Bid: Non-statutory advice note for local authorities (Part 5 Chapter 3 of the Localism Act 2011 and the Assets of Community Regulations 2012).

5. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS REPORT AND SERVICE PLAN PRIORITIES**

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder **considered** a report containing an update on progress with Economic Development actions.

Those present discussed a number of issues arising from the report.

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder

- (d) **Noted** progress;
- (e) **Endorsed** the Service Plan priorities for 2015-16;
- (f) **Endorsed** a tapered reduction to £15,000 over the next three years of grant to Visit Cambridge for tourism services, and transfer of savings to other Economic Development projects for 2015-16; and
- (g) **Instructed** officers to invite a representative of the Destination Digital project to attend the Economic Development Portfolio Holder meeting in March 2015 in order to clarify progress and timescales.

6. **ARTICLE 4 DIRECTIONS AND PUBLIC HOUSES: PROPOSAL FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder considered a report seeking his views as to whether to hold a consultation on adopting the use of Article 4 directions to require planning permission prior to demolition and / or change of use of a select number of public houses in the district and, if so, his agreement of a format and timetable for consultation.

Those present considered the question of risk, and the Planning Team Leader (West) said it should be easier to assess this once the consultation was complete.

The Portfolio Holder accepted that there was no question of preserving pubs in perpetuity, but that the new process, if adopted, would enable Planning Committee to regulate the situation.

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder **agreed** the format and text upon which the public should be consulted (subject to minor amendments as required) and **approved** the programme for consultation.

7. GYPSY & TRAVELLER ISSUES UPDATE

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder **received and noted** a report about the range of issues and actions relating to the Council's services in relation to Gypsy and Traveller community in the District.

Those present noted the proposed creation of two new posts, as outlined in paragraph 9 of the report from the Planning and New Communities Director.

Some thought should be given to establishing a Travellers Consultation Group.

8. WORK PROGRAMME

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder **received and noted** the Work Programme attached to the agenda. He asked that, at each meeting, he should receive updates about Economic Development, and Gypsies and Travellers.

The Portfolio Holder requested that a report on the Right to Bid be presented to his meeting in March 2015.

9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

Those present noted that the next Economic Development Portfolio Holder meeting was on Wednesday 11 March 2015

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder agreed the following future meetings, all at 2.00pm:

- Wednesday 10 June 2015
- Wednesday 9 September 2015
- Wednesday 9 December 2015
- Wednesday 9 March 2016

The Meeting ended at 3.55 p.m.
