

EXECUTIVE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

THURSDAY, 12 JULY 2018

Councillors Present: Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Hilary Cole, Graham Jones and Rick Jones

Also Present: John Ashworth (Corporate Director - Environment), Nick Carter (Chief Executive), Sarah Clarke (Acting Head of Legal Services), Martin Dunscombe (Communications Manager), Ian Pearson (Head of Education Service), Stephen Chard (Principal Policy Officer), Councillor Lee Dillon, Councillor Mollie Lock, Councillor Alan Macro and Councillor Quentin Webb

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting: Councillor Anthony Chadley, Councillor Jeanette Clifford, Councillor Lynne Doherty, Councillor Marcus Franks and Councillor James Fredrickson

PART I

22. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Alan Macro declared an interest in Agenda Items 4 and 5 by virtue of the fact that he was a Governor of Theale Primary School, which was a sponsor of Highwood Copse School. However, he reported that, as his interest was a personal or an other registrable interest, but not a disclosable pecuniary interest, he determined to remain to take part in the debate.

23. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the under-mentioned item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as contained in Paragraphs 1, 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006. Rule 8.10.4 of the Constitution also refers.

24. Highwood Copse School and A339 Link Road

(Paragraph 1 – information relating to an individual)

(Paragraph 3 – information relating to financial/business affairs of particular person)

(Paragraph 5 – information relating to legal privilege)

The Executive considered an exempt report (Agenda Item 4) concerning the proposed development of Highwood Copse School and the provision of a new access and link road from the A339 through to the strategic housing site at Sandleford ('the Access Road').

RESOLVED that the recommendations in the exempt report be noted.

Reason for the decision: as set out in the exempt report.

Other options considered: as set out in the exempt report.

25. Highwood Copse School and A339 Link Road

The Executive considered the report (Agenda Item 5) which sought delegated authority to exchange a Development Agreement which would secure the delivery of Highwood Copse School ('the School') and a new access and link road from the A339 through to the strategic housing site at Sandleford ('the Access Road').

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Councillor Hilary Cole proposed acceptance of the report's recommendations following the Part II debate. This was seconded by Councillor Graham Jones.

Councillor Alan Macro noted from the report that the blame for the difficulties and delays encountered with this development, culminating in the need for this last minute deadline, was clearly placed with Newbury College. However, he understood that the Council Officers responsible for projects were currently stretched in seeking to deliver a number of projects which included the London Road Industrial Estate and the Market Street redevelopment. He therefore queried whether the Council had sufficient capacity to also undertake this development of Highwood Copse School and the new access and link road.

Councillor Graham Jones confirmed that the necessary capacity was in place. He added that the view of the Administration was that it was very important that this project proceeded in order to achieve the public benefit that had been identified.

RESOLVED that following the completion of a Section 38 Agreement which provided for the Access Road to be dedicated as public highway on the issue of a certificate of practical completion, and the completion of the transfer to the Council of the small parcel of land next to the A339 ("the Highway Land") the Executive would delegate to the Corporate Director for Economy and Environment in consultation with the Head of Legal Services and the Head of Finance and Property:

- (a) authority to simultaneously exchange the Development Agreement in an approved form with Newbury College to secure delivery of Highwood Copse School and associated temporary access road, together with the link road from the A339 to the strategic housing site at Sandleford; and
- (b) if the agreement was not exchanged by 4pm on Monday 16th July 2018, authority would be delegated to immediately cease further negotiations with Newbury College for the delivery of Highwood Copse School and the A339 access and link road.

Other options considered:

- Continue with negotiations and set a new timescale so that the delivery of Highwood Copse School moves by a further year to September 2020.
- Cease negotiations with Newbury College and not progress with the delivery of Highwood Copse School or the A339 access and link road.

(The meeting commenced at 5.00pm and closed at 5.10pm)

CHAIRMAN

Date of Signature