

**UNADOPTED
POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 30th November 2020 7pm by REMOTE meeting

Present: Cllrs D Watts, M Falkner, Mrs C Berry, A Wood, M Cunningham, R Shing, D Sanders, Mrs W Alexander, D Murray, S Shing, D Dunbar, Mrs M Piper, Ms A Snell (13)

Not Present: Cllr D Shing (1)

2 members of the public were present at the live event. Mr A Vincent of Wealden District Council was present to answer questions on minute 12732

Minute No.	Subject/Resolution
12728	Standing orders suspended <u>VOTE All in favour Cllrs D Watts, M Falkner, Mrs C Berry, A Wood, M Cunningham, R Shing, D Sanders, Mrs W Alexander, D Murray, S Shing, D Dunbar, Mrs M Piper, Ms A Snell</u>
12729	Opportunity for public comment None received
12730	Apologies for absence Cllr D Shing (work)
12731	Declarations of interest in any items on the agenda <i>District Cllrs D Watts, D Shing, R Shing, Ms A Snell minute 12732 (members of planning committee at Wealden District Council and would not be able to vote at Wealden.) Non prejudicial</i>
12732	Motion regarding feasibility study for the redevelopment of the council offices, High Street, Polegate (please see full motion paperwork) to be funded from the Ear Marked Reserve The motion was explained and questions invited. The matter was discussed at length with Mr Andy Vincent of Wealden District Council explaining how Wealden were committed to supporting this in terms of a legal agreement to purchase the elderly residential units on a leasehold basis if the project were to go ahead. A councillor commented that if an architect were approved that she would wish to see the designs as she did not wish to see an eyesore in the town centre. The costs were laid out in the background papers and explained further. The motion was to use the reserve to pay for the study to ensure that it would be fully financially viable and to determine whether it was likely to be able to fulfil its brief in providing not only accessible chambers, offices and rooms to let and possibly a smaller library facility, but also to have accommodation above that could pay for the project. It was explained that a public works loan would be required for this, but consideration would be given to the final designs and plans to ensure that the project could pay for itself as much as possible. A councillor asked about the decision making about selecting the architects (he had had experiences of delays with local ones and would be keen not to see delays). It was explained that this would be determined on who could provide suitable accommodation and it was likely that Wealden's preferred suppliers would be selected, but that it would come back to the town council for a decision quickly if the motion was voted through, as Wealden had preferred suppliers which they had very successfully worked with before. Discussions took place on the potential height of the building and units which could be built, but much of this would be determined by planning permission although some precedents were already in place. Mr Vincent indicated that Wealden were keen to have the elderly residential accommodation accessed via ramps rather than lifts and this would also be a determining factor. A councillor commented that the architects must take into consideration the possibility of devolvment of tasks and the need longer term to accommodate more staff. References were made to the drawings in the background papers, it was explained that these were not the design and that would be down to the architects, this was just an indication of floors that may accommodate the facilities. Mr Vincent informed the council that there was a large demand in Polegate (c. 155 residents), the site was well located for older people. Money had been allocated in the capital programme to be able to purchase the leasehold properties should they be built. He indicated that the preferred supplier be that who designed Grants Hill Court in Uckfield and

	would confirm this in writing to the clerk. He stated that the 3 architects were designed very well and this would help meet the needs for Polegate. It was explained that the town council would meet the costs of the study should this be approved from the reserve 339 office alterations at an approximate cost of £10,000. It was expected that the study and planning would be around 6 months. Grants Hill Court architects had won an award for their design. A councillor asked the terms of the leasehold, Mr Vincent said it would usually be either 99 or 125 year lease. <u>It was resolved to go ahead with the study as discussed VOTE 12 for Cllrs A Wood, D Dunbar, D Sanders, Mrs C Berry, Mrs W Alexander, M Cunningham, R Shing, Mrs M Piper, D Watts, D Murray, M Falkner, Ms A Snell 1 abstention Cllr S Shing</u>
12733	To approve and adopt the minutes of the Full Council meetings of 26th October 2020 <u>It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Full Council meetings of 26th October 2020 as an accurate record of the meeting VOTE All in favour Cllrs D Watts, M Falkner, Mrs C Berry, A Wood, M Cunningham, R Shing, D Sanders, Mrs W Alexander, D Murray, S Shing, D Dunbar, Mrs M Piper, Ms A Snell</u>
12734	Mayors Report (verbal) The mayor stated that he had attended a feedback meeting for the Police and crime Commissioner and discussed speeding vehicles within the town. He had attended the remote parish conference at wealden. A councillor asked if it was free, it was, he asked if he could be told how much they had planned to charge. The clerk stated that she would find out and let councillors know. The Mayor had also switched on the xmas lights, the video was now on social media, it had been a surreal experience as there were no public and the event is normally a large one for the town.
12735	To adopt the minutes and recommendations of committees and standing committees a. Personnel Committee 6th November 2020 b. Planning Committee 27th October 2020 c. <u>Finance committee 20th November 2020 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS</u> <u>It was resolved to vote to accept the minutes and recommendations of the above committees en bloc VOTE All in favour Cllrs D Watts, M Falkner, Mrs C Berry, A Wood, M Cunningham, R Shing, D Sanders, Mrs W Alexander, D Murray, S Shing, D Dunbar, Mrs M Piper, Ms A Snell</u>
12736	Financial Update (a) Approval of payments as presented <i>A councillor asked about the council tax for the new public toilet. The clerk stated that the valuation office was still considering it, but it was expected to add to the current high street office council tax at approximately the same as the old high street toilets. (£1200 pa).</i> b) Barclaycard Statements – already authorised for noting c) Bank reconciliations, income and expenditure accounts, trial balances, ear marked reserves, journals <u>It was resolved to approve the payments of £25,471.17 changes and accounts as presented. VOTE All in favour Cllrs D Watts, M Falkner, Mrs C Berry, A Wood, M Cunningham, R Shing, D Sanders, Mrs W Alexander, D Murray, S Shing, D Dunbar, Mrs M Piper, Ms A Snell</u> d. Grant applications (budget total £1000) i. Cuckmere Community Buses 1@ £300 1@£200 total £500 ii. CWCF £500 <u>It was resolved to approve the grants for Cuckmere Community Buses £500 total and Children With cancer Fund for £500. VOTE All in favour Cllrs D Watts, M Falkner, Mrs C Berry, A Wood, M Cunningham, R Shing, D Sanders, Mrs W Alexander, D Murray, S Shing, D Dunbar, Mrs M Piper, Ms A Snell</u>

12737	Motion "That Polegate Town Council join with Willingdon and Jevington Parish Council in sending a joint letter to the CCG to request a fully transparent update on their efforts in the provision of the new comprehensive medical facilities promised for so long and not delivered and the CCG's current position. That the CCG provides the necessary information to allow the Councils acting jointly and in conjunction with others to consider providing the medical facilities with the outline of the facilities envisaged and the monies set aside by the CCG to support this initiative already some two to three decades behind schedule. The Councils expect a comprehensive response to feel confident in communicating with residents. Further the Councils to request a joint meeting with the CCG representatives within a couple of weeks after receipt of their response." The joint letter was discussed at length. <u>It was resolved to send the joint letter and to make the wording a little stronger. VOTE All in favour Cllrs D Watts, M Falkner, Mrs C Berry, A Wood, M Cunningham, R Shing, D Sanders, Mrs W Alexander, D Murray, S Shing, D Dunbar, Mrs M Piper, Ms A Snell</u>
12738	Standing Orders Review (based on the NAKC model updated 2020) Council queried the references to the EY in items 18 (18f) and asked that the review be deferred pending a query about the legality of leaving this in the standing orders. Deferred.
12739	Internal Audit (interim) report for review and to adopt recommendations The report was circulated to all prior to the meeting and noted by all present. Councillors thanked the staff for their hard work. <u>It was resolved to accept the report and recommendations contained within. VOTE All in favour Cllrs D Watts, M Falkner, Mrs C Berry, A Wood, M Cunningham, R Shing, D Sanders, Mrs W Alexander, D Murray, S Shing, D Dunbar, Mrs M Piper, Ms A Snell</u>
12740	Dates of the next scheduled meetings Provisional date 14th December 2020 BUDGET & PRECEPT draft REMOTE MEETING Full Council 11th January 2021 BUDGET setting and PRECEPT setting REMOTE MEETING Full Council 25th January 2021 Full Council 22nd February 2021 Full Council 29th March 2021 Full Council 26th April 2021 Annual Town Assembly 2021 TBA Annual Statutory meeting (election of mayor) 17th May 2021 Full Council 28th June 2021 Full Council 26th July 2021 Full Council 27th September 2021

The meeting closed at 20:14pm

Signed Mayor of Polegate _____ Date _____