

**UNADOPTED
POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 29th November 2010 in the Council Chamber, 49 High Street Polegate at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs T Voyce (Chair), M Cunningham, Mrs J Voyce, J Rogers, T Wright, G Carter, Mrs M Piper, A Watkins, S. Shing, R Martin, Cllr S. Barber, J. Harmer, Mrs J Bigsby

Not Present Mrs D Joy, Mrs C Berry

Also present Mrs J Ognjanovic Town Clerk

Mr C Hale – Administrative Assistant

2 members of the public

9473 Apologies for absence

Mrs D Joy, Mrs C Berry

9474 Declarations of interest

Cllr M Cunningham minute 9452 Prejudicial

9480 Cllr Mrs Bigsby declared a personal non prejudicial interest.

9484 Cllr J Harmer declared a non prejudicial interest relating to Citizens Advice Bureau.

9487 Cllrs R Martin, J Harmer, A Watkins, Mrs Piper, T Wright, J Rogers declared an non prejudicial interest as they hold concessionary cards.

9475 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on:-

The minutes of the Meeting held on 25th October 2010 were signed by the chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting VOTE All in favour

9476 Notification of any matters to be dealt with as urgent

None

9477 Opportunity for public comment

One member of the public wished to speak.

Standing orders were suspended. The Member of public commented on his feelings of lack of openness from the Council. He also commented on the amount of reserves and the reduction in the reserves over the recent years. He also commented on the increase in the street lighting budget (increased to allow for essential maintenance and new lighting) and he felt that the budget was not workable.

Standing orders reinstated.

9478 Polegate Town Mayors Report

The Mayors report was read out and contents noted accordingly. The Mayor also thanked Cllr Shing for his Charity event and brought the "Pride of Polegate" Calendar to the attention of all present. Proceeds to Children with Cancer Fund.

9479 PCSO report

Cllr R Martin reported on a Police meeting he had attended and that the Police were dealing with the reduction in manpower as best as they can.

Cllr Rogers asked that the link to farm Watch to be put on the website.

9480 District/County Councillors' Reports

Reports had been received from Cllr R Martin, Cllr D Broadbent, Cllrs D & S Shing, Cllr Mrs OL Shing and Cllr Watkins and these had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr S Shing also presented his verbal report which included the situation with Gilda crescent and Hindsland. Cllr Watkins commented on the LDF and the impact on "Mornings Mill Farm" & Hindsland, although most housing would be under the Willingdon Parish. The transport study was now available and had not been discussed in cabinet as of yet. Cllr Rogers asked to clarify the area in the latest area strategy, Cllr Shing clarified it was area SD4. Willingdon School was also mentioned and at that point Cllr Mrs Bigsby declared a personal interest as her children attended the school. Asked about the Tower Mill area and the Police action in the area.

9481 Town Clerk's Report

The report was discussed.

It was resolved to subscribe to Parish Online. Vote all in favour.

It was resolved that the Clerk could seek extra funding from Wealden Safer Partnership for a shelter at Brightling Road. Vote all in favour.

It was resolved that the Town Map would be placed on the corner of the "Centre" near the bus stop and main road. Vote All in favour.

It was resolved to have RBS do the year end accounts for the amount of approximately £425. Vote All in favour.

It was resolved to use the Polegate Town Council logo on the Highways Polite notice forms in conjunction with the Highways authority. Vote All in favour.

Due to the change of date of the H&S meeting requested by Cllr Martin, he no longer wished to attend and therefore the item was deleted.

9482 Pelham Holdings – Honey Farm Appeal

A discussion took place over the amendments to the Proof of evidence and the procedures at the inquiry.

It was resolved to approve and submit the Proof of Evidence before 14th December 2010 with the amendments required. Vote All in favour

It was resolved to put a copy of the draft timetable for the Inquiry on the website. Vote All in favour

It was resolved that the Clerk, Mayor and Chair of Planning negotiate within the appellant or through ESCC WDC for certain aspects of s106 or the equivalent. Vote all in favour.

All present were informed that the inquiry was having an evening meeting on 2nd February 2011 that people could attend.

9483 Adoption of Minutes and recommendations from committees and standing committees.

It was resolved to adopt the Personnel Advisory Committee Budget Report of 8th November 2010 (on accuracy) - recommendations taken to Finance & Policy on 16th November 2010. Vote 11 in favour 2 abstentions

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Environment & Leisure Budget Committee 8th November 2010 (on accuracy) - recommendations taken to Finance & Policy on 16th November 2010. Vote 10 in favour 3 abstentions.

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee Budget of 15th November 2010 (on accuracy) – recommendations taken to Finance & Policy on 16th November 2010. Vote 10 in favour 3 abstentions

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Finance & Policy Meeting of 16th November 2010 (on accuracy) – recommendations to be considered under minute 9484. Vote All in favour.

9484 Budget Proposals for 2011/12

The budget proposals were discussed at length including employers contributions for pensions and the possibility of putting monies aside for a future liability for ex employees in the fund; Citizens' advice having no dial up costs; street lighting costs and the possibility of having no lights provided by Polegate Town Council; the large % increase of 6.9% if all items were charged through the precept. Total projected costs being £250,139. It was discussed that other local councils were only increasing by a smaller %, however the provision of the pavilion was something unique to Polegate in respect of the other Councils mentioned and was at present enduring much higher costs with little income. Councillors discussed the possibility of having a 3% rise in the precept which could be borne from reserves at this time, the forecasts show that this would be acceptable and would keep the Council within the required reserve limits. A 1% increase was also discussed but this would reduce the forecasted reserves over time and was generally decided not to be an acceptable way forward. A 6.9% increase would cost band D tax payers £85.71 per annum which equates to £5.53 per year extra or approximately 11p per week extra. A 3 % increase would cost £82.58 per annum which equates to £2.40 per year extra or approximately 5p per week. A 1% increase would cost £80.98 per annum which equates to 80 pence per year or approximately 1 pence per week.

It was resolved to accept the budget as present by Finance & Policy and to set the precept figure for 2011/12 at £241,020. (which equates to 3% increase.) Vote 7 in favour 6 against.

9485 Councillor's Question Time

A question was raised by Cllr Harmer about the electricity bill for 51 High Street and the clerk explained that this was probably due to CBT transposing their electricity meter readings.

A question was raised by Cllr Watkins regarding transparency of the Council and procedures. Cllr Watkins commented on the S137 item (British Legion wreath) under the budget. The Clerk replied stating that although the allowance was made and assumed to be under S137 she had looked further into this and it was to be added to the mayors fund as a specific amount to be used for the wreath.

A question was raised by Cllr Wright whether there was any further need for him to attend the CCTV (Police) meetings. He felt they were no longer beneficial. The next meeting was on the 15th December.

It was agreed that Cllr Wright would no longer attend and that the clerk would send a letter to request that the minutes of the meetings be sent to the clerk to circulate to councillors instead.

9486 Accounts for payment

a) The accounts were approved for payment.
Cllr Bigsby did not receive her newsletter and some councillors did not get theirs. Wannock Road, Sayerland Road, Hailsham Road and some of Wannock Road. The clerk would look into this with the distributors.

Cllr Harmer thanked the Council from the Mayors donation to the Royal Marsden sarcoma unit.

b) The clerk informed Council why the bank reconciliation had now been included in background papers. The contents were noted by council.

c) The Barclaycard statement was also included and the contents noted by Council.

d) The comments from Internal audit were noted by Council. The clerk will draw up a written procedure for the procedure that is already in place.

The post in book would now not be completed as per the internal audit report. Cllr Bigsby asked that all correspondence would be acknowledged and dealt with in the normal way. The clerk agreed that this would be the case.

9487 Correspondence for Action

a) A discussion took place on the vehicle licence.

It was agreed that the clerk would try to contact local householders to see if they would like to comment and the results would be fed back to planning committee on 6th December 2010. Vote all in favour

b) Concessionary fares were discussed and it was agreed that there would be no comment from the Polegate Town Council. Cllr Watkins was disappointed that the fares had been taken over from Wealden District by East Sussex and the early morning travel was already affected.

All other correspondence was noted by Council.

9488 Next cycle of meetings

6th December Environment & Leisure 7.30pm

6th December Planning 6.30pm

13th December Full Council 7.30pm

18th January 2011 Finance & Policy 7.30pm

31st January 2011 Full Council 7.30pm (changed due to the Pelham Appeal).

The meeting closed at 9.30pm