

Polegate Town Council, Council Office, 49 High Street,
Polegate BN26 6AL

Telephone: 01323 488114

Town Clerk Jo Tricker: admin@polegatetowncouncil.gov.uk

Town mayor Cllr Dan Dunbar:
cllr.d.dunbar@polegatetowncouncil.gov.uk



Minutes of Meeting of the **Buildings and Land** held on **17th October 2025 in Council Chamber, 49 High Street, Polegate, BN26 6AL at 10:00am.**

PRESENT: Councillors D Murray, D Watts, D Dunbar, A Wood, J Keen, J Heward, G Archer, S Shing **(8)**

NOT PRESENT: Councillor M Piper **(1)**

3 members of the public present

MINUTES

13930 Item 1: Opportunity for Public Comment for items on the agenda

None

13931 Item 2: Apologies for absence

Apologies from Cllr Mrs M Piper

13932 Item 3: Declarations of interest

Library CIC Directors in Item 5 non-prejudicial

13933 Item 4: Motion to replace the broken Air Conditioning/ heating units in the 2 offices in 49 High Street

It was resolved to select Company 3 Bourne Air Conditioning £4230.00 to replace the broken Air Conditioning/ heating units in the 2 offices in 49 High Street. VOTE all in favour.

13934 Item 5: Polegate Community Library

Item 5a. Motion to install Air Sourced Heat Pump in 51 High Street (Polegate Community Library) replacing broken storage heaters.

It was resolved to select for Company 1 – Aspen at the price of £2,785 to install Air Sourced Heat Pump in 51 High Street (Polegate Community Library) replacing broken storage heaters. VOTE all in favour.

Item 5b. Motion to select a Contractor for the Accessibility ramp and doorway for 51 High Street

It was resolved to select with Company 1 – Booker Best to install the Accessibility and doorway for 51 High Street at £10,278.84. VOTE all in favour.

Item 5c. Motion to select a contractor for 51 High Street refurbishments for it to be converted into a library

It was resolved to go with Company 3 CTEC for the refurbishments for 51 High street at £14,845.00. VOTE all in favour.

Item 5d. Motion to select a supplier for the storage container for the library

It was resolved to defer this item until members had viewed the approx. location marked on the car park. VOTE 7 for 1 abstention Cllr J Keen.

A Wood left at 11:06am

S Shing left at 11:16am

13935 Item 6: Confidential

Buildings and Land Committee to consider pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 whether the public and press should be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reasons of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. (Crime and investigations)

It was resolved to go into Confidential. VOTE all in favour.

13936 Item 7: Motion to upgrade the High Street Police-controlled CCTV cameras (2) to be funded from general reserves - 2 No 4-way Multisensors £4,223.52

It was resolved to defer this item to get a new quote to have a 2-way camera at the Doctors Surgery and a 4-way camera down the high street. VOTE all in favour to defer.

The meeting closed at 11:30am

Signed Chair of Meeting _____ Date _____

POLEGATE



Report from the Friends of Jubilee Nature Reserve Council Representative Cllr J Heward:

With regret, I am submitting this email as a motion to move the responsibility of progressing the Nature reserve to the management of the council.

This decision does not come lightly. I have witnessed many good volunteers offering their time and energy to the cause over the past year or so that I have been liaison. However, I feel there are several deficiencies in the ongoing structure and management of the friends group.

I have witnessed discord within the committee from the first meeting I attended through to the current day. That's not to say everyone must see things the same, however there must always be compromise and a path forward. With tangible action on the intended plans created.

Unfortunately, we are 3 years plus into this project and the progress in terms of access to the site. Both in physical areas to sit and ability to walk around the site, plus the time available to the public to visit, is just not sufficient. With no real signs of this improving significantly in the near to medium term.

There is still a significant part of the committee looking to install a pond. However, there are question marks over the budget and value in adding one to the site. Plus, disagreement with the ongoing cost of maintenance both physically and financially. These concerns continue to be discussed at each friend's committee meeting. There are concerns over general insurance costs to open the site. There are concerns over the time the site is open and the perceived need to escort everyone that visits.

With the recent change of chair and other committee members, I was hoping there would be a change in dynamic with a more engaging and coherent approach to making things happen. With the overall goal of ensuring the site can be enjoyed by more Polegate residents. I fear after the last committee meeting we are not going to achieve this with the current approach to the Nature Reserve.

I propose the council takes the lead with a working group and continues to engage with volunteers to help ensure a vision for the site is achieved.

My thoughts (and I know this is the common goal of the council) is to make the site an accessible site with congregation space and seating. Pathways to ensure access to all. Educational so that visitors can learn about Sussex nature and wildlife when visiting. Facilities for children and adults alike to experience growing plants etc. and help encourage the residents of Polegate and surrounding communities to contribute positively to their natural surroundings.

Therefore, I submit this motion for the council to take responsibility of the management of the reserve through a working group. To work with 3rd parties and engage with volunteers to achieve the collective vision.