

NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, NORDON, SALISBURY ROAD, BLANDFORD FORUM ON WEDNESDAY, 28 JUNE 2006 AT 11.30 AM

Present: Cllr I Stewart (Chairman)
Cllr C Kay
Cllr D Milsted
Cllr J P L Tory (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr P Webb

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Milsted declared a personal interest in respect of being a director of the Blackmore Vale Tourism and Development Company Ltd.

Cllr Stewart declared a personal interest as a member of the Gillingham Community and Leisure Facilities Project Board.

17. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9 JUNE 2006

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2006 were signed as a correct record.

18. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2005/2006

The Section 151 Officer presented the Statement of Accounts 2005/06 to the Committee for approval, as required by the Accounting and Audit Regulations 2003. He also presented a summary statement of accounts, which although not a mandatory document, would be published to aid public understanding of the Council's finances. The final format had yet to be agreed and the views of the Committee were sought.

It was noted that the style of presentation of the Statement of Accounts would change next year as it was a Government intention for all public bodies' accounts to conform to a recommended national practice. The accounts would in future be prepared on an income/expenditure basis rather than on a consolidated revenue basis as at present.

The Section 151 Officer and his staff were congratulated on the early completion of the accounts, by 31 May. The new financial management system had helped and should allow even earlier closure of accounts next year.

Members examined the Statement and a revised Statement of Internal Control (circulated at the meeting), and asked questions of detail. They also asked the Section 151 Officer:

- To investigate the variations in the housing strategy budget in relation to Government grants. This might be pursued by Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- To consider the inclusion of depreciation and capital charges in the capital expenditure budget.
- With the Portfolio Holder, to examine the position of the Gold Hill Fund and amenity areas fund with a view to removing them from the accounts.
- To circulate a copy of the Actuary's report on the Pension Fund to Members.

It was also noted that:

- The variation in Council Tax budget was due to the tax being set on a defined number of properties. Change could occur during the year as properties were built and occupied, or if arrears were collected.
- Some income had been derived from the new duties relating to the Licensing Act but these were not sufficient to meet the additional costs.
- The future of the Wincombe Centre would be among the issues that would be examined by the Tough Choices Group.

Resolved

To approve the Statement of Accounts for 2005/06 and note the Summary Statement of Accounts.

Reason for Decision

The Accounting and Audit Regulations 2003 require the Council to approve a Statement of Accounts for 2005/06 by 30 June 2006.

The meeting ended at 12.45 pm.

CHAIRMAN