

**UNADOPTED
POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on Monday 19th November 2012 in the Council Chamber, 49 High Street, Polegate at 7.30 p.m.

Present: M Cunningham **MC** (vice chair), Mrs J Voyce **JV**, T Voyce **TV**, M Pybus **MPy**, Mrs C Berry **CB**, E Board **EB**, J Harmer **JH**(ex officio), H Parker **HP**, D Shing **DS** (substitute S Shing) (9)

Not Present: Cllrs S Shing **SS** (1)

No members of the public present

Also present Town Clerk Mrs Jo Ognjanovic **JO**

The meeting commenced at 7.35pm

Minute Number	Resolution	Follow-Up
10429	<p>Election of chair Two Nominations were received Cllr H Parker Cllr M Cunningham Cllr H Parker received 1 nomination no seconder Cllr M Cunningham was nominated and seconded. A vote was then taken. 5 for (Cllrs J Harmer, E Board, T Voyce, Mrs J Voyce, M Pybus) 4 abstentions (Cllrs M Cunningham, Mrs C Berry, H Parker, D Shing) Motion carried Cllr M Cunningham was elected as chair of Finance & Policy committee. Leaving a vacancy of vice chair.</p>	
10430	<p>Apologies for absence S Shing (other meeting, substituted D Shing)</p>	
10431	<p>Declarations of interest in any items on the agenda None</p>	
10432	<p>Opportunity for Public Comment None present</p>	
10433	<p>Minutes of Finance & Policy Committee Meeting of 17th September 2012 The minutes were agreed and signed by the chair as an accurate record. VOTE All in favour</p>	
10434	<p>Accounts for information only The clerk stated that these had been issued for full council and the item withdrawn.</p>	
10435	<p>Budgets 2013/14- recommendations to full council The complications of the tax base and precept setting were discussed by the committee. It was agreed to look at any changes that may need to be made in the budget with a view to setting the precept on 14th January 2013.</p> <p>It was suggested that the grants budget be reduced to £2000. Various comments were made on the reasons this may not be appropriate. No proposal was made.</p> <p>A Councillor asked if all councillors claimed the allowances and the travel money. The clerk stated that more claim the mileage allowances now and some claimed the councillors allowances, but not all councillors.</p> <p>A Councillor stated that he felt the offices could generate £10,000 now that the village green application had been dismissed. The clerk stated that she had just had new information regarding accessibility which had financial implications and once she had more information she would pass that through to councillors. Councillors asked if the accessibility could impact on the budget, the clerk stated that it would but the temporary measure could be to use the old chambers at Wannock Road or to hire other venues.</p>	

Various ideas were suggested for improvements to the council buildings and it was agreed that once more information was available on the implications the clerk would arrange for all councillors to meet, discuss suggestions on the way forward to be more inclusive.

Councillors suggested that the school crossing be reinstated unless the school was able to fund as it was highly likely that ESCC would not be able to take on this service.

It was recommended that the school crossing patrol budget and earmarked reserves be reinstated, pending discussions with the school on whether the school could pay half or the whole amount of the patrol costs.

VOTE All In favour

The clerk agreed to contact the school as soon as possible.

The youth club was discussed. The clerk stated that the Team Co-ordinator - Wealden & Rother Targeted Youth Support had indicated that discussions would take place as to whether ESCC would be offering a mobile service or a continuation of the service. He had asked that the clerk pass on his gratitude for their generous support in the past.

The committee agreed that the two new weed killing in Polegate should stay in the budget at a cost of £1850 plus VAT.

A Councillor asked if the flower beds could possibly be maintained by volunteers/community groups or supported via some form of sponsorship. The clerk stated that she would look into this for the following year's budget.

Street Lighting was discussed and a Councillor asked if there was any chance of cutting off some supplies. The clerk stated that she had already been looking at areas where columns were not required. Some had already been removed (at no cost to the council) and some were being investigated as part of the street lighting policy.

A discussion took place on whether to reinstate the second tea party in the summer, but the committee agreed it should not be reinstated.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.