

UNADOPTED

POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 24th July 2006 in the Council Chamber, 49 High Street, Polegate at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. G Carter (Town Mayor), Mrs C Berry, Mrs E Coleman (from 8.25 pm)
M Cunningham, G. Gibbs, J. Harmer, Mrs D Joy, R. Martin, Mrs V Morson,
Mrs M Piper, Mrs J Voyce and T Voyce

1 member of the press

11 members of the public

7262 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Barber, Fitzgerald and Mrs Scarborough.

7263 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Cunningham declared a non-prejudicial interest in item 5 - proposed new housing developments.

7264 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 JULY 2006

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2006 were adopted as correct and signed by the Mayor.

7265 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 JULY 2006

a) **Lighting at Joan Hughes Court** - attention was drawn to the response from Thomas Scanlon Trust in response to the request for additional lighting at this site. A proposal was put forward that the Council revisit this request and consider either installing another lighting pole on the existing telegraph pole or moving it 'one up' along the road. However this suggestion was not supported and members generally felt that the decision not to provide an additional street light should stand and the matter be referred back to the management team at Joan Hughes Court.

b) **Youth Services** - members decided not to accept the revised Service Level Agreement and to renegotiate the agreement to reflect the following issues.

- that the contract is for 52 weeks of the year, two sessions per week, and as Council is part funding this provision there should be a commitment from YDS to provide staff coverage for all sessions.
- that the Council's contribution should be pro rata on a weekly basis, paid by quarterly invoice, rather than one lump sum. This would also provide a check to ensure that the sessions are being staffed and that Council is not paying for a service that is not happening.

- the issue of redundancy payment needs to be clarified as Council agreed that there could be a number of reasons for pulling out of the contract, for instance, dissatisfaction with the work of the staff. Under some circumstances therefore Council does not agree that it should be held responsible for redundancy payments.

Concern was also expressed that the start date for the sessions appears to keep being put back. This is rather disappointing as it was anticipated that the sessions would be operational for the summer holidays. It was also mentioned that as the draft agreement states that the YDS will provide a manager to attend appropriate meetings of the Council, it would have been useful for that person to have attended the meeting tonight.

It was then agreed that to move this project forward as quickly as possible the Youth Working Group and the Mayor would be responsible for agreeing the revised Service Level Agreement when received.

c) Polegate Partnership Signage Update - it was noted that although signs had been provided to encourage people to visit the new garage, restaurant and store facilities, there had so far been a refusal by the authorities to provide or permit signs indicating that there are services in Polegate. However, the matter was still being pursued and would hopefully yield an eventual result.

d) Hailsham Road Flowerbed Additional Planting - members were advised that the additional planting had been carried out which had greatly improved the appearance of the flowerbed with watering being carried out on a fortnightly basis by a local contractor.

It was then proposed, seconded and agreed by all to carry out some additional planting to the other beds, as appropriate, but that this would take place in the Autumn.

The Assistant Town Clerk was authorised to spend the residue of the £200.00 previously agreed under minute no. 7237(b) for this purpose.

e) Member's Allowances - for clarification members were advised that payments would be made on 30 September and 31 March, rather than 1 April, to remain within the financial year.

f) Cricket Club - a request had been received from the Cricket Club for permission to store the scoreboard in the shower room during the cricket season. Opinion was divided on this issue as some councillors felt that as Council had already assisted the Cricket Club to obtain their own storage facility they could not expect to use the pavilion for storage as well. Following some discussion it was proposed and seconded that the scoreboard be stored in the shower during the cricket season and a vote was then taken as follows:

In favour: 4

Against: 5

Therefore the decision was not to allow storage of the scoreboard in the pavilion.

Members were also advised that it had come to light that the Cricket Club held their meetings in the pavilion without the Council's knowledge or permission. The Assistant Town Clerk was therefore instructed to write to the Cricket Club advising that this practise must cease immediately and that hiring of the pitch for playing cricket did not entitle them to the use of the pavilion at any other time.

g) Wannock Road Recreation Ground Fencing - the Assistant Town Clerk advised that following another visit to the recreation ground to inspect the fencing, it was in fact in a poor state of repair and should really be replaced rather than just removing the bottom section. Letters of complaint had also been received from local residents who were experiencing problems with youths accessing their properties to retrieve footballs that had been either kicked over the fence or through the hedge. The provision of suitable deterrent signs was also discussed but opinion was divided as some members felt that it was a multi user facility and if the football club could play in the vicinity of the fencing then so could other people. However it was agreed that the Assistant Town Clerk should consult with fencing contractors to see what type of replacement fencing would be most appropriate and to obtain quotes for installation and supply. The PCSO had been requested to address the issues of anti social behaviour by youths using the ground and also trespassing onto neighbouring properties and it was agreed to raise the matter with him again.

7266 PROPOSED NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS - Council's observations and comments - members were reminded that the time scale for determining these major planning applications was over a 13 week period and those four applications would be coming before Council for comment very shortly. There would be two applications from Pelham Homes, phase one for 1,000 new homes and 4,500 sq. m of business space and phase two for 2,200 new homes and 9,000 sq. m of business space; a proposed development at Dittons by Sellwood Planning for 265 new homes and a proposed development just north of Dittons by Gladedale for 200 homes and 8,800 sq. m business floor space. The two Pelham applications have already been submitted to Wealden but are not yet registered as complete. In response to these proposals Council had prepared a statement of observations and a 'wish list' for planning gain. Members were also advised of an additional four suggestions for the use of commuted sums and agreement was sought for the adoption of the observations, 'wish list' and suggestions for use of commuted sums.

Following some discussion it was proposed and seconded that the statement of observations, 'wish list' and suggestions for the use of commuted sums be adopted and a vote was taken as follows:

In favour: 8

Against: 3

Therefore the motion was carried and the proposal adopted.

Note: the statement is attached as an addendum to these minutes

7267 FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) **Accounts for payment** - two queries were raised and clarified. The payment for CRB checks was for the registration fee with an additional payment being necessary for each CRB check carried out - noted. The Barclaycard was generally used for housekeeping and any necessary purchases - noted. It was agreed to discuss cheque no: 201389 in confidential session as a member had a query on this item, however all the accounts were approved for payment.

7268 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MAYOR

There were none

7269 NOTIFICATION OF MATTERS DEALT WITH AS URGENT

There were none

7270 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

a) **Vandalism report** - only two items were reported, one that a litter bin had been removed from its base and that the Pavilion had suffered from a spate of graffiti - noted. It was also noted that there had been instances of small fires being started at the skatepark and the fire brigade had attended.

7271 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Mrs Berry advised that she was no longer serving on the internal select committee at Wealden but was sitting on the scrutiny committee - noted.

Cllr. Martin advised that the twitten between Victoria Road and Brook Street was in the process of being registered and put on the indicative map. It is now planned to provide a footway at the top end of the twitten. Site visits with the County Engineers will be arranged to plan the best way forward. As local residents have indicated that they would like to see a streetlight in the twitten there would be a need to ensure the cabling is in place prior any tarmac being laid.

7272 CHRISTMAS LIGHTING SCHEME

Members had previously been circulated with a report on progress to date. A site for the transverse had been identified between Proctor's Chemist and Direct Travel and the owners of the buildings had given their verbal permission. Written permission was still awaited. Several structural engineering companies had been approached for comparative prices and it was agreed that EAR Sheppard should be instructed to carry out a survey and design appropriate fixing plates. Although the provision of a transverse would take the lighting scheme over budget it had been previously agreed that any additional funding required could be sourced from reserves or the money saved from the non-provision of planters and hanging baskets be diverted to bolster the festive lighting costs (minute no. 7173 of FC 15/5/06).

The winner of the Christmas Motif Design Competition had been selected and a confirmation letter plus the agreed £20.00 voucher from WH Smith was to be presented at the end of term assembly. It was agreed that the winning design should be scanned onto the Council's website. The Library had also been contacted and had agreed to display the winning design and the other competition entries during the run up to Christmas.

7173 BRIGHTLING ROAD MEADOW

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that to further enhance the meadow and encourage wildlife to purchase and install 4no. bat boxes (£23.95 each) and 2no. woodpecker boxes (£22.95 each) plus a reference book on bats at a cost of £4.95 as per the information sheets previously circulated. Total price £146.64. For information, a grass cut for the meadow was scheduled for later in the year but to avoid having to remember to book the cut it was proposed that this item be considered for inclusion on the general grass cutting and maintenance schedule - noted for consideration at the budget meeting to be held later in the year.

7174 STREETLIGHT ENERGY AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Some general discussion ensued regarding the quotes for energy supply and maintenance and whilst it was noted that ESCC appeared to be a cheaper option the level of maintenance was very much reduced and would also present considerable administrative problems for the office to try and identify any interim maintenance that may be required. In addition ESCC would be re-tendering its energy contract later in the year and prices were still rising. EDF would hold their energy price at the existing level for the ensuing year and provide more comprehensive maintenance.

It was therefore proposed, seconded and agreed that the Council remain with EDF for both streetlight energy and maintenance for the year 2007 - 2008. It was also noted that other local Councils had either opted to remain with or return to EDF.

7175 CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING SOME ACTION

a) ESCC Tree Warden Scheme - it was proposed, seconded and agreed to make a donation of £50.00 towards the cost of administering the Tree Warden Scheme.

b) Register of Electors - canvassers are required to assist with compiling the register of electors. No members were available to undertake this task and it was therefore agreed to display the request and information on the notice boards in case any members of the public were interested.

c) Sussex Ambulance Responder Scheme - a booking for the Council Chamber had been received from the organiser and members were asked if they would consider waiving the normal hire fee in support of the scheme. This was unanimously agreed.

7176 CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING ONLY

a) Britannia Superfine - a response had been received from the Police confirming that the break-ins to the factory had been reported. Patrols would be increased and the PCSO would be meeting with the manager to discuss site security - noted.

b) Electoral Commission - an evaluation of the way in which electoral reviews were conducted had been received and was available in the office for perusal - noted.

7177 DATES OF THE NEXT CYCLE OF MEETINGS

Members were advised that the proposed meeting on 31 July 2006 had been cancelled and in order to facilitate the working of the office and holiday leave revised dates for meetings were proposed as follows: 4 September, 2 October and 6 November. Should it be necessary to hold any additional meetings then these could be accommodated. The revised dates were unanimously agreed.

Full Council Meeting
Planning

4 September 2006
1 August 2006

7178 RESOLUTION

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.

