

## UNADOPTED

### POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September in the Council Chamber, 49 High Street, Polegate at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. G Carter (Chair), S. Barber, Mrs C Berry, Mrs E Coleman, M. Cunningham, J. Harmer, Mrs D Joy, R. Martin (from 9.00 pm) Mrs V Morson, Mrs M Piper, Mrs J Voyce and T. Voyce

No members of the press.      Four members of the public.

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#### **7203 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Gibbs

#### **7204 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

#### **7205 Presentation of Past Mayor's Badge**

The Mayor presented Cllr. Harmer with his past Mayor's badge and said that he (Cllr. Harmer) was a hard act to follow. Cllr. Harmer accepted the badge with thanks to his fellow councillors and said that in fact he felt the present Mayor would be a much harder act to follow!

#### **7206 Minutes of the Council Meeting Held on 24 JULY 2006**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2006 were adopted as correct and signed by the Mayor.

#### **7207 Matters Arising From the Meeting Held on 24 July 2006**

a) **Youth Services** - members were advised that the Service Level Agreement had now been signed by both PTC and YDS and that the sessions were now in progress. However it was pointed out that the face to face sessions were actually of 2 hours duration rather than the anticipated 3 hours as time had to be allowed for setting up, forward planning and reporting. It was hoped that the session time would shortly be increased to 2½ hours.

Two councillors had visited the pavilion for the opening session. Unfortunately no young people had arrived and the youth workers were intending to do some outreach work to let the youth know that the sessions were in progress. The facility would also be advertised at Willingdon School at the start of the new term.

In accordance with the terms of the SLA, it was proposed, seconded and agreed by all that Cllrs. Mrs Joy and Cunningham be appointed as the Council's nominated representatives to support the youth work.

#### **7208 Financial Matters**

a) **Accounts for payment** - the agreement with regard to watering of the flower beds in Hailsham Road was clarified, as was the monthly payment amount to EDF in respect of street lighting and the payment to IEC in respect of supply and installation of PIR lights to the Council office and replacement water heater for the kitchen. A query was also raised regarding the CCTV cameras as a recent incident had revealed no record of the cameras facing the High Street. Members were advised that the cameras are phased and it was a question of 'Murphy's Law'. However it was queried why the cameras could not be positioned so that one, preferably the higher one, always watched the High Street while the other is facing a different direction.

This was accepted as a reasonable suggestion and it was there proposed, seconded and agreed by all to write to Sussex Police asking for the cameras to be configured accordingly.

**7209 Personnel Committee** - change of Chair - owing to the resignation of Cllr. Mrs Scarborough as Chair of Personnel it was noted that the Deputy Chair, Cllr. Mrs J Voyce, was now Chair of that committee.

#### **7210 Adoption of Minutes of Standing Committees**

**Planning of 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1<sup>st</sup> August and 14<sup>th</sup> August 2006** - the Chair of Planning presented the minutes and there being no matters raised, proposed that they be adopted. This was resolved unanimously. The Chair of Planning then asked for consideration of an item relating to public speaking at meetings to be discussed under confidential section.

**Personnel of 21 August 2006** - the Chair of Personnel moved that the approval of these minutes be taken into confidential section and this was agreed by all.

#### **7211 Communications from the Town Mayor**

a) **Cycle Path Newhaven to Seaford** - the Mayor reminded members of the difficulties encountered by visiting French cyclists and said that he had received a response from ESCC regarding the reasons for laying flint stones on the cycle path and possible alternative surfacing materials . It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to pass this information on to the local cycling club.

#### **7212 Notification of matters dealt with as 'urgent'**

There were none.

#### **7213 Town Clerk's Report**

a) **Vandalism report** - attention was drawn to three incidents of vandalism during August, particularly to the Pavilion, when the guttering was broken and the gents toilet door kicked in. It was also noted that although these events closely coincided with the opening of the youth facility, there was no connection in this instance with the youth club.

b) **PCSO report** - the reduction in violent crime, burglary and criminal damage was very pleasing however members felt that there was still an on going problem with anti social behaviour and vandalism. An recent incident of youths on the railway was mentioned and it was noted that Network Rail and Southern Rail were working in partnership to address this problem and the police helicopter was assisting.

#### **7214 Reports from County and District Councillors**

The only item was the recent incursion by travellers onto land at Dittons Road when Southern Water omitted to close the gate after a routine check on the pumping station. WDC were very good and worked well with the landowner and the travellers were moved on within the week which was an excellent result. They then moved on to Jubilee Way and following that Cophall but were moved on very quickly.

#### **7215 Gambling Act 2005 - statement of principles**

It was agreed that Cllr. Harmer would peruse the document and comment if appropriate.

#### **7216 A22/A27 Bypass Matters**

It was noted that the condition of the verges, the overgrowth of vegetation, rubbish accrual etc. had been a bone of contention for some nine months. Numerous emails, letters and phone calls had been exchanged with the Highways Agency but so far to no avail. The photographs distributed clearly showed the storm drain gulleys filled with soil. No topsoil had been provided to allow the grass to grow and the 'Welcome to Polegate' sign could not be seen for the weeds. In addition one side of the A22/A27 was cut on an urban cycle and the other on a rural cycle! The street lights (14 or so) were not working last winter and were still not working now. In addition the fence on the railway bridge was in need of urgent replacement and had been for some months. All in all it gave visitors a very poor impression of the town and was a constant source of irritation for residents.

Members were advised that the Highways Agency's response was that there was not enough money to go round so all works have to be prioritised according to their urgency. There were no funds this financial year to replace the fencing on the bridge and therefore this would be carried out sometime during the financial year 2007 - 2008. However the cycle of cutting on the A22/A27 would be rescheduled as an urban cut on both sides.

After some discussion it was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to write a strong letter to the Highways Agency enclosing the photographs and stating that the lack of response to these problems was just not good enough. The letter to be copied to Norman Baker MP, WDD, ESCC and InterRoute. It was also proposed, seconded and agreed to issue a press release.

### **7217 Town Map**

The report of the Working Group, having been previously circulated, was discussed. It was unfortunate that problems in working with the school had been identified, not least the technicalities of the school being able to produce and provide the type of material required in a format that could be used by the printers. In addition, it was felt that the artwork so far produced by the school was not suitable or in harmony with the type of map that Council had in mind and had previously agreed.

It was therefore proposed, seconded and agreed by all to adopt the suggestion of the working group that instead of continuing the project with the school, that a local artist be asked to produce the artwork for the map as it was felt he had the necessary skills and insight into what was required and the timescale for completion would be considerably reduced.

Whilst this was considered to be the best way forward members very much appreciated the effort put in by students to produce some artwork and as a token of that appreciation it was proposed, seconded and agreed by all that, subject to approval from the school, the student's work be displayed in the Council Chamber until, say, half term.

A draft letter to the school explaining the situation was then circulated and approved by members.

The places identified for inclusion on the map were agreed as per the list provided in the report, the map to be printed on clear vinyl which would then be stuck onto a polycarbonate sheet as this was the most vandal resistant material available and finished with a suitable frame, perhaps wood trim. The map to be located on the grassed area outside the station, adjacent to the pavement between the cctv column and lamp column, provided permission is forthcoming from the land owners.

## 7218 Correspondence

a) **Police Ward Action Plan** - it was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to request assistance in combating vandalism and anti social behaviour at Oakleaf Play Area, the Community Centre and the High Street.

b) **Queen's Award for Voluntary Organisations** - it was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to query by phone if it was possible to nominate a branch of an organisation or whether it had to be the organisation per se. If it proved possible then the Polegate branch would be nominated.  
It was also agreed to nominate the local lip reading group if details could be provided.

c) **WDC Historic Gardens Seminar** - no members available to attend.

d) **District/Parish Conference** - members asked to make a note of the date, attendees to be decided nearer the time.

e) **Training Day at Chiddingly** - no members available to attend.

## 7219 Correspondence for noting only

a) **South East Coast Strategic Health Authority** - acknowledgement of Council's letter regarding the proposed downgrading of the DGH

b) **Wealden Federation of Voluntary Organisations** - confirmation of closure and offer of return of membership subscription which had been taken up.

c) **Temporary road closure A22 Golden Jubilee Way** - Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2006. Alternative dated Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October and Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2006 to accommodate contractor availability. Alternative routes via Dittons Road, Stone Cross, Lion Street/Friday Street and vice versa.

d) **Neighbourhood Watch Association** - thank you letter for funding

e) **Wealden Citizens Advice Bureaux** - thank you letter for grant aid

f) **ESCC Setting Local Speed Limits revised guidance** - prelude to production of policy -noted

g) **Town & Parish Standard:07** - members were advised that the Standards Board is becoming increasingly concerned about councillors speaking on confidential matters and it was strongly recommended that members take heed of the standard.

**7220 Dates of the next cycle of meetings**

Full Council	2 October 2006
Planning	19 September 2006

**7221 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.