

UNADOPTED

POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 10th December 2007 in the Council Chamber, 49 High Street, Polegate at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllr. J. Rogers (Mayor), Mrs C. Berry, G. Carter, M. Cunningham, J. Harmer, Mrs D. Joy, R. Martin, Mrs M. Piper, S. Shing, Mrs J. Voyce, T. Voyce, A. Watkins and T. Wright

5 members of the public, 1 member of the press

In attendance: Caroline Mack, Chief Executive of Wealden Citizen's Advice Bureau
PCSO Matt Neve, Sussex Police

7796 Apologies

Cllr. S. Barber, Mrs J. Bigsby

7797 Declarations of interest

None Given

7798 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12 November 2007

Cllr. A. Watkins asked for a correction to the minutes which stated that he had declared a 'personal and prejudicial interest' in item 9 on the agenda. He had actually declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest'. With the exception of this amendment the minutes were approved and the Mayor was authorised to sign them as a true record.

7799 Matters arising from the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12 November 2007

Minute 7768 (d) - Cllr. T. Voyce asked whether a letter had been sent to G Worcester and Son regarding the issue of parking in Junction Street. The clerk advised that an acknowledgement would be sent.

7800 Notification of any items to be dealt with as urgent

There were none

7801 In order to allow the public opportunity for comment it was resolved to suspend standing orders.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED

A member of the public spoke regarding the proposed closure of the Post Office in Farmlands Way and urged councillors to support the petition to keep it open.

The member of the public then spoke regarding the issue of the allegation of racial prejudice concerning members of the council and urged councillors to resolve the issue as soon as possible.

A member of Polegate Neighbourhood Watch then voiced support for the proposal to introduce a No Cold Calling Zone in Polegate.

The Mayor thanked members of the public for their comments.

7802 Citizens Advice Bureau

Caroline Mack, Chief Executive of Wealden Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) was invited to address council. She outlined the work of the Wealden CAB and explained the various services that are offered by the organisation in support of the public. She also mentioned several new services that the bureau has introduced including help with disability living allowance claims and support for those looking to get back into work.

In response to a question she advised that over 8,000 clients across Wealden had accessed the bureau's services in the past year.

The Mayor thanked Mrs Mack for her presentation.

7803 PCSO Report

PCSO Matt Neve of the Sussex Police was invited to address council. PCSO Neve gave a verbal report of the latest crime figures which have remained steady over the past few months.

The Mayor thanked PCSO Neve for his report.

STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED

7804 Correspondence – Item 19 (d)

The Mayor asked that item 19 (d) be brought forward on the agenda so that members of Polegate Town Football Club could hear council's decision. It had been agreed at the meeting of council held on 22 January 2007 (Minute no. 7420 (b)) that a decision as to which team could use the pitch for the 2008/2009 season would be reviewed in January 2008 with council hearing presentations from any interested teams. Polegate Town FC had written to request the opportunity to present their case and it was therefore resolved to invite members of Polegate Town Football Club to the meeting of council to be held on 14 January 2008. It was further resolved that the invitation to present their case should also be extended to Willingdon AFC.

7805 Minute number 7716 – Statement from Cllr. J. Harmer

The Mayor invited Cllr. Harmer to comment on the statement that he had prepared concerning an allegation of racial prejudice made by Cllr. S. Shing at the special meeting of council held on 20th August 2007. Cllr. Harmer felt that as the allegation was serious it should be recorded and some action taken as a result. It was resolved that a letter be sent to Cllr. S. Shing asking whether he wished the allegation of racial prejudice to be formally investigated and if not whether he was prepared to withdraw the remark.

7806 Report from District Councillors

The Mayor invited district Councillor Don Broadbent to the table who gave an update on the progress of the LDF consultation. He explained that the consultation process was proceeding with recommendations going to cabinet on the 10th December. The question of the independent consultation submissions was discussed. It was not known whether these 746 submissions had been accepted as they were not in the form required by Wealden District Council. Concern was expressed that the views of the residents who had taken the trouble to submit such forms would go unheeded by Wealden. Cllr. S Shing explained that the independent group would be seeking legal advice if Wealden District Council chose to ignore the submissions.

Cllr. Mrs O. Shing was unable to attend the meeting but had submitted a report which had been circulated to members. At the request of the Mayor the Town Clerk read the report aloud so that members of the public could have the opportunity to hear Cllr. Mrs O. Shing's report.

Cllr. S. Shing left the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

7807 Updates from Standing committees and working groups

Youth Group

Council considered the report of the Youth Working Group the contents of which were noted. It was resolved that Cllr Mrs J. Bigsby be given authority to pursue other avenues of funding for an additional Youth Worker. It was also resolved that following minor amendments, Cllr. Mrs J. Bigsby's letter and questionnaire concerning the community shelter should be circulated to residents in the vicinity of Wannock Road recreation ground.

Polegate Partnership

The Mayor gave a brief verbal update on the meeting with Claire Moran to agree the headings for inclusion in the Market Towns Brochure. It was suggested that a representative of the business community in Polegate should be co-opted to the group. The Mayor also reported that he had been in touch with an artist who seems keen to discuss the possibility of producing a Town Map for Polegate.

Buildings Working Group

The report of the Buildings Working Group was considered. It was resolved:
a) To accept the quote of £799 for the razor wire and to proceed with the installation.

b) To accept the quote of £500 from Pyrotec for the completion of Fire Risk Assessments at Wannock Road Pavilion and at the Council Chamber.

Parking Working Group

Cllr. T. Voyce gave a brief update of the meeting held on the 22nd November. It was resolved to write to ESCC to urge them to expedite the Parking Review that had been submitted for their consideration.

7808 Adoption of minutes from standing committees:

It was resolved to adopt the following minutes:

- Planning of 20th November 2007
- Personnel of 19th November 2007
- Finance of 27th November 2007

7809 Budget 2008/2009

The chair of Finance gave an update of the Budget meeting held on 27th November and presented the proposed budget for 2008/2009 and the precept figure for the corresponding period. It was resolved to accept the budget for 2008/2009 as presented and to set the precept figure for 2008/2009 at £225,000. Cllr. Mrs C. Berry accepted the budget for 2008/2009 but expressed the opinion that the precept figure was too high. It was further resolved that a newsletter be produced in the new year to explain the rationale behind the budget proposals for 2008/2009.

7810 Number 51 Bus service

The Town Clerk had attended a meeting at Hailsham Town Council at which the Chief Executive of Eastbourne Buses was to provide an update on the funding situation with regard to the 51 bus. Unfortunately the Chief Executive had been unable to attend therefore the funding situation remained unclear. What is clear is that Wealden District Council has offered temporary funding of £12,000 to keep the service operable for the time being which would negate the need for local councils to provide their own contributions. Wealden District Council has yet to receive a response from Eastbourne buses regarding their funding offer.

7811 Financial Update

The monthly financial update was presented and approved. The list of accounts for payment was approved.

7812 Town Clerks Report

The Town Clerks report was approved.

7813 Communications from the Town Mayor

There were none.

7814 No Cold Calling Zones

Council considered the report on No Cold Calling Zones which had previously been circulated. It was resolved that Cllr. Mrs. J. Bigsby be authorised to bring the process to fruition in conjunction with Eastbourne Trading Standards.

7815 Correspondence

- c) Sussex Police – CCTV Workshop – Cllr. G. Carter will attend with the Town Clerk
- d) Wealden District Council – Report of remuneration panel – It was resolved to write to Wealden District Council to suggest that the constitution of the remuneration panel should include a Town Councillor or failing that, that a Town Council should be consulted prior to any recommendations being made.
- g) Wealden District Council – Local Development Framework Preferred Options proposals - meeting with WDC– It was resolved that a meeting be arranged in January to provide an opportunity for council to hear the proposals at first hand. It was further resolved that this meeting be held on the same day as the planned meeting with Crest Nicholson.

7816 Post Office Closures

It was resolved that council should write a letter in support of the campaign to keep Farmlands Way post office from closure.

7817 Date of the next cycle of meetings

Full Council - Monday 14 January 2007 at 7:30 pm

Planning - Tuesday 18 December 2007 at 7:30 pm

Personnel – As and when required

Finance – As and when required

7818 Resolution to take business into confidential session

It was resolved that due to the confidential nature of the next business to be transacted the press and public be excluded from the rest of the meeting.