

UNADOPTED

POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 20 August 2007 in the Council Chamber, 49 High Street, Polegate at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr. J. Rogers (Mayor), Mrs C. Berry, G. Carter, J. Harmer, R. Martin, Mrs M. Piper, S. Shing, Mrs J. Voyce, T. Voyce, T. Wright.

5 members of the public

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that as the meeting had been called specifically to discuss the County Council review of the services provided at Gilda Crescent, agenda item 5, Co-option, would be deferred until the next Full Council meeting on 17 September, to ensure that sufficient time was allowed for full discussion of the main item.

7652 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Barber, Mrs Bigsby, Cunningham and Mrs Joy.

7653 Declarations of interest in any items on the agenda

There were none.

7654 Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 9 August 2007

The minutes were approved and agreed as a correct record and set aside for signature by the Mayor.

Cllr. Shing asked for it to be noted that with reference to the Full Council minutes of 2 August 2007, it was his opinion that the suggestion that 10,000 homes would be built in the area was not an exaggeration.

Cllr. Shing also stated that it was confusing to refer in reports or minutes to Cllr. Shing without putting the initial to identify which Cllr. Shing was referred to. This was noted.

7655 Matters arising from the Special Counting Meeting held on 9 August 2007

There were none.

7656 Response to East Sussex County Council's review of services to Gilda Crescent

Following a full and detailed discussion of the consultation document in respect of Phase 2 Directly Provided Services to Gilda Crescent, a proposed response was put forward as follows.

This Council is not in agreement with the four proposed options and puts forward option no. 5 as follows.

Polegate Town Council is of the opinion that it is essential to retain this local facility for local residents and that the existing building should be extended, upgraded and refurbished to meet the required standards irrespective of cost. It is also considered essential to retain respite, rehabilitation and day care facilities at this location. Additional parking could easily be accommodated within the remodelling programme.

It is also considered that the finance earmarked for expenditure on Grangemead should be commuted to Polegate.

Attention is drawn to the County Council's report to Cabinet on the Review of Gilda Crescent dated 31 January 2006 which stated that Gilda Crescent required considerable updating to bring it in line with current regulations. However this has never materialised and no modernisation has yet taken place despite the facilities value within the locality and for residents of Polegate being clearly identified within the review.

It is also recommended that the money expended on review procedures be transferred to actually providing the services necessary to the residents of Polegate.

At this point the Chair proposed suspending Standing Orders to allow a member of the public to address the Council. This was seconded and agreed by all.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED

A local resident raised the subject of the flat at Joan Hughes Court which although owned by the District Council was used by the County Council for intermediate care. It appeared that the District Council believed the flat was being used to its fullest potential but in fact it seemed to be under utilised. Wealden, as landlord, had promised that any local housing that became available would be for Towermill residents. There are currently two residents at Towermill waiting to be rehoused to Joan Hughes Court. Wealden was currently investigating if the flat could be put back into the public domain.

The Chair thanked the resident for this input and reinstated Standing Orders.

STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED

The proposal put forward before suspension of Standing Orders was then seconded and agreed unanimously; and it was further resolved that copies of the review consultation response be sent to the ESCC Cabinet lead councillors for Adult Social Care and the local MPs.

A further proposal that a letter be sent to both Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council regarding the flat at Joan Hughes Court requesting clear clarification of ownership and existing and future usage was seconded and agreed by all. It was also agreed to bring this matter back to the next Full Council meeting for further discussion.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 7.50 p.m.