

UNADOPTED

POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 22 January 2007 in the Council Chamber, 49 High Street, Polegate at 7.30 p.m.

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

5 members of the public

7402 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Barber and Gibbs.

7403 Declarations of interest

Cllr. Mrs Berry declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 22 (a) under confidential section.

7404 Minutes of the Council meeting held on 11 December 2006

The minutes of the above meeting were agreed as correct and signed by the Mayor.

7405 Matters arising from the Council meeting held on 11 December 2006

Minute 7359(a) appointment of Police Liaison Officer - members were advised that Insp. Bob Brown would be leaving Hailsham and moving to Eastbourne, effective 5 February 2007. His replacement would be Insp. Claire Stephenson. It would therefore be prudent to have a liaison officer in place by this date. Cllr. Mrs Scarborough was asked if she would consider taking on this role again and respond to Council when she had had time to think about it.

Minute 7364 land west of Shepham Lane - this item had been brought back to the table owing to the response from Wealden which queried whether the Council considers this site to be preferable to the proposals being put forward by Pelham Homes.

It was proposed and seconded to respond to Wealden that the land west of Shepham Lane was not necessarily preferable but should be considered as an option; that Council does not at this time favour one particular option and would like to see all potential sites considered. A vote was then taken as follows:	
In favour of the proposed response to Wealden:	11
Against	0

A second proposal was then put forward with regard to holding a public meeting to discuss a vision for housing in the future; not just the housing scheduled for the immediate future but looking at the longer term bearing in mind the Eastbourne strategy. It would not be a meeting to discuss the Pelham Homes proposals or any other particular development but would take the form of an open forum to ascertain public opinion.

Discussion then ensued and it was proposed that it might be better to hold a meeting of the Council prior to a public meeting to decide the way forward and the presentation and format for a meeting. It was generally agreed that this proposal had a lot of merit, however, as the Local Development Framework was still very much in its infancy, it might be better to wait until a clearer picture emerges before going out to the public. It was also noted that the majority of people that attend meetings are those who do not want something to happen and therefore the response from the meeting may not represent the majority view.

It was then proposed and seconded to defer holding a public meeting until such time as the Local Development Framework is more advanced and available. A vote was taken as follows:

In favour of the proposal	8
Against	2

(Cllr. T. Voyce wished it to be recorded that he had voted against the proposal).

Minute 7367 (a) CAB - it was noted that the CAB appointment system had now been discontinued and the twice weekly drop-in session reinstated.

Minute 7369 Towermill Place Update - there are eight tenants remaining with two moves in the pipeline. Five tenants are looking to move to Joan Hughes Court and two are looking to move to Hailsham. The remaining tenant has selected more than one location - noted.

7406 Minutes of the budget meeting held on 15 January 2007

The minutes of the budget meeting were agreed as correct and signed by the Mayor. The recommendation of the temporary Responsible Financial Officer to set up a fund for future election expenses with effect from the financial year 2007/2008 was noted.

However it was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to stand by the original decision to defer setting up a fund for election expenses until the financial year 2008/2009.

7407 Matters arising from the budget meeting

There were no matters arising.

7408 Financial matters

a) **accounts for payment** - the following queries were clarified with the exception of cheque nos. 201514, 201524 and 201527 which were referred to confidential section.

Cheque no. 201505 - general grounds maintenance, ie. grass and hedge cutting at Wannock Road, Brightling Road etc.

Cheque no. 201513 - supply/rental of Christmas motifs and decorations

Direct debit to PWLB - repayment of loan for purchase of Council office

b) **grant allocations** - applications for grants received to date were agreed as follows:

Anchor Staying Put - a grant of £250.00 was proposed and seconded and a vote taken as follows: In favour: 4, Against: 6.

A second proposal to grant £100.00 was then seconded and a vote taken as follows: In favour: 7, Against: 4.

A grant of £100.00 was therefore agreed.

Twinning Association - a proposal not to grant financial assistance this year was countered by a second proposal to grant £250.00. This was seconded and a vote taken as follows: In favour: 2, Against: 3.

A further proposal of £100.00 was then put forward. This was seconded and a vote taken as follows: In favour: 7, Against: 4.

A grant of £100.00 was therefore agreed.

Wealden Independent Mediation Service - it was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to grant £100.00.

Relate - a grant of £100.00 was proposed and seconded and a vote taken as follows: In favour: 8, Against: 3

A grant of £100.00 was therefore agreed.

7409 Adoption of minutes of standing committees

Personnel of 6 and 14 December 2006 - the Chair of Personnel presented the minutes and there being no matters raised, proposed that they be adopted. This was resolved unanimously.

7410 Communications from the Town Mayor

Members were advised that the Standards Board was proposing to make changes to the regulations regarding declarations of interest. Under the new proposals it would no longer be necessary to declare an interest in any matter that affected both fellow councillors and rate payers - noted.

7411 Notification of matters dealt with as 'urgent'

As there had been a power fault in the pavilion which resulted in a loss of lighting, thought to be caused by water ingressing via the roof, an electrician had been called in to investigate and effect necessary repairs - noted.

7412 Town Clerk's report

a) **vandalism report** - nothing to report except damage to the exterior power socket for the Christmas tree which could be relocated to a less exposed position where the planter stands.

7413 Town and Parish Clerks' conference - it was noted that the Assistant Town Clerk would attend the conference on Monday 29 January and therefore the office would be closed.

7414 Revised bus service Eastbourne and South Wealden - initially the changes to bus services were copied and displayed in the Council notice boards but printed timetables are now available from the Council information racks. Timetables were also available in some of the shops - noted.

Attention was also drawn to the letter issued by Cllr. Stephen Shing and the publication 'Feed Back' which showed a map of proposed housing sites. Members were advised that Wealden District Council were investigating as it was a District matter, not a County matter and Cllr. Shing is not a District Councillor.

7415 Reports from District and County Councillors

With regard to the revised bus service, both Polegate and Willingdon & Jevington District Councillors had attended a meeting with Eastbourne Buses regarding the situation. It was fortunate that Cavendish (incorporating Renown) had come to the rescue and the situation now is that Polegate is just one service down.

7416 Youth Development Service

a) **request for pool table** - discussion took place with regard to possible conflict in the use of the room, e.g. cricket teas during the season, which may not be able function properly with a pool table in situ. A hard top for the table was proposed but would not necessarily solve the problem. A query was also raised regarding what had happened to the full size pool table from the previous youth facility which had had a hard top for which Council had given a grant.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to defer a decision on this matter until more information was available, i.e. the size of the table, whether it would be moveable and an explanation as to what had happened to the previous table.

b) **charity funding** - the youth service had been successful in obtaining a grant towards the provision of equipment but as the money could not be paid direct, it had been paid to the Council as a working partner, the money to then be repaid to the youth service - noted.

7417 New councillors' pack - two packs had been received, one for each group. An invitation had been received to attend the launch of the dvd, the closest venue being Uckfield on 7 February - noted.

7418 Payphone in pavilion - the payphone had originally been installed to comply with regulations when the playgroup was using the facility. However it was now surplus to requirements and a decision was required whether or not to remove it.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all that there was no reason to retain the payphone and that it should be removed.

7419 Register of electors - it was resolved that the office should retain a copy of both the full register and the edited version. It was also resolved that 4 full sets (north and south) be obtained for councillors use prior to the elections, 2 sets for each group.

7420 Wannock Rec

a) **fencing** - the suggestion was put forward that the most economical solution be pursued. It was also suggested that to prevent the base of the fencing being rolled up to allow ball retrieval, that a crossbar be installed across the bottom of the nets at approx. 18 inches above ground level. This would allow for ball retrieval without damage to the bottom of the fence.

It was proposed to accept the cheapest estimate for options A and C of the specification making a total of £5780.00, subject to clarification that Council's understanding of the estimate is correct and includes a crossbar at the base of the fence. The proposal was seconded and a vote taken as follows:

In favour: 9 Against 1

With regard to signage, there is no byelaw to enforce signage, the only byelaw being in respect of dog fouling.

It was therefore resolved not to erect a 'No Ball Games' sign but to take down the existing and replace with a 'Polite Notice to Users' - 'please do not cause a nuisance to neighbouring properties', or similar wording. Signs to be printed on metal and affixed to replacement fencing. 6no. to be ordered to allow for spares.

b) **lettings** - attention was drawn to the resume and correspondence with regard to the letters from Mr Bennett dated 13 and 15 December 2006. A comment was made at this point that Willingdon AFC had been extremely good at liaising with the pitch inspector although owing to the weather conditions not many games had taken place so far this season. It was suggested that perhaps two clubs could be accommodated by using the pitch on alternate weeks but this suggestion was not taken up as history had proved that the ground and facilities could not sustain two clubs and when matches have to be cancelled due to weather conditions, the pitch would be required to play postponed matches when weather permits. The pitch is currently in use by Willingdon AFC, Council had agreed continued use through the 2007/2008 season and there was no reason to change that agreement. However, it was agreed that the situation would be reviewed at the end of the 2007/2008 season and any clubs interested in hiring the pitch could apply. All applications would be considered at that time.

It was also agreed to write to the Chairman of Polegate Town Football Club apologising for any misunderstanding, but also advising that having read the correspondence and listened to his presentation, there would have been no change to Council's decision to allow Willingdon AFC continued use of the pitch at the present time. However, in order to prevent a reoccurrence of any similar misunderstandings Council will review the situation at the end of the 2007/2008 season. Applications for use of the pitch will be considered on their merits at that time with a decision being made by the end of March 2008 for the following season commencing September 2008. Applications to be submitted in January 2008.

It was further agreed to write a similar letter to the member of the public who had queried the Council's democratic process, a draft to be prepared for approval.

7421 Correspondence

a) **CAB** - letter of thanks for grant assistance 2006/2007 - noted.

b) **Royal British Legion** - request for directional signage

It was proposed and seconded to give permission for a directional sign to be affixed to the lamp column at the junction of High Street and Victoria Road and a vote was taken as follows: In favour: 8 Against: 2

c) **East Sussex Rights of Way Improvement Plan** - no comments to be returned.

d) **Gypsies and Travellers in East Sussex Briefing Note** - it was agreed to request a place to be secured for a TC representative at the awareness raising session, date and venue to be advised.

e) **Hailsham Town Council** - pressure cleansing service - it was agreed that a letter be sent to the Royal Mail requesting removal of the graffiti on the sorting office wall and advising that there is a cleansing system available, contact details for Hailsham TC to be provided.

f) **Draft Wealden Play Strategy** - consultation document - copy for perusal in the office - noted.

7422 Dates of the next cycle of meetings

Full Council 26 February 2007

Planning as and when necessary

7423 Resolution to take next business in confidential section

It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all 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.

Post meeting note: Following clarification of the account queries referred to confidential section, all accounts were approved for payment.