

UNADOPTED

POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllr. J Rogers (Deputy Mayor), Mrs C Berry, Mrs J Bigsby, G. Carter, J. Harmer, Mrs D. Joy, Mrs M. Piper, Mrs J. Voyce, T. Voyce, A. Watkins and T. Wright
Cllr S Shing from 8272 – 8280 only

2 members of the public
1 member of the press

In attendance: PCSO Alison Beaden, Sussex Police

8272 Apologies

Cllr S Barber, M Cunningham, R Martin

8273 Declarations of interest

Cllrs Mrs Voyce and T Voyce on the SLR Report – Victoria Road – personal and non-prejudicial.

Cllr J Hamer – on confidential property matters – personal and non-prejudicial.

8274 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8th September 2008

The minutes were approved as a true record and the Mayor was authorised to sign them.

8275 Matters arising from the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13th October 2008

8197 – A response had now been received from the Highways Agency to Norman Baker MP – Cllr Harmer was not satisfied with the timescale that the Highways Agency were proposing to reinstate the slip and expressed concerns over who would be covering the costs of this operation – members agreed that the Clerk should write to the Agency to seek further clarification and a specific date for repairs.

The Clerk reported that Wealden District Council cabinet had made a decision regarding the provision of public toilets – the toilets in Polegate would join a list of cyclical refurbishment within the current budgets. However Cllr Watkins informed members that this decision had been 'called in' at Wealden and would be looked at again by the Scrutiny Committee.

Thank you letter from CAB for their half annual grant.

Cllr Harmer asked if the JAG funding had been improved – the Clerk confirmed that it had.

Cllr Shing asked if the minutes of the meeting held on 8th September which appeared on the website were correct – the Clerk confirmed that the meeting had in fact started at 8.00p.m. due to a training session on the Code of Conduct, therefore the minutes which stated that the meeting had started at 7.30p.m were incorrect – Cllr Shing had been present outside the chamber at 7.30p.m. but had had to leave therefore the minute which showed him not present was not correct. The Clerk apologised for this error.

8276 Notification of any items to be dealt with as urgent

None

8277 In order to allow the public opportunity for comment it was resolved to suspend standing orders.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED

A resident spoke on Item 13 – To change Standing Orders to add Working Groups to Order 47, the resident applauded the formation of Working groups and reminded councillors that others who were not members of the Council could be co-opted onto Working Groups and there should be written rules in place for their removal from such groups.

STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED

8278 In order to allow PSCO Alison Beaden to comment on the report before Council it was resolved to suspend standing orders.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED

Alison Beaden explained the changes which had happened with increased staffing at both PC and PSCO levels and how the improved resources will help Polegate.

Cllr Bigsby asked that when the PSCOs were holding their meetings in the streets that the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators be invited PSCO Alison Beaden would contact Cllr Mrs Bigsby to obtain details of the co-ordinators.

Cllr Mrs Berry wanted to ensure that the Police worked closely with Neighbourhood Watch especially as the Watch could also supply the Shed locks etc which were mentioned in the report.

Pc Alison Beaden confirmed that all the blue badge holders at the school were genuine and that the parking continues to be monitored there.

PSCO Beaden mentioned the recent newspaper article in which Norman Baker had sought clarification over various policing matters in Polegate. The Clerk informed the meeting that PC Liz Kennan should be visiting the Council Offices on Tuesday.

STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED

8279 District/County Councillors' Reports

Written reports from Cllrs Don Broadbent and Roy Martin had been circulated.

8280 Update from Standing Committees and Working Groups

Council noted the reports from the following working groups and agreed to adopt the recommendations contained therein

:-

Buildings

Cllr Mrs Bigsby suggested that as the Police appeared to be looking for a shop front in Polegate that no 51 High Street might be suitable – members felt that something more high profile in the actual High Street would be more suitable.

Christmas Lights

Town Map

Cllr Rogers reported the Working Group had met with the artist Alan Everard and had looked at all the previously agreed information one or two of the positions of the symbols were changed and the area of the town to be included was revised – he has gone away to draw up a draft to present to the Working Group.

Traffic & Transport including SLR

Cllr Mrs Berry & Watkins required further clarification on the Chaucer Industrial Estate entrance – the Clerk will ask ESCC to provide this.

Cllr Shing wanted it noted that he did contribute to this meeting but he felt that minutes did not reflect this – the Clerk apologised but did not feel she had mentioned any councillors individual contribution apart from photographs supplied by Cllr Voyce.

Members mentioned several items which they wanted to refer to Traffic & transport they included:-

Westfield Close – cars parked on both side of the road

Parking on grass verges in Station Road

Cllr Shing left the meeting

8281 Adoption of Minutes from Standing Committees

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

Finance Meeting 27th October 2008

Planning Committee held on 14 October 2008

8282 Outcome of the meeting with Willingdon and Jevington Parish Council on Hindsland.

Members raised several points on the notes from the meeting which would be corrected:-

There are two fields in Polegate not one

A possible school site was also mentioned at the meeting by Cllr Voyce and this proposal should be included.

Cllr Watkins was concerned that the report stated that Ron Cussons Was to carry out a review of leisure facilities starting in May 2009, Cllr Watkins reminded members that that was when the Local Development Framework process was due to begin again – this review may be too late to feed into the LDF.

Members agreed that partnership working with Willingdon and Jevington was agreeable and could benefit both councils.

8283 Hailsham – Eastbourne Triangle – update from meeting held on 3rd November with Town/Parish Councils.

Cllr Voyce informed members the following Council had been represented At the meeting:-

Alfriston

Arlington

Berwick

Hailsham

Longman

Westham

Willingdon & Jevington

It had been agreed to send a joint letter from the Councils (Alfriston had since declined to send the letter) to

Chief Executives of the four organisations involved who commissioned the Report-

Wealden District Council, Eastbourne Borough Council, East Sussex County Council, SEEDA + GVA Grimley

All MP who represented the Parishes/Towns

All District councillors who represented the Parishes/Towns

The letter which had been approved by the Councils present was circulated to members for information. Cllr Rogers would hope to bring this up at the Parish Conference tomorrow along with other councillors who had attended this meeting.

8284 Change of Standing Order 47 to 'add working groups' to the Committee and sub-committees appointed by the Council.

Members agreed that all standing orders would be reviewed by the Standings Order Review Working Group – the members of which are:-

Cllrs Mrs Bigsby, Carter, Rogers, Mrs Voyce and Watkins.

A meeting of this group would be arranged in the very near future.

8285 Financial Report

a) Approval of accounts for payment

Council considered the schedules of Accounts for Payment and the accounts for payment were approved.

b) Monthly financial update

This could not be circulated as the bank reconciliation had not been completed.

8286 Town Clerk's Report

The Clerk informed members that she had circulated a copy of the report from Wealden District Council by Chase & Partners - Shopping Study 2008 – the following members requested copies:- Cllrs Mrs Berry, Mrs Bigsby, Mrs Piper, Mrs Voyce and Watkins of the passages appertaining to Polegate.

The Clerk will attend the Energy Saving Summit at WDC on 28th November Cllr Voyce enquired why the Councillors' board has still not been completed and why there was no updated action list. The Clerk apologised and said the board would be completed once photographs were taken (next Tuesday) and the Action List would be ready for the next meeting.

8287 Correspondence noted

WDC – Community Governance Review

Members agreed to set up a working group to look at any changes They might wish to make to Town boundaries etc – the group would consist of Cllrs Harmer, Mrs Piper, Voyce and Watkins and a meeting would be convened on a day when one of the other groups was meeting.

Communities and Local Government – Consultation on Communities in control: Real people, real power: Codes of Conduct for Local authority members and employees.

ESCC – Eastbourne and Hailsham Accessibility Strategy Local Assessment.

8288 Communications from the Town Mayor

The Deputy Mayor informed members that he had attended the Remembrance Service at St Johns Church and he thanked Mark for a wonderful service. He would be attending along with Cllr Mrs Berry Wealden District Council's Parish conference.

8289 Date of the next cycle of meetings

18th November – Planning @ St John's Church Hall

19th November – LAGP @ 6.00p.m. (Budget)

19th November – Buildings @ 7.30p.m. (Budget)

26th November – Personnel @ 1.30p.m.(Budget)

3rd December – Finance @ 7.30p.m. (Budget)

8290 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.