

UNADOPTED

POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 10th March 2008 in the Council Chamber, 49 High Street, Polegate at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllr. J. Rogers (Mayor), S. Barber, Mrs C. Berry, Mrs J Bigsby, 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

3 members of the public, 1 member of the press

In attendance: PCSO Jamie Harwood and Michael Easton, Sussex Police

7919 Apologies

None

7920 Declarations of interest

Cllr M Cunningham declared a pecuniary and prejudicial interest in Item 20 Administrative matters.

7921 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11th February 2008

The minutes were approved as a true record and the Mayor was authorised to sign them with the following amendment proposed by Cllr Mrs J Bigsby inserted into Minutes 7872

'Cllr Mrs J Bigsby explained that the population survey was based on those houses in the immediate vicinity of the Wannock Road recreation ground and this had included nos.1 – 9 Bernhard Gardens which had deemed to be immediately audible and visible from the recreation ground.'

Members agreed that the minutes would be so amended.

7922 Matters arising from the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11th February 2008

Minute 7873 – Cllr T Voyce asked for a further explanation on the district group 'clusters' system. Cllr G Carter explained that this had been put forward by the Wealden District Association of Local Council in conjunction with Wealden District Council and a planning panel had been set up to discuss planning issues with officers of the District and then cascade back to the parishes within that 'cluster', however Polegate as a town was not represented on the panel. Cllr T Voyce felt that this was something that should be rectified. The Acting Clerk thought that the town councils were not in a 'cluster' but were able to represent themselves on the planning panel. Clarification on this point would be sort.

Minute 7877 – Cllr Mrs J Voyce sort assurance form the Acting Clerk that the order for the summer bedding plants had been placed. The Acting Clerk would verify this action had taken place.

7923 Notification of any items to be dealt with as urgent

There were none

7924 In order to allow the public opportunity for comment it was resolved to suspend standing orders.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED

A member of the public provided members with a detailed paper presentation of his concerns about the recent installation of razor wire around the council's lock-up store in Wannock Road.

The Mayor thanked the member of the public for his comments.

STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED

7925 It was resolved to suspend standing orders to allow the PCSO Jamie Harwood an opportunity to address the council

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED

PCSO Report

PCSO Jamie Harwood gave members a comprehensive report on the following matters of interest:-

- Polegate Crime Figures
- Speedwatch – Cllr Mrs C Berry asked if this could be extended to areas of the High Street especially next to the level crossing – PCSO Harwood informed members that he would seek advice from traffic and have this area Health & Safety checked so that it could be included in the database.
Cllr R Martin expressed concerns over a slip road on the Hailsham Road which was being used by motorists to try and avoid the queues and they were travelling at speed. PCSO Harwood said that the Speed gun could be used in either direction and motorists if found to be exceeding the limits could be warned using the slip road in this fashion.
- Parking Issues – Cllr Mrs C Berry asked for assurances that all areas Within the Town Centre were being checked – PCSO Harwood commented that it is sometimes difficult to police the 2 hour zones because of the time restraints this places on officers' time. Cllr Mrs D Joy reported that Station Road especially on the verges was extremely bad. Unfortunately unless there are double yellow lines on the highway parking on verges is a highway matter.

- Oakleaf Play Park
- What the Police do when stopping youths

PSCO Jamie Harwood informed members that he was compiling facts and Figures on Youth crime for the Wannock Road Recreation Ground and surrounding area in order to gain evidence for Cllr Mrs J Bigsby and the proposed youth shelter.

A full copy of his report is on file in the Council Office.

The Mayor and Cllr J Harmer thanked PCSO Harwood for his report.

7926 a) Community Shelter

Cllr. Mrs J. Bigsby informed members that following the previous consultation herself in conjunction with PSCO Jamie Harwood had agreed to hold a meeting on 1st March 2008 at the Wannock Road Recreation Ground Pavilion. Cllr Mrs J Bigsby invited those 8 residents who had objected in the original consultation to air their views and seek reassurance. Mr Catchpole of Bernhard Gardens Residents Association had notified many residents in the area of this proposed meeting so it was very well attended. Residents expressed many concerns over the youth being encouraged to return to the Wannock Road area and the public opinion that this brought problems with alcohol, drugs and noise. Cllr Mrs J Bigsby did offer the meeting that the shelter could be in place for a trial period of six months and then the project could be re-evaluated. The meeting did take a vote on the proposed venture which was 35 against: 5 in favour and 1 abstention. Since the meeting Mr Catchpole had written to Cllr T Wright – who had taken notes of the meeting – thanking him for these notes however Mr Catchpole appeared to still be very happy with the proposed shelter and its siting.

Cllr Mrs M Piper had attended the meeting and she informed Council that previously there had been trouble with youths in the area and criminal damage especially in the woods which are protected. She was however in favour of a six month trial for the shelter.

It was resolved that proposed community shelter be referred by to the Youth Working Group for further consideration.

The Acting Clerk is to acknowledge Mr Catchpole's letter and inform him of the Council's decision to refer the community shelter back to the Youth Group.

b) Proposed multi use games area (MUGA) at Polegate Primary School

Cllr J Rogers updated Council on the proposal for a MUGA to be installed at Polegate Primary School in partnership with the Parish Council. Cllr T Voyce was concerned that a financial assessment of the project had not as yet been undertaken and the possible implications of this assessment on the Council. Taken these concerns into consideration

It was resolved that proposed MUGA be referred by to the Youth Working Group

7927 Update from Standing Committees and Working Groups

Leisure Allotments and General Purposes

Council considered the report of the Leisure, Allotments and General Purpose working group which had met on 27th February with representatives from Polegate Football Club and the contents had been noted. Cllr T Voyce felt that Item 3) should read that the group does not have a problem in principle with most of what is being proposed by the Football Club rather than what is being proposed.

Council is awaiting the proposals in writing.

7928 Adoption of Minutes from Standing Committees

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the following committees:-

Planning Committee held on 12th February 2008.

Special Council of 21 February 2008

The minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 4 March and the Finance Committee on 5 March were deferred to allow Council more time to study them.

7929 Financial Update

a) Council considered the schedules of Accounts for Payment In response to a question regarding the apparent increase cost from Zurich Insurance for the engineer's report – the Acting Clerk said she would look at this and inform Council at the next meeting Council approved the list of accounts for payment.

b) Monthly Financial Update

This is to be circulated at a later date.

7930 Town Clerk's Report (Clive Wormald)

The contents of the Town Clerk's report were noted. The Action List is to be updated at the earliest opportunity by the Acting Clerk to include updates on letters sent and responses received.

7931 Oakleaf Play Area

Council felt that this had been covered comprehensively by PSCO Jamie Harwood in his report to Council.

7932 Cophall Roundabout Traffic Lights

Cllr R Martin spoke to Council on the lights and their implications for traffic
It was resolved that the Acting Clerk should write to the Highways Agency, East Sussex County Council and Norman Baker MP asking that these traffic Lights be removed and the pedestrian crossing be moved 100 metres south Towards the Lewes Road.

14 in favour, 1 abstention, motion carried.

7933 Eastbourne. Hailsham, Polegate Triangle

Cllr T Voyce asked Cllr R Martin who is a member of the District Councillors Group who report to the Wealden District Council Cabinet on this subject for Further information regarding the implications of this initiative on Polegate. Cllr T Voyce wanted to know in which capacity Cllr R Martin was acting in For Polegate Town Council, residents or himself when he spoke at these Meetings. Cllr R Martin reported to Council on how the history of this initiative and its progress so far. He provided Council with minutes from meetings which were noted.

It was resolved that the Clerk should request from both County and District Councillors a written report which could be circulated with Council papers.

The Acting Clerk is to ask Cllr David White to speak to Council on this initiative at their special meeting on 17 March 2008

7934 Communications from the Town Mayor

The Mayor reported on the following items:-

- St John's Church Holiday Club and how successful this had been with 122 children registered on Tuesday – Friday mornings gainfully occupied.
- There will be an Easter Parade through Polegate on Good Friday Starting at Windsor Way at 10.30a.m. On Easter Saturday there Will be singing of Easter songs in the precinct 10.30 – 11.30.
- He had accepted an invitation to the scouts St George's Day Parade
- He would be attending a concert at the Congress Theatre on 18 March where the Consortium of local schools would be performing.

7935 Correspondence

- a) Letter from Norman Baker MP re future plans for A27 – the contents were noted.

7936 Date of the next cycle of meetings

Special Full Council - Monday 17 March at 7:30 pm

Planning – Thursday 27 March at 7:30 pm at St John's Hall

Personnel – As and when required

Finance – 7 April at 7.30 pm

7937 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.