

**UNADOPTED  
POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 7pm at Council chambers 49 High Street, Polegate BN26 6AL**

**Present: Cllrs D Murray, D Dunbar, M Falkner, A Snell, S Shing, W Alexander, D Sanders, D Watts, M Piper, M Cunningham, C Berry, L Sargent (12)**

**Not Present: Cllrs A Wood, R Shing, D Shing (3)**

2 members of public

| <b>Minute No.</b> | <b>Subject/Resolution</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| <b>13127</b>      | <b>Opportunity for public comment for items on the agenda</b><br>None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>13128</b>      | <b>Apologies for absence</b><br>Cllrs A Wood, R Shing, D Shing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>13129</b>      | <b>Declarations of interest in any items on the agenda</b><br>Cllr S Shing minute 13133 a                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>13130</b>      | <b>To approve and adopt the minutes of the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022</b><br><b><u>It was resolved to approve and adopt the minutes of the meeting 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 as an accurate record of the meetings. VOTE 11 for 1 abstention</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>13131</b>      | <b>Mayors Verbal Report</b><br>The Mayor mentioned that he had contracted covid and had spent a couple of weeks at home. The Mayor had attended the WDALC meeting where Highways had done a presentation. He had also attended the tree planting event and planted an oak tree. Maria Caulfield had also attended. He was pleased to see the avenue of trees and the community orchard taking shape.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>13132</b>      | <b>Financial Update</b><br><b>a) Approval of payments as presented (some already approved)</b><br>A Cllr asked about the photocopy charges and lease. A Cllr commented on the basketball backboard costs.<br><b><u>It was resolved to approve payments presented £64,165.69 VOTE All in favour</u></b><br><br><b>b) Bank reconciliations, income and expenditure reports, trial balances, ear marked reserves. (For approval of variances as shown) end of year accounting papers</b><br><b><u>It was resolved to approve the bank reconciliations, reports and variances VOTE All in favour</u></b><br><br><b>c) Barclaycard statements for noting.</b><br>A Cllr asked about the NALC training. (for 3 people). The clerk stated that there were now spaces free and that Cllrs were welcome to attend. Cllr Murray stated he would attend.<br>The statements were noted by council. (delegated expenditure) |
| <b>13133</b>      | <b>Correspondence for action</b><br><b>a. East Sussex Highways consultation re the High Street, Polegate</b><br>Comments were made as below:<br><br><b><u>The council wished to pass on ALL of the comments made at the meeting as below:</u></b><br>The Town Council does not want any parking bays removed at all.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

The Town Council has emailed and asked prior to submission that an officer come and present the reasons for the change to the council.

There are major concerns about the level crossing and the affect that additional restrictions and delays for traffic in the High Street.

The island next the shops near Black Path is too close to the T junction and cars may find it hard to turn into Black Path.

There are concerns about the carbon footprint and the cost of the scheme overall.

There are concerns about localised patching and how this may be unsightly.

There were major concerns about the proximity of the proposed crossing at the top of the high street so close to the mini roundabout and the pedestrian crossing in Hailsham Road.

There were concerns about the validity of the responses based on very low numbers.

The council generally thought that the scheme may need a rethink as it was not as originally presented to the council many years ago.

There were concerns how it would affect queuing and junctions in the area.

These additional more formal comments from a Cllr speaking at the meeting were also made about the scheme and design. See below:

#### **EAST SUSSEX CONSULTATION ON POLEGATE HIGH STREET ROAD WORKS:**

The first point that I sense should be raised is to question whether this scheme is a part of the HPEMAC or separate. It would seem very bad management to further this if not part of whatever works HPEMAC involves.

The ESCC conclusions drawn from their consultation are very questionable.

- 1) The response rate was 1.7% of which a small majority (56.7%) were in favour of the 20 mph is plenty, but ESCC claims this is confirmation of their proposition where the 98.3% who saw no point in the consultation were unlikely to support a change or funding for he change – lack of engagement is usually for “no change”. ESCC claiming confirmation by just 59 people is erroneous.
- 2) The conclusion that although traffic moved slowly during the day when there are people along the High Street so applying a 20 mph limit was unnecessary was set aside because at night traffic does move quicker but of course that is when few if any pedestrians are using the High Street raising the logic of ESCC's decision.
- 3) Slowing traffic increases working times and costs for businesses but the ESCC seems to be oblivious but seems to believe their initiative on traffic movement support and incentivise enterprises
- 4) “Localised footway resurfacing” suggests a patchwork of surfaces along the High Street which will look untidy.
- 5) It is difficult to understand the ESCC contention that this proposal will help ESCC meet its carbon neutral stance by 2050 when the carbon cost of the new metal traffic signage, its installation, slower traffic so less efficient and more polluting are all taken into account. Will there be a carbon audit?
- 6) The position of the pedestrian/cyclist crossing at the north end of the High Street creates a couple of problems. One is with south-flowing traffic on to the High Street being halted access from Station Road East will be blocked as will east flowing traffic from the Hailsham Road leading to holdups on those roads. The second is the impact of cyclists onto the shared pavements often with mobility scooters and prams when it would be safer for them to use the road.
- 7) The ESCC is proposing that there are possibly four signalled crossings within 450 metres along the High Street: i) proposed new at north end; ii) existing in the centre;

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|              | <p>iii) railway crossing; iv) proposed to the south of the railway crossing. This density may set a record and precedent. Will there be connectivity between these to smooth the flow of traffic?</p> <p>8) The position of the crossing south of the railway crossing will have to be such that traffic is not queuing on the A2240 at the traffic lights though cannot be by the Black Path as envisaged or traffic accessing and exiting the Black Path will be affected.</p> <p>9) Mobility Hubs are found not viable with the narrow pavements and limited ESCC owned land. ESCC Highways are supporting the massive increase in the population of the South Weald but providing no commensurate increase in public realm space. The only railway station to serve the South Weald and northern Eastbourne commuters and other passengers is Polegate with no extra parking being provided so adversely impacting residents' lives and with parking bays being reduced. Also, ESCC have not as yet indicated where the cycle racks will be to support all the extra cyclists coming to shop that these proposals must envisage. Where are the cycle racks to be positioned?</p> <p>Overall, this scheme appears to be nonsensical but possibly ESCC ticking boxes with pressure groups such as Bespoke and virtue signalling for Climate Change when with a thorough carbon audit, it may be found lacking.</p> <p><b><u>It was resolved to submit the corporate response that the Town Council was in favour of the 20mph but to submit all comments made. It was also requested that an officer of highways make a presentation to the town council about the scheme VOTE 7 for 3 against and 2 abstentions.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>b. Cuckmere Bus request for financial support for New Year's Day Service</u></b><br/> <b><u>It was resolved to grant £200 to Cuckmere Community buses as a contribution towards the New year's day Service. The clerk was also asked to invite them to apply for further grants. VOTE All in favour</u></b></p> |
| <b>13134</b> | <p><b>Representatives from other bodies</b></p> <p><b>a. Jubilee Nature Reserve</b></p> <p>There was a brief update on the receipt of £2000 from the sparks fund and the clearance of the land and involvement of Sacred Earth. A constitution was now being prepared. Conservation identification was being carried out by Sacred earth.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>13135</b> | <p><b>Committee to consider pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 whether the public and press should be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reasons of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. (Discussion of land and legal matters)</b></p> <p><b><u>The motion was proposed and seconded. It was resolved to enter confidential session</u></b><br/> <b><u>Vote All in favour</u></b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>13136</b> | <p>The confidential report was noted by all. Some items would be discussed further at finance committee once further action had been taken.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

The meeting closed at 20:08pm

Signed Mayor of Polegate \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_