

UNADOPTED

POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 12th November 2007 in the Council Chamber, 49 High Street, Polegate at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllr. J. Rogers (Mayor), Mrs C. Berry, Mrs J. Bigsby,
G. Carter, M. Cunningham, Mrs D. Joy, R. Martin, Mrs M. Piper, Mrs J.
Voyce, T. Voyce, A. Watkins

2 members of the public, 1 member of the press

7751 Apologies

Cllr. S. Barber, J. Harmer, S. Shing and T. Wright

7752 Declarations of interest

Cllr. A. Watkins declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 9 on the Agenda in his capacity as a governor of Willingdon Community School.

7753 Additional Item for Discussion

It was resolved to admit an additional item to the agenda – item 18 (a)

7754 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 October 2007

These were approved and the Mayor was authorised to sign them as a true record

7755 Matters arising from the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 October 2007

Minute 7716 - Cllr. Mrs C Berry enquired whether the statement from Cllr. Harmer concerning an allegation of racial prejudice had been dealt with. The Clerk confirmed that a revised statement had been provided by Cllr. Harmer which was to be retained in the office. In order to bring this matter to a conclusion it was resolved that it should be discussed as an agenda item on the next full meeting of Council and that the Clerk should seek advice in the meantime on how to proceed.

Due to an oversight the previous minutes did not record that they had been approved and that the Mayor had been authorised to sign them as a true record. This omission has now been rectified.

7756 Notification of any items to be dealt with as urgent

There were none

7757 In order to allow the public opportunity for comment it was resolved to suspend standing orders.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED

A member of the public commented that Wealden District Council has now agreed to provide accommodation for her mother in the flat at Joan Hughes Court from November 19th.

STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED

The Mayor thanked the member of the public for their comments.

7758 Intermediate care flat at Joan Hughes Court

Council considered the reply that had been received from Wealden District Council and the figures for occupancy obtained from the Resource Officer at the Gilda Centre. It was resolved to write to Wealden District Council to express Council's disappointment that the facility remains empty for such long periods and to enquire why suitable residents have not been identified.

7759 Provision of Bike Racks in the Town

The Safer Wealden Partnership has invited Council to consider whether more bike racks could be provided in the Town. Council believe that sufficient racks exist and it was therefore resolved to decline the invitation to provide additional racks.

7760 Updates from Standing Committees and Working Groups

Cllr Mrs Bigsby gave an update from the Youth Group meeting held on Tuesday 6th November. In response to a question regarding the purchase of a cooker for the Youth Group the Mayor explained that this had been authorised by him and that the money would be provided from the Mayor's Fund. It was resolved that the cooker should only be available for the Youth Group to use and that a means of preventing access by other users of the pavilion should be introduced.

Cllr. Mrs Joy gave an update on the recent meeting of the Christmas Lights Working Group and outlined the prizes that the group had agreed for presentation to the best dressed houses – (£50 first, £15 second and £10 third) and the best decorated shops – (the owners of the 3 best decorated shops would be provided with a bottle of wine to the value of approximately £6).

Polegate Partnership - The Mayor explained that he was in discussion with Claire Moran of Wealden District Council Tourism Office regarding the production of a 'Market Towns' leaflet that would provide useful information about Polegate and surrounding tourist attractions.

7761 Adoption of Minutes from standing committees

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee of the 16th October 2007 and the minutes of the Personnel Committee dated 17th September; 9th October and 22nd October 2007.

7762 Letting of 51 High Street

Council noted that no suitable tenants had been found for the vacant office. It was resolved to allow the advert to run for a further week then to review the position with regard to advertising at the council meeting in January 2008.

7763 Number 51 Bus Service

The Clerk reported that a meeting was being arranged by Hailsham Town Council to hear from Eastbourne Buses Chief Executive the latest news regarding this service. It was resolved that the Clerk should attend this meeting and report back to Council at the next suitable opportunity.

7764 Financial Update

Owing to the confidential nature of some of the payments, questions regarding the financial schedules were deferred until the confidential section of the meeting.

7765 Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk's report was considered by Council. It was noted that Newsletter 13 was due to be produced and that the final proof and method of delivery was to be agreed at the next meeting of the Quality Council Working Group.

It was also noted that the Fire Risk Assessment was due to be completed and that quotes were being obtained to investigate the cost of having this done professionally.

7766 Communications from the Town Mayor

The Mayor and Mrs Rogers have been invited to attend a civic reception hosted by the Chief Executive of Wealden District Council on the 23rd November.

7767 No Cold Calling Zones

Cllr. Mrs Bigsby provided an update on the progress made so far. The public consultation is scheduled to take place on 20th November; it was noted that no expenditure will be authorised by the Council until the results of the consultation are known

7768 Correspondence

- a) **East Sussex County Council** – Update on review of Gilda Crescent and William Daly Centre – The contents of the letter were noted. It was resolved to write to East Sussex County Council to seek clarification as to the meaning of bullet point 4 regarding the provision of Gilda Crescent day services.

- b) East Sussex Fire Authority** – Opportunity to comment on risk management annual plan 2008/09 – Noted

Cllr Harmer joined the meeting at 08:50

- c) Norman Baker MP** – Request to consider locking the Oakleaf Play area gates at night – The contents of the letter were noted. Council does not consider it feasible to lock the gates each evening.
- d) G Worcester and Son** – Request to introduce parking restrictions in Junction Street – The contents of the letter were noted. Council has considered this issue of restrictions before and concluded that this would not improve the situation as there is already a lack of residential parking in Junction Street.
- e) Wealden District Council** – Update on Local Development Framework Issues and Options Consultation. It was resolved to place this item on the agenda for next the Council meeting and to invite district councillors Mrs. O. Shing and D. Broadbent to attend to provide an update on the LDF and other issues.
- f) East Sussex County Council** – Notification of Temporary prohibition of Traffic Order – Polegate Level Crossing - The prohibition order was noted
- g) East Sussex County Council** – Notification of Temporary Speed Restriction Order – Hailsham Road – The speed restriction order was noted
- h) Safer Wealden Partnership** - Invitation to attend Town and Parish Conference – It was resolved that Cllr. Mrs J. Bigsby would attend on behalf of Council
- i) Wealden District Council** – Provision of Dog Bin in Blackpath/Brightling Road. The need for a second bin was discussed. It was resolved to write to Wealden District Council to enquire whether a second bin could be sited at the William Daly Gates and whether, in view of the close proximity of the existing bin, a reduced rate of emptying might apply.

7769 Crest Nicholson Strategic Projects

The Chair of Planning reported that a representative from the above company had been in contact requesting a meeting with Council to discuss the potential development of land to the North of Polegate (Area 16D in the Local Development Framework consultation document). It was resolved to invite the representative to a meeting with Council in early 2008 to investigate the proposal in more detail.

7770 Date of the next cycle of meetings

Full Council - Monday 10 December 2007 at 7:30 pm
Planning - Tuesday 20 November 2007 at 7:30 pm
Personnel - Monday 19 November 2007 at 5:30 pm
Finance – Tuesday 27th November 2007 at 7:30 pm

7771 Resolution to take business into confidential session

It was resolved that due to the confidential nature of the next business to be transacted the press and public be excluded from the rest of the meeting.