



Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

8 April 2015

-: Present :-

Councillor Thomas (J) (Chairman)

Councillors Addis, Bent, Darling (Vice-Chair), Davies, Pountney, Stockman and Tyerman

(Also in attendance: The Mayor and Councillors Cowell and Mills)

55. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Kingscote.

It was reported that, in accordance with the wishes of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups, the membership of the Board had been amended to include Councillors Addis and Pountney in place of Councillors Hernandez and Pentney, respectively.

56. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the Board held on 18 and 24 February and 23 March 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

57. Chairman's Announcement

Given the impending Local Elections, the Chairman wished to place on record his thanks for the hard work and support of all Members of the Council who had been involved with the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Board over the last four years.

58. Oddicombe and Meadfoot Beach Huts

The Monitoring Officer presented her report on her investigation into the governance of the decision making in connection with Oddicombe and Meadfoot beaches which had been requested at the meeting of the Council held on 26 February 2015.

The report concluded that in respect of the projects at both Meadfoot and Oddicombe beaches, it was clear that the appropriate governance procedures had not been followed given that prudential borrowing is a matter for Council to consider and this did not happen in either case before the monies (or additional monies) were spent. The officers involved had fully accepted and apologised for their errors which it was felt were genuine human errors.

The Executive Heads for Residents and Visitors Services and Tor Bay Harbour Authority also attended the meeting and answered the Board's questions.

The Board highlighted that, whilst the Monitoring Officer's recommendation was that a review of Standing Orders be undertaken with a view the incorporating additional safeguards, the report did not explain the current mechanisms for ensuring correct governance in respect of the Capital Plan and so the Board was unable to offer views on how to prevent such an issue arising again.

Resolved: (i) that the Monitoring Officer's report be accepted as an interim report;

(ii) that the Monitoring Officer undertake a review of Standing Orders in respect of the Capital Budget with a view to incorporating additional safeguards to ensure the good governance of the same and the proposals be discussed with the Mayor and Group Leaders following the Local Elections; and

(iii) that the Monitoring Officer report back to the Overview and Scrutiny Board following her review of Standing Orders with her proposals for any additional safeguards.

59. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report

Resolved: that the Overview and Scrutiny Board's Annual Report be adopted and forwarded to the Annual Meeting of the Council for consideration.

Chairman
