

UNADOPTED

POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 26 February 2007 in the Council Chamber, 49 High Street, Polegate at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. G. Carter (Mayor), S. Barber, Mrs E Coleman, M. Cunningham, M. Fitzgerald, G. Gibbs, Mrs D. Joy, R. Martin, Mrs M Piper, Mrs I Scarborough, Mrs J Voyce and T. Voyce
Insp. Claire Stephenson and PCSO Jamie Harwood - Sussex Police
1 member of the press and 5 members of the public

7438 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Mrs Berry, J. Harmer and Mrs Morson.

7439 Declarations of interest

There were none

The Mayor welcomed the new Hailsham sector Inspector and the town's new PCSO and proposed suspension of Standing Orders to allow Insp. Stephenson and PCSO Jamie Harwood to address the Council. This proposal was seconded and agreed by all.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED

Insp. Stephenson introduced herself as successor to Insp. Bob Brown who had now moved on to another position and explained that she was only in her third week of working in the area and was still learning about Polegate and Sussex in general. She was looking forward to working with members and would continue the good work that Insp. Brown had been doing.

The PCSO then presented crime figures for the first two months of 2007 as follows:

CRIME	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	TOTAL
Thefts	10	8	18
Vehicle Crime	8	2	10
Burglary	1	5	6
Criminal Damage	3	7	10
Violence	2	2	4
Other	5	0	5
Total	29	24	53

Questions were then invited, the first being what constitutes 'other' crime? This is basically a category for any crimes that do not fall within the parameters of the other headings, e.g. domestic incidents and anti-social behaviour.

What is the situation regarding anti-social behaviour? There has definitely been a decrease in unacceptable behaviour in the town centre, particularly since the street briefing took place.

It was reported that a 'marauding group' threw a barrier at Farmlands Way into the school last evening (25 February). Although the report was acknowledged it should also be reported through normal channels using the 0845 number. The system is currently under review to reduce the response time and will improve.

At the street briefing it was promised that plain clothes police would have a presence in the town, is that happening? At the moment this is not an option and the preference is for high visibility patrolling.

Are any comparison crime figures available from last year? No, but hopefully this is something that will come on stream and it was agreed that detection by area information would be supplied for future meetings.

The Mayor thanked Insp. Stephenson and the PCSO for their input and reinstated Standing Orders.

STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED

The Mayor then sought members' acceptance of an additional item for the agenda; renewal of licence for Model Engineering Club. This was agreed.

Members were advised that the licence was nearing expiry and the Club had requested renewal for a further year. The rental was currently £110.00 per annum. It was proposed and seconded to renew the licence for a further year at the current rental but to advise that there would be an increase in rental for the following year. However concern was expressed that the licence should be looked at more carefully to ensure that Council was properly protected. As opinion was divided a vote was taken on the above proposal as follows:

In favour of renewing the current licence	5
Against	6

It was therefore agreed to bring this matter back to the next Full Council meeting, members having had opportunity to reconsider the contents of the licence.

7440 Minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2007

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

7441 Matters arising from the meeting held on 22 January 2007

Minute 7359(a) appointment of Police Liaison Officer - it was agreed to defer this appointment until the new Council is in place.
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Minute 7416(a) request for pool table - members agreed in principal to the provision of a pool table for the youth club subject to the arrangements being discussed in depth with the youth workers at the meeting scheduled for 1 March 2007. The proposal to come back to the next Full Council meeting for final decision.

Minute 7419 register of electors - members were advised that the cost of an edited version of the register for retention in the office would be £35.00. It was then proposed and seconded that an edited version should be retained. Opinion was divided as a copy was also available in the library, and therefore a vote was taken as follows:

In favour of purchasing an edited version	8
Against	3

Therefore the proposal was carried.

Minute 7420 sign for replacement fencing - it was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to accept the wording suggested by a member of the public; viz
Beyond this hedge is private property.
Do not trespass or let balls go over the hedge.

7442 Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 6 February 2007

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

7443 Matters arising from the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 6 February 2007

There were none.

7444 Financial matters

a) Accounts for payment - all approved subject to confirmation of one item to be clarified in confidential section. Credit card payments to be detailed on future accounts.

b) Dog bin emptying service - an increase of 10p. per bin was noted.

c) ESCC tree warden scheme - it was agreed to support the scheme with a donation of £50.00. As the current tree warden would not be continuing with this role, it was agreed to place an invitation for a new tree warden in the next Council newsletter and to appoint a warden at the Annual Statutory Meeting of the new Council.

d) East Sussex Association for the Blind - Cllr. Mrs Joy declared a non-prejudicial interest in this item. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all not to support on this occasion in light of the Association's large capital and reserves and the Council's budgetary restrictions.

e) **Column H Victoria Road replacement lantern** - noted. Members were also advised that the lights in this vicinity were being changed to photo cells to avoid all the lights going out when a fault occurred.

7445 Adoption of minutes of Standing Committees

Personnel of 9 January and 13 February 2007 - the Chair of Personnel presented the minutes and there being no matters raised, proposed that they be adopted. This was resolved unanimously.

Planning of 16 January 2007 - the Chair of Planning presented the minutes and there being no matters raised, proposed that they be adopted. This was resolved unanimously.

7446 Communications from the Town Mayor

Members were asked to let the Assistant Town Clerk know if they had any items for inclusion on the District/Parish Conference agenda.

The Mayor also advised that he and the Assistant Town Clerk had been summoned to a meeting regarding the Standards Committee Audit at Wealden on 26 March which made it necessary to alter the date of the next Council meeting to 19 March 2007.

7447 Notification of matters dealt with as 'urgent'

There were none.

7448 Town Clerk's Report

a) **vandalism** - nothing to report

b) **Clerk's conference** - a report on the conference had previously been circulated and noted by members. A request was made that in future a copy of Wealden's budget proposals be circulated to members for comment as it had been noted that no comments had been received from Polegate on this occasion - noted.

At this point the Mayor invited Cllr. Mrs Piper to report on a stakeholder meeting she had recently attended regarding the future of the health service and in particular services at the DGH and Conquest hospitals - noted.

7449 Sussex Ambulance Reponder Scheme Update - it was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to suspend Standing Orders to allow a member of the public who had undergone responder training to update the Council.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED

There are currently 11 volunteer responders, 4 are trained and have qualified. The training takes some time to set up and the actual sessions are a full 7 hour day. A practical 1 hour test takes place two weeks following the training session. The responders are not active yet as there are not enough fully trained to be able to provide cover.

The Mayor thanked the volunteer responder for his input and reinstated Standing Orders.

STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED

It was also noted that a request for release of agreed funding had been received and it was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to obtain a presentation cheque from the bank, and arrange a photo shoot and publicity for the handing over of the cheque.

7450 Christmas Lights

Members were advised that four letters of thanks and congratulations had been received from residents and traders plus numerous verbal comments, all positive, regarding the success of the festive lighting scheme.

It was then proposed, seconded and agreed to repeat the same scheme for 2007 including the 'Best Dressed House' and Best Dressed Shop' competition and to run the motif competition in conjunction with the school, provided that a suitable location for installation of last year's winning motif could be found; the winning motif this year to be displayed above the Council office. The competition would then be run every other year.

It was also proposed, seconded and agreed by all to approach traders and shopkeepers for a contribution towards the Christmas lighting scheme.

A vote of thanks to the working group, ably led by Cllr. Mrs Coleman, and the Assistant Town Clerk was proposed, agreed and recorded.

7451 Website Policy

It was agreed to put this matter on hold for the time being until the staff situation was resolved.

7452 Grounds Maintenance Contract

Having considered the tenders and discussed the merits of each it was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to continue with the Council's existing contractor.

It was also proposed and seconded to enter into a three year agreement at the prices quoted in the submitted tender and a vote was taken as follows:

In favour of a three year agreement	6
Against	3
(Cllr. Mrs. Scarborough having voted against the proposal)	

A further proposal was then put forward that a break clause be included in the agreement to safeguard the Council should the service fall below an acceptable standard; and that the contractor be asked to supply an agreement incorporating an annual break clause for Council's consideration. This was seconded and agreed by all.

7453 Summer Planting Contract

Having considered and discussed the tenders and the merits of the contracting companies, it was agreed that Europlants was the preferred option. However, before proceeding it was proposed, seconded and agreed to ascertain what plants and colours Willingdon and Jevington Parish Council used and to then go back to Europlants to see if they could improve on their price.

It was also proposed, seconded and agreed by all to purchase rain water butts so that rainwater could be used to water the office garden.

7454 Watermill Ward

It was resolved to write to Willingdon and Jevington Parish Council again advising that members had rejected the proposal to share the legal costs in respect of the conveyance of the twitten. As Polegate would be losing assets to Willingdon the opinion was that the full costs of the legal fees should be borne by the advantaged Parish.

7455 Review of Standing Orders

It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to set up a working party to review the Standing Orders in their entirety; the group to comprise Cllrs. Carter, Martin, Mrs Scarborough and Mrs Voyce.

It was further resolved to defer discussion on this matter to confidential section.

7456 Correspondence

a) village maintenance team - suggestions for referral to the maintenance team were as follows:

Litter pick all major roads into the town

Clean street name plates and highway signage

Dig out flower beds at the town gateways ready for planting

Fill in and reseed verges in Victoria and Albert Roads

Trim back shrub beds between Nursery Close and Levett Road

Pevensey Road cycle path overhanging hedge needs cutting back

- b) **Relate** - thank you letter for grant - noted.
- c) **East Sussex Health Overview Annual Report** - previously circulated and noted.
- d) **Road Safety Conference 4 April 2007** - members wishing to attend should advise the Assistant Town Clerk.
- e) **Amendments to the Model Code of Conduct** - document available in the office for perusal - noted.

7457 Dates of the next cycle of meetings

Full Council	19 March 2007
Planning	as and when necessary

7458 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 query referred to confidential section, all accounts were approved for payment.