

UNADOPTED

POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Present: Cllrs. J. Harmer (Town Mayor), Mrs C. Berry, G. Carter, Mrs E. Coleman, M. Fitzgerald, Mrs D Joy, R. Martin, Mrs M Piper, Mrs I Scarborough, Mrs J Voyce, T. Voyce, and B. Winn.

PCSO Gareth Hollister. Press: 1 Public: 0

7090 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. S. Barber, G. Gibbs, Mrs V Morson.

7091 Declarations of interest in any items on the agenda

Item 8 – Sellwood Planning - Cllrs. Mrs Voyce, T. Voyce and Mrs Scarborough (prejudicial interests) and Cllr. Mrs Berry (non-prejudicial).

7092 Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27th February 2006. The minutes were presented for perusal and subsequent adoption.

7065(c) This item was reserved for consideration in confidence.

7058(a) It was agreed to extend the white lining on the steps in the car park to the bottom of the car park and that this work would be carried out as soon as possible.

The minutes were then agreed to be a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

7093 Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda

a). Adshell Bus Shelters – members were advised that Adshell had now confirmed that they were prepared to honour their contractual liability and provide the three outstanding bus shelters with a time scale of 8 – 10 weeks. Noted.

b). Toilets on the Station – no further information to hand.

c). Kombi Spray Line Marking – a decision regarding this item was deferred until the next Full Council meeting when it was hoped more information would be to hand. However members were advised that three options were being looked at as follows:

1. to contract out at approx. £18.00 per visit.
2. Willingdon Athletics Football Club to carry out this task and its pitch hire rate to be reduced in recognition.
3. The Council to purchase its own machine.

d). Use of Shingleton Room for PCSO – no further information to hand. PCSO to update.

e). Model Engineering Club Licence – now completed and signed.

f). Clerk's Networking Event – members were advised that the Assistant Town Clerk would not be able to attend this event owing to previous commitments.

7094 Police Report

The Chair suspended Standing Orders and invited PCSO Hollister to present his report.

Members were advised that so far this year a total of 225 hours had been spent in Polegate which equated to a 28 hour week.

61 vehicles had been reported to the DVLA.

2 drivers issued with warnings under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002 (boy racers)

67 parking tickets

11 vehicles removed as abandoned

82 stop checks on people in the town

400 calls from the public had been received

97 crimes: 3 violent, 5 burglaries, 19 vehicle crime, 18 thefts, 43 criminal damage and 9 other crimes

Detection rate 25.5% - compares favourably with other areas, 2nd or 3rd highest in the County.

Burglary detection rate 10.8%

6.9%

1 further arrest for criminal damage.

PCSO Hollister then answered various questions from members in regard to vandalism and the arson attacks and agreed to look into a recent incident at Dittons when a stranger knocked a door late at night asking for money. He also advised that the Neighbourhood Specialist, Sgt. Price would be coming to view the Reg. Shingleton room in the near future and hopefully a decision could then be made.

With regard to the increase in cars parking in Gilda Crescent as a result of the transfer of staff from Bexhill, members were told that there was full co-operation from the traffic base staff who were very mindful of the parking situation and car shared where possible. They had also tried to obtain parking spaces in the car park without success.

The Chair thanked PCSO Hollister for his input and Reinstated Standing Orders.

7095 Report of the Tree Warden

Councillors were given a copy of the current TPO list provided by the Tree Warden who was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting. In response to a query members were advised that queries on ownership of trees should be referred to Wealden.

7096 Financial Matters

a). Internal Audit – it was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to accept the Auditor's report and to discuss the recommendations in confidence.

b). Accounts for payment – all approved for payment but it was agreed to discuss items A & D of Adams & Remer's invoice in confidence.

c). Grass Cutting Contract – councillors were advised that the contract had been accepted in principle subject to clarification as to whether the £1100 cost of the additional cut is over and above the figure of £18,800 previously quoted and it would be necessary to compare the original quote with the one from County to clarify the figures.

A problem had been identified in that it would be a very onerous task to manage it. It was a job that needed to be delegated and it was therefore proposed, seconded and agreed by all to request the groundsman to carry out the task of acting as Supervising Officer, at least in the short term.

It was further proposed, seconded and agreed that Cllrs. Martin, Mrs Scarborough and Mrs Voyce would check the minutes and figures and prepare the contract ready for signature.

7097 Boundary letters – Spurway Park and Heron Ridge update – it was confirmed that all letters had been sent by recorded delivery – noted.

It was then proposed, seconded and agreed by all to write to all residents with access onto the Wannock Road Recreation Ground; these letters to also be sent recorded delivery.

7098 Adoption of Minutes of Standing Committees

a). Planning Committee of 14th March 2006 – the minutes were presented for perusal, and, there being no matters raised, adoption of the minutes was agreed by all.

7099 Communications from the Town Mayor

There were none.

7100 Reports from Representatives to Outside Organisations

a). Polegate Partnership – an e-mail from the Town Co-ordinator giving an update on the current situation regarding sponsorship for the flower beds and the Healthcheck was distributed to Councillors along with a copy of a press release giving details of the District Council's 'gateway' grant. Councillors were advised that the next step was for the Town Co-ordinator to convene a meeting of the Partnership Steering Group to identify an action plan. In response to a query it was explained that the Council had fronted the expenditure on the flower beds and sponsorship signage to get the project off the ground and the reason for invoicing identified sponsors was to recoup that expenditure.

b). Eastbourne and District Preservation Trust Ltd – Notice of AGM on 28th March to which all Councillors were invited. Attention was drawn to 'The Spout' publication which outlined a serious need for more volunteers and support from the public. It was pointed out that with the loss of Watermill Ward next year Polegate would lose its windmill which would be a serious loss; and that currently both the Town Council and Willingdon School used the windmill as their logos. Because of this it was suggested that as many Councillors as possible attend the AGM to lend support to the Trust and that the Mayor gave a short address to say how much we valued the dedication of the Trust and its helpers and to see if it was possible to retain the windmill in Polegate.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to see if there was a National Windmill Association that might be able to help and to also seek the support of Polegate School.

7101 Update from Lead Councillors/Working Groups

There were none.

7102 Notification of matters dealt with as “Urgent”

a). transfer of insurance from Zurich to Aon. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all that Cllrs. Carter, Mrs Coleman and Mrs Scarborough and the Assistant Town Clerk would review the insurance and make a recommendation.

b). first aid course – an Appointed Persons training course for Council staff had been arranged for Wednesday 3rd May. As the course was to be held in the Council offices it would be necessary to close the office on this day.

As there were some spare places on the course the offer of participation was extended to include Councillors; there being no take up it was then agreed to invite Willington & Jevington Parish Council and Hailsham Town Council staff and Councillors to participate at a nominal cost.

c). town meeting – it was confirmed that the date for the meeting is Monday 24th April and that the venue would be the United Reformed Church Hall. The following guests had been invited to join the panel: Norman Baker MP, Hilary Lewis and Jan Murphy from the Youth Development Service, Dave Glover and David Phillips from Wealden, a representative from the Police and the PCSO and hopefully a representative from Network Rail.

7103 Town Clerk’s report

a). Vandalism report – members were advised that the bench that had previously been removed from the skatepark had been found on the Cuckoo Trail and had now been reinstalled in the skatepark. Graffiti found on the back wall of the Council office and the adjoining Harte Read office had been removed.

b). 2006/2007 diary – the dates for the diary were accepted and it was clarified that the June Council meeting would take place on the 19th of that month.

It was also agreed to contact St. John’s Church to organise a date for the Civic Service.

7104 Correspondence

a). ODPM The Deal for Devolution – three responses to the working paper were received and the Assistant Town Clerk was requested to collate these into a suitable response.

b). Members’ Allowances – it was resolved to take this item into confidential business.

c). Safer Wealden Partnership – no-one able to attend.

d). Eastbourne/Hailsham Area Blueprint Consultation Event – no-one able to attend.

e). Sellwood Planning Presentation to Council – a proposal was made and seconded to accept Sellwood Planning’s offer of a presentation to Council regarding the planning application by Wimpey’s to build on land east of Shepham Lane. A vote was then taken as follows:

In favour of the proposal:	9
Against the proposal:	2

It was therefore agreed to organise a meeting with Sellwood Planning for the first available Monday at 7.30 p.m.

7105 Dates of the next cycle of meetings

Full Council

10th April 2006 at 7.30 p.m.

Annual Meeting of Electors

24th April 2006 at 7.30 p.m.

(at United Reformed Church Hall)

Planning

as and when necessary.

Note: Apologies were received from Cllrs. Mrs Coleman and Mrs Scarborough for the 10th April.

7106 Resolution to take next business in confidential session

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

7107 Confidential matters

a). Personnel matters

b). Administrative matters

