

UNADOPTED

POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **Town Council** held on **Monday 12th September 2005** in the Council Chamber, 49 High Street, Polegate at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. J. Harmer (Town Mayor), G. Carter, M. Fitzgerald, R. Martin,
Mrs V. Morson, Mrs M. Piper, Mrs I. Scarborough, Mrs J. Voyce, T. Voyce and
B. Winn
CPSO Gareth Hollister (Sussex Police)
1 member of the press 1 member of the public

6864 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. S. Barber, Mrs Berry, Mrs Coleman, M. Cunningham, K. Gatrill, G. Gibbs and Mrs Joy.

6865 Declarations of interest in any items on the agenda

Items 7a and 15 – Cllrs. Mrs J Voyce and T. Voyce - a personal interest
Item 7a – Cllr. R Martin – a personal interest (membership)

6866 Police matters

CPSO Gareth Hollister introduced himself to members and said that he felt he was getting to know the town quite well as he has now been beat officer for two months. He advised that over the last nine weeks there had been 173 patrol hours which averaged about 19 hours per week for the town. 79 crimes had been committed since July 2005 as follows: 9 vehicle crimes, 6 violent crimes in public space, 22 thefts, 5 domestic incidents, 9 burglaries, 15 counts of criminal damage, 4 other violent crimes and 9 other crimes. Polegate has the fifth highest crime rate in the Wealden area. 30 fixed penalty notices had also been issued.

Councillors commented that it would be helpful to receive outcomes as well as incident information. Cllr. Mrs Scarborough advised that following discussions with Insp. Brown this information will now be provided in spreadsheet format. The question of bikers riding without lights was raised particularly in view of the darker evenings/mornings. It was agreed to try and get the safety message across in various ways, i.e. through liaison with local schools and via the Town Council newsletter. It was also suggested that the newsagents be asked to encourage their newsboys/girls to use lights on their bikes.

Post meeting note: CPSO has written to the schools and newsagents to raise awareness of the potential dangers of riding bikes without lights.

6867 Youth Services Report

The Assistant Town Clerk reported that youth workers have been continuing outreach work with youth in the town and have established a group of youngsters who would like to be involved with the formation of a Youth Council. The first meeting with the youth to ascertain if there is a sufficient level of interest and, if so, to lay the foundations for the Youth Council, is scheduled for 20th September in the Pavilion, subject to a satisfactory risk assessment.

Unfortunately the planned event at the skatepark has not happened yet. This is because the Youth Development Service does not have funds of its own and has to engage with other partners to be able to hold events. In this case it is the Sussex Association of Boys Clubs but unfortunately the youth worker concerned went off on long term sick leave and has since left the Association. Jan Murphy (YDS) is currently negotiating with the Director of the Association to pursue funding and to see what other activities could be run in Polegate. She is also talking with Wealden to see if they can put some Sports Development Workers into the town.

Post meeting note: the risk assessment has now been carried out and proved satisfactory, therefore the meeting will go ahead as scheduled.

6868 Report of the tree warden

In response to Council's concern it was confirmed that the chestnut tree in School Close was now doing fine.

6869 Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Monday 18th July 2005

Minute 6816 c Cllrs. Mrs Piper wished it noted that she had also declared a prejudicial interest in this item.

Cllr. Fitzgerald reserved minute number 6829. As this is a confidential minute it was agreed to defer the adoption of the confidential section of the minutes until later in the evening. It was then resolved that the minutes of the non confidential part of the meeting be adopted as a correct record and were signed by the Mayor.

6870 Matters arising from the minutes

a) Licence applications - Cllr. Mrs Voyce reported that the Royal British Legion Club in Victoria Road had made an application to (in general) extend their licensing hours by one hour – e.g. Monday to Saturday from 11.00 p.m. closing to midnight, with an entertainments license to match. The application was put before Wealden's Liquor and Entertainments Licensing Sub-committee on 23rd August. Opposing residents were represented by a resident from Victoria Road. The Clerk had sent a representation on behalf of the Town Council, which was endorsed by herself at the meeting in addition to presenting the comments from the Council's minutes. The sub-committee turned down the application. Additionally, entertainment must end 30 minutes before closing time. The Club must display prominent notices requesting that patrons leave quietly and all rear doors and windows must be kept closed whilst the Club is open. The applicant now has an option to appeal the decision.

b) Car parking review – members were advised that the review decisions had been passed to ESCC. However they will not receive a high priority but will take their place along with all the other requests ESCC has received.

c) Fencing at Wannock Road Recreation Ground – members were advised that the start date for the hedge clearance and installation of the fencing is 14th September.

d) New byelaws – it was reported that the draft byelaws had been forwarded to the ODPM for comment and that any comment received would be acted upon and the final version sent for consultation. The Council would then have to advertise the byelaws and await the outcome of the consultation exercise. They would then be confirmed by the ODPM. The Council would then be able to action the new byelaws and put the notices in place.

e) **Wannock Road Recreation Ground - repair of roundabout** – repairs have now been carried out by a welder using the spare parts provided by Wicksteeds.

6871 Financial matters

a) **Audit** – it was agreed to discuss this item under confidential matters.

b) **1. Grant request – Wealden Federaton of Voluntary Organisations** – following some discussion regarding the financial opportunities available to the WFVO and the fact that it employs paid fund raisers, it was unanimously decided not to offer a grant on this occasion.

2. Grant request – Relate – it was agreed to defer a decision on this item until the next Council meeting (17th October) to enable further information to be obtained.

3. Street light renewals

It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs Scarborough, seconded by Cllr. Voyce and agreed by all that the Town Clerk should be asked to walk and prioritise the list provided by EDF and bring a proposal for renewals to the next Council meeting. It was also agreed that no work should be carried out in Watermill Ward.

Cllr. Martin said that he thought a light was missing in St. John's Road and that he would check whether this was correct and report back to the Town Clerk.

4. Budget cycle – The Mayor reminded members that ideas were needed for inclusion within the next budget cycle. He also mentioned that the Crossroads garden was no longer being maintained by Gardener's Society and suggested that this was a project that the Council could take on next year. The cost of plants would be somewhere in the region of £70 - £100 per year.

It was agreed to form a working group to look at the question of gardens and planting in general and make a recommendation to Full Council for inclusion in the budget. It was agreed that Cllrs. Mrs Piper, Mrs Scarborough and B. Winn would make up the working group. The Town Clerk to be asked to provide maintenance costs etc.

6872 SALC - councillors training

It was agreed not to send a delegate to the training days but to ask Trevor Leggo to supply copies of any handouts after the meeting has taken place.

6873 Action in Rural Sussex Annual Conference

It was agreed that Cllr. Martin would attend the conference on 18th November subject to a diary check for availability. Cllr. Martin to confirm his attendance to the Town Clerk.

6874 Adoption of minutes of Standing Committees

Planning of 19th July, 9th August and 5th September 2005 – Cllr. Voyce presented the minutes for perusal, and, there being no matters raised, proposed their adoption, which was agreed by all.

Personnel of 5th September 2005 – Cllr. Mrs Scarborough presented the minutes for perusal, and, there being no matters raised, proposed their adoption, which was agreed by all.

6875 Communications from the Town Mayor

The Town Mayor reported that he had attended Airborne as a guest of Chaseley Trust and had also been a guest at the celebration for the birth of Cllr. Shing's son. He had also attended the opening ceremony for the new storage area at the Community Centre and the 40th anniversary of Polegate Windmill.

The suggestion of hosting a coffee morning in the Council Chamber to raise funds for Macmillan cancer relief was not taken up as it was advised that the Downlands Medical Centre would be holding an event and quite probably other outlets around the town, and it was considered more appropriate for councillors to support these activities where possible.

6876 Notification of matters dealt with as urgent

There were none.

6877 Update from Working Groups/lead Councillors etc.

a) Allotments – Cllr. Martin advised that the judging for the Best Allotments Competition had been carried out and commented that enthusiasm among allotment holders is currently very good.

The Mayor advised that the numbering and agreed maintenance work on the allotments was now complete and said he was pleased with the progress that had been made.

b) Leisure, Allotments and General Purposes Group – Cllr. Mrs Scarborough queried why Cllr. Gibbs had been producing the meeting notes from the meetings of this group. The Assistant Town Clerk explained that originally staff had been told they were not required to attend meetings for this particular group and therefore Cllr. Gibbs had produced the meeting notes. Although it has now been decided that it is helpful to have a member of staff present at these meetings Cllr. Gibbs has stated that he would continue to produce the notes. The Assistant Town Clerk said it was not an unwillingness on the part of staff but merely a deferral to the wishes of a Councillor and that both she and the Town Clerk were happy to produce meeting notes if that was the preference of the group.

c) ESCC reorganisation – Cllr. Martin advised that owing to reorganisation of the ESCC offices, the Polegate depot had been closed and staff redistributed to different areas, the main centre of operations being Ringmer. The yard was currently being used by contractors and garage staff only.

d) Speed limit on C40 Wannock Road – Cllr. Martin advised that Cllr. Shing and himself had put out a letter to residents giving an update on progress to date.

e) Highway matters – Stud Farm Estate – Cllr. Mrs Scarborough reported that the pavements were currently being repaired in both Hyperion Avenue and Sunstar Lane. Following some discussion it was agreed that a letter be sent to the County Council requesting advance warning of any road works, pavement work etc., and a weekly update on all work being carried out in Polegate.

6878 Town Clerk's Report

a) Bring Forward Schedule – matters on the schedule were reviewed and commented upon.

Access onto Council owned land - Cllrs. raised the question of access onto Council owned land from Heron Ridge and Spurway Park and queried whether the draft letter had been vetted by the Council's solicitors. It was agreed to ask the Town Clerk to circulate the draft letter to councillors and to run it by the solicitors and bring back to next Full Council (17th October 2005).

Broadband and web site - it was proposed by Cllr. Mrs Scarborough, seconded by Cllr. Martin and agreed by all that by the next Full Council meeting (17th October 2005) the office is connected to Broadband and a meeting organised with the web site organisers. The Town Clerk to report back at next Full Council (17th October 2005).

Town map - it was also agreed that Willingdon school cannot be expected to maintain the web site pages and that the school should be asked to create the Town Map only. The Town Clerk to contact Marina Castledine to ascertain whether it is a realistic project and, if so, obtain a timescale. However, if the school is unable to produce the Town Map then the project would be shelved. The Town Clerk to produce a report for next Full Council meeting (17th October 2005).

Help point – it was agreed to discuss this item under Confidential matters.

b) Vandalism report – it was agreed to ask Cherry Security to supply and install a replacement security shutter at the Pavilion at a cost of £695.00.

6879 Correspondence requiring some action

a) WDC District/Parish Conference – Cllr. Carter proposed the following item should be suggested to Wealden for inclusion on the agenda. That more details should be required on planning applications and that existing site plans as well as the proposed plans should be made a requirement of all planning applications. Members agreed with this proposal and the Assistant Town Clerk was asked to respond to Wealden accordingly.

b) Sustainable Communities Bill – after some discussion it was agreed to sign up to the Local Authority Resolution in support of the Bill.

c) Review of Parish boundaries – it was generally agreed that Wealden had taken no account of the public consultation report which was 2:1 in favour of Watermill ward remaining in Polegate. It was also agreed that the Town Clerk should reply reiterating the Council's recommendation as previously advised to WDC. The letter to be viewed by Cllrs. Mrs Scarborough, Harmer and Martin before being sent off.

6880 Correspondence for noting only

a) Moving Forward – Cllrs. Martin and Winn to attend.

b) Sub Regional Housing Needs Study – copy to be forwarded to Barry Knights.

c) Mayor of London thank you letter re. London bombings – noted.

d) Polegate Community Assoc. thank you letter re. grant towards additional storage facilities – noted.

6881 Dates of the next cycle of meetings

Full Council	17 th October 2005
Planning	as and when necessary

6882 Resolution to take next business in confidence

Cllr. Mrs Scarborough proposed that owing to the confidential and sensitive nature of the rest of the matters to be discussed, the press and public be excluded from the rest of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Voyce and so resolved.

6883 Confidential matters

- a) Minute 6829 (a) Minutes of the previous meeting**
- b) Audit report**
- c) Council offices – lease of premises**
- d) Personnel matters**