

UNADOPTED
POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 26th September 2011 in the Council Chamber, 49 High Street Polegate at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mrs M Piper (chair), G Carter, J O’Riordan, J Harmer, G Gibbs, E Board, R Martin, D Shing, S Shing (9)

Not Present: Cllrs Mrs C Berry, M Pybus, T Voyce, M Clewett, Mrs J Voyce, M Cunningham (5)

Also present

Mrs J Ognjanovic Town Clerk

6 members of the public

9889 Apologies for absence

Cllrs Mrs C Berry (bereavement), M Pybus (voluntary work) Mrs J Voyce (holiday), T Voyce (holiday), M Cunningham (work), M Clewett (medical)

It was resolved to accept the above reasons for absence VOTE All in favour

9890 Declarations of interest

Cllrs:

J Harmer minute 9908 non prejudicial

S Shing minute 9898 non prejudicial

D Shing minute 9898 non prejudicial

S Shing minute 9903 non prejudicial

D Shing minute 9903 non prejudicial

D Shing minute 9908 non prejudicial

S Shing minute 9908 non prejudicial

S Shing minute 9898 non prejudicial (different section)

D Shing minute 9898 non prejudicial (different section)

9891 Opportunity for public comment

Standing orders suspended

Mrs Bigsby spoke on behalf of the Dickensian group and read out a statement on behalf of the chairman of the group. The statement requested that the Council’s public liability insurance cover the group members in respect of the Xmas lights switch on additional Dickensian event. The statement accepted that stall holders would require their own separate public liability insurance.

Mr Wright commented on the reasons he had become involved in the Dickensian group, hoping to improve the xmas lights switch on and how he enjoyed the wonderment of the children at the event. He commented on the fact that although his group would have insurance (Polegate resident Association) he felt that many other stallholders may not and might not be able to afford it. Mr Wright asked if the area around the council buildings was already covered for public liability for all eventualities, if that is the case Mr Wright asked why the group could not be covered under the policy for the afternoon.

Mr Dunbar spoke about his photography competition, thanking the Council for their support in the past and asked that should it be granted to do the judging in the chambers all councillors were invited to participate in the judging.

Standing orders reinstated

9892 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25th July 2011

It was resolved that the minutes of the Meeting held on 25th July 2011 were signed by the chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting VOTE All in favour

9893 Deputy Mayor's Report

The deputy mayor stated that she had attended the open day 50th anniversary celebrations of the community centre along with the Mayor and his wife, where there had been many varied activities. The event was thoroughly enjoyable.

9894 PCSO report

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting and noted by those present. A councillor commented that there were some issues with parking in Western road where some cars were causing obstructions.

9895 District/County Councillors' Reports

Written reports had been received from all councillors prior to the meeting and circulated to all members.

County Councillor S Shing gave an update on the reports and acknowledged that the clerk had already reported on the main aspects of the ESCC conference and asked that she did the same for the Wealden conference. The clerk agreed that she would. Cllr Shing asked if the clerk would do an update on the Tower Mill project she stated that she would.

A councillor asked about the new road works along Dittons road and the road narrowing and if it was related to a speed reduction.

Cllr S Shing stated that there was already a new speed limit of 30 mph now and the clerk stated that she had a copy of the total works if anyone would like to see. She also stated that it was "free to tax payers" as it was all being paid by the developer.

9896 Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk report had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting and had been read and noted by those present.

A councillor asked for more details on the archaeological investigation. The clerk stated that apparently it was close to the meadow but that the resident had indicated that a geophysical investigation might be requested. The clerk kept copies of the letter to ESCC in case of further correspondence.

A councillor thanked the office for their work and their promptness. The clerk stated she would tell the office.

9897 Reports from Representatives of outside bodies

a) Citizen's Advice Bureau

Cllr Harmer updated that the Crowborough offices were being moved (to the "hub") ; there is to be a fete in Uckfield on Sat 1st October.

b) Civil Protection

Cllrs Martin and Gibbs stated that there were still issues with where the other radio was, possibly in Hailsham. It was trying to be located.

Cllr D Shing arrived at 7.55pm

c) Cuckmere Community Bus

Cllr Martin stated that there was soon to be the annual general meeting.

d) Crime Prevention/Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Gibbs indicated that originally the chair was going to make a request for a grant, but this was not going ahead at present.

e) Eastbourne Area Transport Forum

Cllr Martin stated that he had gone to the meeting with Cllr Gibbs and Cllr Cunningham was unable to attend. Both Cllrs had queried some of the issues raised at the meeting. The organisers stated that the project was due to end on 2026, which Cllr Gibbs and Martin stated they were unlikely to be able to attend. They both stated that they would inform the group of the next meeting and outcome.

f) Polegate Windmill

Cllrs Harmer & Martin reported the next event at the Mill was on 16th October at 3pm and would be hosting a talk by Peter Hill on Mills of Denmark.

g) Press Liaison

None

9898 Adoption of minutes and recommendations for committees and standing committees

a) Environment & Leisure Minutes 12th September 2011

It was resolved to adopt the minutes and recommendations of the Environment & Leisure Committee meeting of 12th September 2011 excluding item 9864 which would be deferred and 9866 which required a further vote. VOTE All in favour

Cllr Harmer stated that the signage originally quoted for said "Recreation ground" only and the quote referred to that and a further quote was being awaited to ensure that it was of a similar price before continuing, as much larger quotes would need to be reviewed.

It was resolved to defer Minute 9864 until further information was received as the original quote had been for particular wording not the wording voted on. VOTE All in favour

Minute 9866 Street Lighting was discussed as to the liability issues should the Council not make any resolution to proceed following the original resolution. The original minute stands as legal. Estimates for the replacement at the new lighting scheme were IRO £13,692.53 + VAT. The motion if accepted would be to replace with a view of the new potential policy in mind for replacing new columns. Each councillor had details of the location of each column identified and the new quotation.

A councillor commented that the town council owned columns had letters and county owned were numbered. A discussion took place on how best to cover liability within budget but to allow for each column to be assessed.

It was resolved to accept the minute 9866 resolution with the additional resolution that the emergency repairs should be carried out within the budget of £15,000 each column would be assessed individually. VOTE All in favour.

b) Planning Committee Minutes 9th August 2011 & 19th September 2011

It was resolved to adopt the minutes and recommendations of 9th August 2011 VOTE All in Favour

It was resolved to adopt the minutes and recommendations of the Planning Committee meeting of 19th September 2011. VOTE All in favour.

A councillor commented on the problems with the accuracy and viewing the plans on the new e-planning system with no hard copy available. The clerk stated that as one of the councillors did not possess a computer she was already making one hard copy and would bring that along to the meetings. She also stated that she had contact Wealden regarding the possibility of having a standard format for the plans that are submitted.

9899 Councillors question time
None

9900 Buildings & Land Advisory Committee

It was resolved to add Cllr J O’Riordan to the buildings and land advisory committee and to alter the terms of reference to reflect this. (4 number of Cllrs raised to 5). VOTE ALL in Favour

9901 Social Networking

A discussion took place on the costs and possibilities of managing both a twitter account and a facebook account and to develop a social networking policy.

It was explained that facebook was more interactive and would need monitoring.

It was proposed to have a Twitter account and no facebook account VOTE 2 for 7 against motion lost

It was resolved to create a Twitter account to be managed by the office. VOTE All in favour

It was resolved to create a facebook account for the council as a registration only at this stage. VOTE 6 for 2 against 1 abstention

It was resolved to develop a social networking policy VOTE 7 for 1 against 1 abstention.

9902 Shop watch

The agreement had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.

It was resolved that the clerk would sign the shopwatch agreement. VOTE All in favour

9903 Photography competition

It was resolved to allow Mr Dunbar to use the chambers from 6pm-7.30pm for the judging of the competition. VOTE all in favour.

9904 Power of well being - training course for 4 councillors

It was resolved that Cllrs D Shing, J O’Riordan, E Board and G Gibbs attend the power of well being course on Saturday 26th November at a cost of £15 each. VOTE All in favour

9905 Clerks Networking day

It was resolved that the clerk could attend the networking course at a cost of £47.50. VOTE all in favour.

9906 Football lease for winter seasons 2011/12

The draft lease had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was resolved that the clerk sign the lease along with a representative of the football club. VOTE All in favour.

Cllr D Shing left the room

9907 Financial update

Cllr D Shing returned to the room

a) Accounts for payment

A councillor asked about the additional fire precautions. The clerk advised that the CNL stood for council resolved, space for detail was limited.

It was resolved to approve the accounts submitted for payment. VOTE All in favour (copy attached)

b) Barclaycard statement

The statement had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting and noted by all present.

c) Bank Reconciliation

The Bank reconciliation papers had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting and noted by all present.

9908 Correspondence for action

a) Letter regarding Wealden Parish Remuneration Panel recommendations.

It was resolved to accept the Wealden Parish Remuneration Panels councillor allowances recommendations. VOTE all in favour

b) Letter from age concern requesting regular use of chambers.

A discussion took place on the request. There were issues with the telephone and usage of the wireless and potential problems with clashes of other regular meetings. Two councillors mentioned that the shop in the high street had been allocated for the outreach and now was being used as a furniture charity shop instead.

It was resolved to politely decline the request and for the clerk to write to Age Concern informing them of the decision. VOTE 7 for 2 abstentions.

c) Email for Polegate School re governor positions

Details had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.

It was resolved that Cllr Mrs J Voyce represent the council as the community governor and Cllr M Clewett as the authority governor. VOTE All in favour.

d) Email regarding bye laws/selling cars on grass verges.

Details had been circulated to all councillor prior to the meeting. A discussion took place on the action that could be taken.

It was resolved that the clerk would write to Wealden District Council with a view to requesting a bye law to prohibit the sale of vehicles on grass verges throughout the district. VOTE 7 for 2 abstentions Cllrs D Shing, S Shing.

- e) Dickensian group request for support
- i) Photocopying - A discussion took place regarding the levels of need and financial need.
- ii) Delegated authority to the clerk for minor financial issues – a discussion took place regarding the minor issues and what may be requested.
- iii) Insurance cover

It was resolved that the Dickensian group members and volunteer stallholders would be added as volunteers to the councils public liability insurance. VOTE All in favour.

It was resolved that delegated authority be given to the clerk to authorise activities of the Dickensian group and to authorise expenditure up to £200, to include the photocopying and any extra insurance premium. VOTE All in favour.

A proposal for the timing of the switch on be set to 4pm. Vote 3 in favour 6 against. Motion lost.

It was resolved that the switch on be between 3.45pm and 4.15pm. Vote 8 for 1 abstention.

9909 Correspondence for information

- a) The letter of thanks from ESAB was noted by all present.

9910 Proposed dates of next cycle of meetings

Finance & Policy 10th October 2011
Full Council 24th October 2011
Personnel BUDGET 7th November 2011
Environment & Leisure BUDGET 14th November 2011
Finance & Policy BUDGET 21st November 2011
Full Council BUDGET 28th November 2011
Full Council 12th December 2011
Finance & Policy 23rd January 2012
Full Council 30th January 2012
Environment & Leisure 13th February 2012
Full Council 27th February 2012
Finance & Policy 12th March 2012
Full Council 26th March 2012

The meeting closed at 9.30pm