

**UNADOPTED  
POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022 10am at Council Chambers, 49, High Street, Polegate BN26 6AL**

**Present: Cllrs D Murray, Ms A Snell, Mrs L Sargent, D Watts, Mrs C Berry, M Cunningham, A Wood, D Sanders, Mrs M Piper, S Shing (10)**

**Not Present: - M Falkner, Mrs W Alexander, D Shing, R Shing, D Dunbar (5)**

No members of the public were present

| Minute No. | Subject/Resolution                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| 13093      | <b>Opportunity for public comment for items on the agenda</b><br>None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 13094      | <b>Apologies for absence</b><br>Cllrs M Falkner, D Dunbar, Mrs W Alexander, R Shing, D Shing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 13095      | <b>Declarations of interest in any items on the agenda</b><br>None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 13096      | <p><i>Cllr S Shing arrived at 10:09am</i></p> <p><b>Community Governance Review – corporate response to review and notified submission</b><br/>A detailed discussion took place on the review and submission by Willingdon and Jevington Parish Council. (WJPC) It was agreed that the submission by WJPC was premature as there were many issues to be considered with the applications coming forward.</p> <p>Discussions on the locations of footpath 5 and natural boundaries such as the avenue of trees on footpath 5 to the main road. It was also agreed that similar to WJPC stating that a road would be a good boundary, the A2270 land up to at least the footpath 5 should be in Polegate. Any development of housing on that land would become part of Polegate as inevitably they would consider themselves Polegate residents and use Polegate facilities as the road cuts off the housing from Willingdon. Even the Danescroft developers appear to concur that their development as it's so close and backs onto Polegate would be considered part of Polegate and residents would use Polegate facilities.</p> <p>It was agreed that land all the way to Oxendean gardens could probably be considered in the same way.</p> <p>Comments were made on their wish to remove 4 councillors from their council and acknowledged. It was also commented upon that the facilities at Mornings Mill farm if the application were to go ahead should build the recreational facilities after around 250 houses otherwise the Polegate facilities would be overused. This area in itself if developed could be a fourth ward of Polegate. A discussion on the boundary changes, when they would take place and the numbers of electors needing to be equal took place and once again it was agreed that until any housing was there it would be premature to change the boundary.</p> <p><b>It was agreed that the Town Council would submit strong objections to the proposal by WJPC. It was agreed to submit a letter to include the response as shown below to wealden</b></p> <p><i>At the Audit, Finance and Governance Committee, Wednesday, 21st September, 2022, 9.30 a.m. at Wealden propositions for changes to Parish boundaries are to be made.</i></p> <p><i>Willingdon &amp; Jevington Parish Council (hereafter WJPC) have tabled a list of changes that it wants</i></p> |

*and one in particular affects Polegate Council. WJPC seeks to have all the unbuilt land in "East Polegate" transferred to it. This includes the East Sussex CC plots and a couple of fields of Mornings Mill Farm – all either with or likely to have planning applications.*

*Polegate Town Council Objects very strongly.*

**BACKGROUND:**

*Polegate Town Council (hereafter PTC) believes this claim may have been triggered by the approach by sports consultants working for the owner of land at Hindsland (currently within Willingdon Civil Parish) consulting with directors of Polegate's nearby Wannock Road recreation ground to designate it for Section 106 and other monies, should a planning application heard by a PINS Inspector in June 2022 be allowed. This move reflects a professional assessment that two recreation grounds, at Wannock Road and Brightling Road, in Polegate would be used by residents of Hindsland and not the recreation grounds in Willingdon which are less well equipped and distant.*

*All the land WJPC seeks to lay claim to is contiguous with PTC and either connected by footpaths and also could be connected by road if planning permissions granted. Should planning permission be granted for residential or other development on the East Sussex CC land, the access will be from Brightling Road via Courtlands Road to Polegate. The access to Hindsland development, if approved, may well be via Spurway Park into Polegate as well as using the A2270. There is no connectivity with Willingdon other than over the A2270 and its facilities and services comparatively distant.*

*Polegate is designated by WDC Planning as the Service Centre for development in the area designated as 'East Polegate', East Polegate is the description used by WDC Planning for all the area to the north east of A2270 and north of the Environmental Agency River running northeast from A2270 and Oxendean Gardens to the railway. This includes ESCC land within Polegate, Hindsland adjacent to the ESCC land and Mornings Mill Farm partly in Polegate.*

*The direct access to Polegate from the Mornings Mill Farm application site is via Polyarch and ESCC Footpath #5 and more importantly through Brightling Road recreation ground as described by the Planning Inspector in the Appeal Decision in 2019. There is no direct connectivity with Willingdon other than over the A2270. It is notable that there is no mention of why residents in 'East Polegate' would use WJPC facilities.*

*WJPC also seeks to acquire areas of housing off Hazelwood Avenue from EBC. In its submission it sees the road ( Hazelwood Avenue) as a valid boundary between Eastbourne and Willingdon.*

*Insofar as WJPC avers that this road represents a boundary, PTC avers that the wider A2270 can also be, especially as all the connectivity from the area north east of the A2270 is with Polegate the WDC designated 'Service Centre'.*

**Conclusion:**

*WJPC has opened a review of its boundaries with no reference shown to electoral numbers and based solely on geographic position and hope of financial gain. PTC responds pointing out that all the connectivity is with Polegate, residents will use Polegate facilities and services and most particularly PTC's recreation grounds: specifically Brightling Road before recreation facilities are created on the Mornings Mill Farm site. Even if approved it is unlikely that recreation facilities will be available in the next decade if progress at Brodricklands site approved in 2016 is a guide, and certainly less attractive than those in Polegate.*

*PTC sees no sound basis for any land transfer to WJPC but does see strong grounds for all of the land designated as East Polegate to be moved into the PTC boundary.*

*As Polegate's better and nearer recreational facilities will be used by any new residents on the East Polegate area and PTC suggests it would be logical and reasonable therefore for it all to be*

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|  | <p><i>included within Polegate. New residents are also far more likely to use services in Polegate</i></p> <p><i>Cllr S Shing left the meeting at 10:39am</i></p> <p><b>VOTE All in favour</b></p> <p><i>Cllr S Shing returned to the meeting at 10:42am</i></p> |
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The meeting closed at 10:44am

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

DRAFT