

UNADOPTED

POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 December 2006 in the Council Chamber, 49 High Street, Polegate at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. G Carter (Town Mayor), Mrs E Coleman, M. Cunningham, J. Harmer, Mrs D Joy, R. Martin, Mrs V Morson, Mrs M Piper, Mrs J Voyce and T. Voyce
Six members of the public. No press.

7355 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Barber, Mrs Berry, Fitzgerald, Gibbs and Mrs Scarborough.

7356 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

7357 Polegate Town Football Club

The Mayor suspended Standing Orders to enable the President of the Football Club to address the Council.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED

The President thanked members for the opportunity to present the newly formed Polegate Town Football Club, the previous club having been disbanded some three years ago. It was the Club's hope that they would be able to use the pitch at Wannock Road Recreation Ground although it was recognised that another local club were regular users of the pitch and the ground was unable to sustain more than one club. They were therefore looking to the future and hoped to be considered as and when the pitch became available. The President also advised that the Club hoped to become involved with community projects and to encourage more interest in sport amongst youth. They were currently building their website and were in contact with other local groups.

The Mayor thanked the President for his input and following a short discussion it was resolved to defer any further discussion or decisions regarding use of the pitch until a later date.

STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED

7358 Minutes of the Council meeting held on 6 November 2006 and Special Council meeting held on 14 November 2006

The minutes of both the above meetings were agreed as correct and signed by the Mayor.

7359 Matters arising from the Council meeting held on 6 November 2006

a) **Minute 7322 - response from police regarding anti social behaviour problems and public meeting** - it was agreed that as things had quietened down and the unwelcome visitors appeared to have been dispersed, not to call a public meeting at the present time. It was also agreed to defer the appointment of a Police Liaison Officer until the next Council meeting.

b) **Youth Development worker** - it was noted that a replacement youth worker had now been recruited and had attended her first session on 28 November. Reports from the youth manager were positive with a very good attendance at the two evening sessions at the Pavilion. It was also noted that the youth worker's salary had been frozen between the departure of the outgoing worker and the arrival of the new worker.

c) **Audit report and recommendations** - it was resolved to bring the outstanding items listed in the audit report and the internal auditor's recommendations to the attention of the incoming Responsible Financial Officer for action and implementation. It was also noted that the Financial Risk Management Policy Statement as submitted was only a template and had never been 'personalised', therefore it could not be adopted in its present form.

7360 Matters arising from the Special Council meeting held on 14 November 2006

There were no matters arising.

7361 Financial matters

a) **Accounts for payment** - a query was raised regarding the payment for a licence for the transverse. It was clarified that this had initially been a requirement of ESCC but owing to internal confusion between departments the Assistant Town Clerk had been advised that a licence was now not necessary and the Town Council's cheque had been returned - noted. The accounts were all approved for payment.

b) **Chairman's allowance** - Cllr. Carter declared a prejudicial interest and left the Chamber during discussion of this item. The Deputy Mayor took the Chair in his absence. Members were advised that at the March meeting Council had made a decision in favour of acceptance of members' allowance and at the July meeting it had been agreed that the allowance should be paid twice yearly. However the Chairman's allowance had not been discussed and neither had the subsistence allowance. The Chairman's allowance is £150.00 more than the average councillor's allowance.

Since this item had been requested for inclusion on the agenda, new information regarding members' allowance had been received and which will be effective as from 1 April 2007. It therefore appeared that to discuss this item now would be somewhat premature.

However the proposal was put forward that members reach agreement retrospectively regarding provision of the Chairman's allowance for this year, 2006/2007. It was suggested that £450.00 would be appropriate. The proposal was seconded and a vote taken as follows:

In favour: 8
Against: 1 (Cllr. Cunningham)

Therefore the Chairman's allowance for 2006/2007 was agreed at £450.00.

It was also resolved that the new information relating to member's allowances is circulated for discussion at the budget meeting.

Cllr. Carter returned to the Chamber.

7362 Adoption of minutes of standing committees

a) **Personnel of 31 October 2006** - the Chair of Personnel presented the minutes and there being no matters raised, proposed that they be adopted. This was resolved unanimously.

b) **Planning of 31 October and 28 November 2006** - the Chair of Planning presented the minutes and there being no matters raised, proposed that they be adopted. This was resolved unanimously.

7363 Management of twittens

Members were advised that as part of an audit being carried out by Wealden, twittens in the town had been identified and submitted for inclusion in a review of areas of responsibility. The findings had been collated into a short report which was now to hand and listed which authority had responsibility for each twitten. It was noted that the lane between Victoria and Albert Roads (exiting onto Brook Street) and the twitten off the lane and running between Brook Street and Victoria Road, plus the twitten at the rear of Albert Road had not been included in the list. WDC to be notified and an amendment made to the office list.

A volunteer was required to periodically inspect the twittens to ensure they were kept free of accumulating rubbish etc. and open for pedestrian usage. Cllrs. Martin and Mrs Piper agreed to act in this capacity and it was also suggested that the litterpicker could help with the inspections. Any problems to be reported to the appropriate authority.

7364 Land west of Shepham Lane

Cllr. Martin declared a non-pecuniary interest and left the Chamber during discussion of this item.

The District Council has for some time been asking for suggestions for suitable areas of land that may have the potential to be considered as sites suitable for housing development. It was therefore suggested that the piece of land to the west of Shepham Lane, rear of Greenleaf and Oakleaf Gardens, could be put forward as a suitable site for consideration.

The site had a number of advantages in that it would have far less environmental impact and integrate more easily into the community and residents may well choose to shop locally rather than going out of town which would help regenerate the economy. The site could probably accommodate around 1,000 houses and there are already access spurs in existence from the original development in Greenleaf and Oakleaf Gardens. The more options there are on the table, the more opportunities there will be to get the maximum of housing and housing type required for Polegate.

There is another area of land further west towards Sayerland Road but it is not known who owns the site.

The integrity of the cuckoo trail was queried but it was felt that this would not be a problem as the trail would remain and one possible option would be to provide public recreation land alongside the trail.

It was therefore proposed that the site be identified to Wealden as an option for a future potential housing development.

The proposal was seconded and a vote taken as follows:

In favour:	5
Against:	3

Therefore the proposal was carried.

Cllr. Martin returned to the Chamber.

7365 Communications from the Town Mayor

The Mayor reported on meetings and functions he had attended on behalf of the Council as follows:

27 October 2006: Cuckmere Bus 30th anniversary dinner

27 November 2006: ESCC Reception for Chairman of Christ Pinneberg. A reception was also held by Polegate Twinning Association the following day (28th).

7 December 2006: 'As One' performance by Eastbourne consortium of schools including Polegate school.

9 December 2006: Vigil in opposition to the closure of the District General Hospital which a number of councillors attended.

Members were also advised that the office would be closed from noon on 22 December 2006 until 9.00 a.m. on Tuesday 2 January 2007.

The Christmas Lights Working Group was reminded that the judging was scheduled to take place on Monday 18 December at 5.15p.m., leaving from the Council office. The entries from the school for the motif design were on display in the library. It was also agreed that the Christmas lighting scheme was very attractive. The Assistant Town Clerk was thanked for her hard work and especially for getting the transverse in place in time for the festivities.

7366 Notification of matters dealt with as 'urgent'

There were no urgent matters.

7367 Town Clerk's report

a) **vandalism report** - one item was reported - the gents toilets had been blocked and mud smeared over the walls and floor but nothing was broken or damaged - noted.

b) **PCSO** - a new PCSO had been assigned to the town. PCSO Jamie Harwood is due to start his six/eight week training period on 27 December after which he will have responsibility for Polegate and Willington & Jevington. Jamie will also be invited to meet the Council at the first appropriate meeting - noted.

c) **Citizens Advice Bureau** - **Cllr. Harmer declared a non prejudicial interest in this item.**

A pilot scheme is currently running to ascertain whether an appointment system is a more effective way of deploying staff. Currently the Thursday morning sessions are by appointment only with Tuesday remaining as a drop-in session. This caused some concern amongst members as the drop-in sessions were considered to be an important feature of the service and the annual grant from Council was agreed with the expectation of two drop-in sessions per week being provided. It was also noted that despite the fact that the Council makes the 4th largest donation to the CAB, Polegate was not listed as a major contributor in the Annual Report.

It was therefore resolved to write to the CAB expressing Council's disappointment at the loss of a drop-in session and advising that the grant may have to be revised for the next financial year if the session cannot be reinstated.

d) **District/Parish Conference** - the Assistant Town Clerk's report, previously circulated, was noted. The conference was a very useful and informative exercise, well attended by local town and parish councils, and provided an opportunity to network with other Clerks and council representatives.

e) **A22/A27 planters** - members were advised that the company that had expressed an interest in sponsoring the planters at the A22/A27 junction had carried out a cost analysis of the project and found it to be too expensive. Therefore the planters would need to be considered as part of next year's planting programme - noted.

7368 Streetlighting

- a) **Replacement lantern Aberdale Road** - as the existing lantern was obsolete it was necessary to provide a replacement - noted.
- b) **Column at Reynoldstown Lane** - the cast iron door on this column had been broken and replacement was not possible as the column itself was now obsolete. However, it was still considered to be in a safe condition and therefore did not need replacing at the present time - noted.

7369 Towermill Place Update

8no. residents have moved, or are about to move
2no. residents have passed away
1no. resident can be accommodated following completion of another move
9no. residents remain on site
Home-loss payments have been made to the residents that have moved.
Security has been improved at the rear of the property to prevent access by non key holders.
Following consultation the summer house has been moved to Joan Hughes Court.

7370 Reports from District and County Councillors

It was reported that a meeting had been held with Norman Baker MP and representatives from the Highways Agency, InterRoute and ESCC regarding the on-going problems with Cophall roundabout and other related highway matters. Hopefully some of the outstanding issues would now be resolved.

7371 Website

Two requests for links to the Council website had been received and referred to the website working group for consideration. However, whilst members accepted the recommendation of the working group with regard to the two requests, it was suggested that a policy should first be agreed and adopted by the Council that set out the criteria for approval of requests for links to the site. It was therefore proposed, seconded and agreed by all that the working group should prepare a suitable policy for submission to Council.

7372 Correspondence

- a) **Footpath between Wannock Road and Barons Way** - the report from ESCC was noted. It was also confirmed that the footpath in question was an old farm access road which had never been on the indicative map and the frontage had been blocked by new development.
- b) **Road closure Farmlands Way** - resurfacing works are scheduled to commence on 2 January 2007 and will continue until 3 February 2007 - noted.

c) **1st Polegate Scout Group** - copy letter to WDC enquiring whether it would be possible to purchase the former British Rail land rear of Gilda Crescent for development of a Scout Headquarters - noted.

d) **East Sussex Fire Brigade Best Value Performance Plan** - copy in office for perusal.

7373 Dates of the next cycle of meetings

Personnel	09 January 2007
Full Council	15 January 2007 (budget meeting)
Full Council	22 January 2007
Planning	as and when necessary

7374 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.