

**UNADOPTED  
POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020 Council Chambers, 49 High Street, Polegate BN26 6AL at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs D Watts, M Falkner, Mrs W Alexander, Ms A Snell, Mrs C Berry, A Wood, D Sanders, D Dunbar, M Cunningham, J Harmer, D Murray, Mrs M Piper, S Shing, D Shing (14)

**Not Present:** Cllr R Shing (1)

2 members of the public

<b>Minute No.</b>	<b>Subject/Resolution</b>
<b>12871</b>	<p><b>Opportunity for public comment</b> A member of the public spoke on item 10 (minute 12880) see copy attached to minutes A member of the public spoke on item 8c (minute 1278)</p>
<b>12872</b>	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b> Cllr R Shing (work)</p>
<b>12873</b>	<p><b>Declarations of interest in any items on the agenda</b> Cllrs D Shing, S Shing County Councillors; Cllrs D Watts, D Shing, S Shing District Councillors; Mrs M Piper, D Watts, Ms A Snell, D Murray directors of PWMRG CIC All nonpecuniary. <i>NB Dispensation for all councillors still stands. (remuneration panel)</i></p>
<b>12874</b>	<p><b>To approve and adopt the minutes of the Full Council meetings of 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020</b> <b><u>It was resolved to adopt the minutes and recommendations of the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020. VOTE All in favour Cllrs D Watts, M Falkner, Mrs W Alexander, Ms A Snell, Mrs C Berry, A Wood, D Sanders, D Dunbar, M Cunningham, J Harmer, D Murray, Mrs M Piper, S Shing</u></b></p>
<b>12875</b>	<p><b>Mayor's Report verbal</b> The mayor update council on recent attendances at civic functions including Polegate School and that he had organised for them to visit Parliament. He has also facilitated an event with Scouts. The councillors' coffee morning had raised around £90 after hall hire and sundries. He referred to the Pantomime where a number of councillors had attended and stated that next year was their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He reminded councillors that he had arranged a special meet your MP event on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm which as many councillors should come to along with their queries.</p>
<b>12876</b>	<p><b>To adopt the minutes and recommendations of standing committees</b></p> <p>a) <b>Finance &amp; Policy committee meeting minutes of 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020 (if available)</b> <b><u>It was resolved to adopt the minutes and recommendations of the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020 (if available) VOTE All in favour Cllrs D Watts, M Falkner, Mrs W Alexander, Ms A Snell, Mrs C Berry, A Wood, D Sanders, D Dunbar, M Cunningham, J Harmer, D Murray, Mrs M Piper, S Shing</u></b></p> <p>b) <b>Climate Committee meeting minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 (if available)</b> A councillor requested that when referring to comments that a councillor made could that be changed to "they" instead of he/she for anonymity in smaller groups. <b><u>It was resolved to adopt the minutes and recommendations of the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020 (if available) VOTE All in favour Cllrs D Watts, M Falkner, Mrs W Alexander, Ms A Snell, Mrs C Berry, A Wood, D Sanders, D Dunbar, M Cunningham, J Harmer, D Murray, Mrs M Piper, S Shing</u></b></p>
<b>12877</b>	<b>Financial Update</b>

	<p><b>a) Approval of payments as presented</b></p> <p><b>b) Barclaycard Statements – already authorised for noting</b></p> <p><b>c) Bank reconciliations, income and expenditure accounts, trial balances, ear marked reserves, journals</b></p> <p>A councillor asked about the £85,000 in the HSBC account and whether it was related to the FSCS scheme. The clerk confirmed this and the NatWest account also. They asked if the paying in book had arrived.</p> <p>Barclaycard statements were noted by all present. Council noted the bank reconciliations and associated financial paperwork.</p> <p><b><u>It was resolved to approve the payments present £2494.94 VOTE All in favour Cllrs D Watts, M Falkner, Mrs W Alexander, Ms A Snell, Mrs C Berry, A Wood, D Sanders, D Dunbar, M Cunningham, J Harmer, D Murray, Mrs M Piper, S Shing</u></b></p>
12878	<p><b>Correspondence for action</b></p> <p><b>a) Councillors code of conduct – new Wealden amendments, recommended approval</b></p> <p>Paperwork had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.</p> <p><b><u>It was resolved to accept and adopt the new amendments to the Councillors Code of Conduct. VOTE All in favour Cllrs D Watts, M Falkner, Mrs W Alexander, Ms A Snell, Mrs C Berry, A Wood, D Sanders, D Dunbar, M Cunningham, J Harmer, D Murray, Mrs M Piper, S Shing</u></b></p> <p><b>b) Councillors remuneration – recommended councillors’ allowances (Independent remuneration Panel)</b></p> <p>Paperwork had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.</p> <p><b><u>It was resolved to adopt the remuneration panels recommendations for councillors’ allowances and expenses. VOTE All in favour Cllrs D Watts, M Falkner, Mrs W Alexander, Ms A Snell, Mrs C Berry, A Wood, D Sanders, D Dunbar, M Cunningham, J Harmer, D Murray, Mrs M Piper, S Shing</u></b></p> <p><i>Cllr D Shing arrived at 7.56pm</i></p> <p><b>c) Request from Polegate Scarecrow Festival to use the council car park for an event 20<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (see papers for full request)</b></p> <p>Paperwork had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.</p> <p><b><u>It was resolved to allow Polegate Scarecrow Festival to use the council car park and 51 High Street for the event in June as per the motion and background papers. VOTE All in favour Cllrs D Watts, M Falkner, Mrs W Alexander, Ms A Snell, Mrs C Berry, A Wood, D Sanders, D Dunbar, M Cunningham, J Harmer, D Murray, Mrs M Piper, S Shing, D Shing</u></b></p>
12879	<p><b><i>NB minute 12879 was taken after minute 12880.</i></b></p> <p><b>Motion to send letter regarding the new road layout in Terminus Road, Eastbourne and its impact on the blind/guide dogs (see paperwork, verbal update Cllr Mrs M Piper)</b></p> <p>NB this was a verbal update, no paperwork was sent.</p> <p>A councillor spoke about the proposal and the situation at Eastbourne and residents who it had affected. They had been in contact with the Guide dogs for the blind but had not managed to meet with the Access group yet, who had now submitted their comments to Number 10. They mentioned the cost (£50,000) to train a guide dog</p>

and now there were no kerbs this was causing issues for those using guide dogs. There were major concerns about the new cubes that had been placed in the pedestrianised area and there had been a number of near misses where people were not aware that road users were able to drive along the pedestrianised area. (A number of anecdotal accounts were discussed.

The council discussed the serious issues for partially sighted and people with hearing issues and asked that these be included in the letter.

- A question was asked whether Highways had had to have the development approved by ESCC/Highways.
- Whether a report on the development scheme had been sent back to ESCC/Highways
- Whether it had passed its safety audit, including for partially sighted and those with hearing difficulties and other disabilities? Access audit?
- Did Highways complain about the outcome of the scheme?
- Who designed this?
- Who approved the cubes to be installed?
- How or can guide dogs be compensated to retrain the dogs as there are no kerbs which renders their training useless.
- Has the road by the railway also been assessed for safety and around the banking area as it was not clear for users that traffic can go down the road at that point.
- If the reviews/safety audits show there is a clear danger to disability users, who will monitor this and when will action be taken to resolve the situation. It is understood that some of the land is privately owned but the roadway is highways/ESCC owned asset. How will they be taking responsibility for the issues arising with the scheme?
- Why is this such a disaster? Did this go through planning of any kind, if so, who was consulted?
- Would the portfolio holder at ESCC/Highways be prepared to walk with a partially sighted person using a guide dog to experience the issues firsthand?

The county councillors present were asked to request this information and report back to council. (They stated that there was a 10 day response time from the date of receiving the questions).

**It was resolved to delegate to the clerk to send a letter of concern in liaison with Cllr Mrs M Piper and guide dogs for the blind. VOTE 12 for Cllrs D Watts, M Falkner, Mrs W Alexander, Ms A Snell, Mrs C Berry, A Wood, D Sanders, D Dunbar, M Cunningham, J Harmer, D Murray, Mrs M Piper, D Shing 1 abstention S Shing,**

12880

*Cllr Mrs C berry left at 9pm and returned at 9.01pm*

**Motion to delegate to the clerk in liaison with to send a letter (to be sent after 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020) on behalf of the Town Council and residents it represents to the Inspector (of the Wealden Local Plan examination), explaining the Town Council's concerns about the recent decision on the Wealden Local Plan, with an emphasis over concern regarding the numbers of homes being increased (950 to ~~1250~~ 1231 dwellings per annum) and the potential affect it will have for residents (particularly lack of infrastructure, GP practices, school places, extra pressure on the hospital).**

A detailed discussion took place on the motion to send a letter to the inspector. It was emphasised that the letter was to express concerns only and highlight the issues the decision would cause to residents locally, rather than any legal challenge. (It was NOT a legal challenge to the decision). There was particular emphasis on the duty to cooperate with Eastbourne Borough Council, the NPPF guidance and the possibility that MPs should be lobbied to change the NPPF. Prime sites in Eastbourne were

	<p>discussed and the possibility that they could build upwards. The Wealden Local plan and the next stages for Wealden were discussed. The council commented on the public comment and concerns that other areas housing needs had to be taken into account. It was reiterated that the letter would be to express disappointment as representatives of Polegate and not a challenge to the decision itself. Comments about localism and it not being considered was also mentioned. There was also a concern about taking into account Natural England's recommendations and some points on this were mentioned to be included. It was agreed that the letter would not be compiled/sent until after 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020 as it may need to take into consideration decisions made by Wealden district council at that meeting, although it was likely that the Wealden Local plan would be withdrawn at that meeting, but could not be considered a decision until after the meeting. (predetermination). It was agreed that the letter would be copied into the local MP and to lobby the local MP (over changes to the NPPF). Council felt it was important to represent the views of the residents, even if just expressing its dissatisfaction with the decision.</p> <p><b><u>It was resolved to delegate to the clerk to send a letter expressing its dissatisfaction with the inspector's decision (not a legal challenge) and to express its concerns on a number of points raised. VOTE 12 for Cllrs D Watts, M Falkner, Mrs W Alexander, Ms A Snell, Mrs C Berry, A Wood, D Sanders, D Dunbar, M Cunningham, J Harmer, D Murray, Mrs M Piper 2 abstentions D Shing, S Shing</u></b></p>
12881	<p><b>Dates of the next scheduled meetings</b>  <b>Full Council 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020</b>  <b>Full Council 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020</b>  <b>Full Council 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020</b>  <b>Full Council 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020</b>  <b>Full Council 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020</b>  <b>Full Council 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020</b>  <b>Full council 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020</b></p>

The meeting closed at 9.01 pm

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