

UNADOPTED

POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd July 2006 in the Council Chamber, 49 High Street, Polegate at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. G. Carter (Town Mayor), S. Barber, Mrs C. Berry, M. Cunningham, M. Fitzgerald, G. Gibbs, J. Harmer, Mrs D Joy, Mrs M. Piper, Mrs I Scarborough

1 member of the press

7234 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Mrs Coleman, Martin, Mrs Morson, Mrs Voyce and Voyce.

7235 Declarations of interest

Cllr. Gibbs declared a prejudicial interest and Cllr. Mrs Berry declared a non-prejudicial interest in item 13A - funding for Neighbourhood Watch.

7236 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 19th June 2006

Minute 7226 (b) lighting at Joan Hughes Court - in response to a query it was confirmed that nothing further had been heard from the Thomas Scanlon Trust regarding this matter.

Minute 7219 (c) letter regarding NHS consultation and proposed downgrading of DGH - it was confirmed that the letter had been drafted and circulated to councillors for comment. As no comments were raised, it was agreed that the letter should be sent off as soon as possible.

The minutes were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

7237 Matters arising from the minutes

(a) Town Map - the Assistant Town Clerk reported on a meeting that had taken place with the Community Arts Dept. and the Arts teacher at Willingdon School with a view to getting the town map project back on track. Members were advised that the meeting had been very fruitful, there was still a lot of enthusiasm for the project and a fair amount of preparatory work had already taken place. Subject to the agreement of Council it was proposed to produce a map to the size of the Westham Parish Map but that it should take a more pictorial form along the lines of the map originally done by the children and reproduced for the millennium. Decisions needed to be taken regarding the style of illustration, whether traditional, modern or a mix of both, whether to use logos, a key, etc.

A template needs to be supplied for the school to work with and it was therefore proposed to commission a local artist to produce an outline map. Suitable materials also need to be sourced and priced. It was therefore proposed, seconded and agreed by all that a working group be formed to work with the Assistant Town Clerk to move the project forward. The group to comprise Cllrs. Harmer, Mrs Berry and Mrs Joy.

(b) Polegate Partnership - following discussion and perusal of the report supplied by the Town Co-ordinator it was agreed by all that the Assistant Town Clerk should request a site visit from a representative of Saxon Plant to ascertain which type of plant would be most suitable for the type of bed that has been created. The plants would need to be a good size, attractive and drought resistant. Twelve plants are required and additional compost, if recommended. It was also agreed to authorise the Assistant Town Clerk to spend up to £200.00 on planting.

It was further agreed to investigate the possibility of the beds being watered by a contractor using grey (recycled) water; the price to be agreed by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and lead councillors for finance.

Concern was expressed that the brown tourist information sign had still not been provided and it was therefore agreed by all that an e-mail be sent to the Town Co-ordinator requesting him to provide a visual image and dimensions of the proposed sign including the information to be displayed, along with suggested sites for the installation of the sign and photos of the sites, if possible, plus a short update on progress.

(c) Youth Services - members were advised that a Service Level Agreement had been received but it was in the process of being revised due to a number of queries and concerns expressed by the youth working group. It was anticipated that the revised Agreement would be presented to Council for approval at the next Full Council Meeting on 24th July.

A suitable youth worker had been interviewed and appointed subject to a detailed CRB check and it was hoped that the youth sessions would be able to start before the onset of the summer holidays.

7238 Financial matters

(a) Accounts for payment - following clarification regarding mileage allowances, travel claims and the lease of the Gosford Way allotments, the accounts were agreed and passed for payment.

7239 Communications from the Town Mayor

(a) Members were advised that the Town Mayor and Assistant Town Clerk had recently attended a Health & Safety Seminar which was well worth attending and which had highlighted many areas of potential hazard that the Council needed to be aware of.

(b) The Mayor also advised that as he was unable to attend the Deputy Mayor and Cllr. Martin had attended the Queen's birthday celebrations at Chichester Cathedral on his behalf.

7240 Notification of matters dealt with as urgent

There were none

7241 Town Clerk's Report

a) **vandalism** - apart from some graffiti to the skate park over the weekend, nothing further to report. However there had been incidents of the Brightling Road Leisure Ground being used by motorbikes. The Police were aware and had attended.

b) **Cuckoo Trail bridge** - members were informed that at long last the Highways Agency had agreed to mesh infill the parapets to prevent items being thrown at vehicles on the by-pass and a start date for the work to commence was awaited.

7242 Report of the Tree Warden

Nothing to report

7243 Reports from County and District Councillors

Cllr. Berry advised that following the sad death of Cllr. Ian Nottage she had agreed to take his place on the Licensing and Scrutiny Committees - noted.

Tower Mill - Cllr. Andy Watkins had prepared an excellent report which was presented to the Scrutiny Committee on 28th June and very ably represented the case for retaining the Tower Mill accommodation. Unfortunately to no avail as the decision was taken to uphold the decision to sell the premises on the open market. However a statement was made to the effect that the residents will not be evicted if they choose not to move to alternative accommodation. It was also agreed that the same level of sheltered accommodation will be featured in the Local Development Framework so there will be no reduction in the number of places available.

7244 Reports from representatives to outside organisations

Windmill - in the latest edition of 'The Mill' the Council was thanked for its donation towards the centenary function last year - noted. Members were also advised that a fete would be held on Sunday 9th July at 2.00 p.m. everyone welcome.

7245 Members' allowances

As a separate payroll from that used to manage staff wages needs to be set up for payment of member's allowances, a decision was required as to the frequency of payment. A proposal was put forward that the allowance be paid annually, this was seconded and a vote taken as follows:

In favour	3
Against	5

Therefore the proposal failed.

A second proposal was then put forward that the allowance be paid at half yearly intervals, this was seconded and a vote taken as follows:

In favour	6
Against	2

Therefore the proposal was carried. It was further agreed by all that the payments be made on 1st April and 1st October.

7246 Correspondence requiring some action

a) Funding of Neighbourhood Watch Association - members were advised that a lot of correspondence is generated by the Association and that it was important to support it. It was therefore proposed and seconded that a grant of £100.00 be paid.

A counter proposal was then put forward to increase the grant to £110.00, however there was no seconder for this proposal.

The original proposal of a £100.00 grant was then agreed by all.

b) Cricket Club condition of pitch - several members had visited the Recreation Ground and were in total agreement that the ground at Wannock Road was suitably maintained and in good condition and that as it was a multi use facility the Cricket Club could not expect a 'billiard table' finish. Members could also see no reason for holding a meeting with the Cricket Club.

It was further agreed to write to the Club advising of the Council's response and also to point out that as they now have their own storage facility there is no reason why they should use the Pavilion for storage at all. The items stored in the Pavilion should therefore be removed along with the telegraph pole and reinforcing rods currently located behind the store and for this to be carried out within one week of the date of the letter.

The Pavilion is also a shared facility and users are required to clean up after they have used it, currently the Cricket Club does not have a good record of doing this; photos to be produced as evidence.

With regard to the football season, it is considered that it is the responsibility of the linesman and referee to decide whether the pitch is suitable for playing.

(c) Wannock Road Recreation Ground informal football problems - whilst the Council was sympathetic to this resident's concerns the actions suggested in the letter were not considered practical or appropriate. However, it was agreed to pass a copy of the letter to the Police for action and to obtain prices for the removal of the lower level wire fencing to the boundary hedge.

7247 Correspondence for noting only

a) **Electric Blanket Testing** - Friday 6th October at St. John's Church Hall, 10.00 a.m. - 12 noon - noted

b) **Temporary road closures** - Otham Court Lane and Sayerland Lane two days between 3rd July - 31st July and Coldthorn Lane and Summer Hill Lane two days between 3rd July and 31st July

7248 Dates of the next cycle of meetings

Full Council	24 th July
Planning	as and when necessary

7249 Resolution

It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all that owing to the confidential nature of the next business to be transacted the press and public be excluded from the rest of the meeting.