

UNADOPTED

POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 14th January 2008 in the Council Chamber, 49 High Street, Polegate at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllr. J. Rogers (Mayor), S. Barber, Mrs C. Berry, Mrs J Bigsby, M. Cunningham, J. Harmer, R. Martin, Mrs M. Piper, S. Shing, A. Watkins and T. Wright

14 members of the public, 1 member of the press

In attendance: PCSO Matt Neve, Sussex Police

7835 Apologies

Cllr. G. Carter, Mrs D. Joy, Mrs J. Voyce, T. Voyce

7836 Declarations of interest

Cllr. S. Shing declared a non-prejudicial interest in Item 7 on the agenda.

7837 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10 December 2007

The minutes were approved as a true record and the Mayor was authorised to sign them.

7838 Matters arising from the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10 December 2007

Minute 7799 - Cllr. Mrs C. Berry asked whether a letter had been sent to G Worcester and Son regarding the issue of parking in Junction Street. The clerk advised that a letter had been sent.

7839 Notification of any items to be dealt with as urgent

There were none

7840 In order to allow the public opportunity for comment it was resolved to suspend standing orders.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED

There were no comments from members of the public. The Mayor therefore invited the representatives from Polegate Town FC to address Council regarding the use of the pitch at Wannock Road for the 2008/2009 season.

The representatives from Polegate Town FC gave a short verbal presentation to Council in support of their desire to play their home matches at Wannock Road at the start of the 2008/2009. Councillors took the opportunity to question the representatives concerning their plans and the future of their club. The Mayor then invited representatives from Willingdon AFC to address Council. The representatives from Willingdon AFC expressed their desire to continue to use the pitch at Wannock Road and answered questions from Council. The Mayor thanked both sets of representatives for their presentations and re-instated standing orders.

STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED

It was resolved that the decision to offer use of the pitch for the 2008/2009 season would be made in confidential session. Cllr. A. Watkins opposed the resolution.

It was resolved to suspend standing orders to allow PCSO Matt Neve to address council

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED

7841 PCSO Report

PCSO Matt Neve of the Sussex Police was invited to address council. PCSO Neve gave a verbal report of the latest crime figures which have remained steady over the past few months. Sussex Police intend to run speed checks in certain roads in and around Polegate over the coming weeks which will be carried out by PCSOs. Council was invited to suggest roads around the town that might benefit from such a check. Suggestions included Station Road, Hailsham Road, High Street and Wannock Road.

The Mayor thanked PCSO Neve for his report.

STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED

7842 Updates from Standing Committees and working groups

Parking Working Group Update

It was resolved to bring forward item 19 – Parking Review Polegate so that it could be dealt with as part of this update. Cllr. S. Barber reported that East Sussex County Council (ESCC) had now responded to the parking proposals put forward by Council and had recently published a plan for some limited parking restrictions in the town. Cllr. Barber expressed disappointment that the initial proposal put forward by Council was not being implemented in full particularly in the area in Brooke Street around the second junction with Gosford Way and at Diplocks Close.

It was resolved to write to ESCC Highways Department to ask them to specifically include these areas in their current parking proposals and to ask that more of the original proposal put forward by Council be considered.

It was agreed that it would be helpful to Council if a copy of the original proposal was circulated to all councillors and the clerk undertook to do this.

Cllr. Barber referred to a letter that had been circulated by Cllr. S. Shing on the 27th December 2007 regarding the proposals from ESCC and questioned why this had been forwarded to residents. In response Cllr. S. Shing explained that in his capacity as a county councillor he was aware of the proposals from ESCC and had a duty to share the information with Polegate residents.

Youth Group Update

Cllr. Mrs J. Bigsby gave an update on the recent Youth Group meeting and explained the position with regard to the consultation exercise being carried out amongst residents in the vicinity of Wannock Road and the proposed siting of the community shelter. The responses so far were balanced equally between those in favour and those opposed to the proposal; the Youth Group therefore intended to canvass the opinion of those residents who hadn't responded to the initial questionnaire to try to determine a clear majority one way or the other.

Cllr. Mrs J. Bigsby explained that the Youth Group had discussed the possibility of inviting representatives from the Hastings Active Street Games project to Polegate to run some taster sessions for local youths. The cost of each session would be approximately £80. It was resolved to liaise with the Hastings Active Street Games project co-ordinator to organise 3 taster sessions in Polegate at a cost of approximately £250.

Cllr. Mrs J. Bigsby explained that Cllr. A. Watkins had expressed a desire to join the Youth Working Group and proposed that council agree to this. It was resolved that Cllr. A. Watkins should join the group with immediate effect.

7843 Adoption of Minutes from Standing Committees

It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 18th December 2007.

7844 Number 51 Bus Service

The clerk reported that no further information was available with regard to the continuation of this service although it was hoped that an update would be available following a planned meeting between Hailsham Town Council and Eastbourne Buses.

7845 Review of committee structure and standing orders

During the budget discussions in November the council's committees and working group structure had been considered. It was generally felt that a review should be undertaken and that this should aim to make recommendations for a more streamlined structure that would aid both the decision making process and facilitate better budgetary and financial control. It was acknowledged that such a review would need to take place in conjunction with the review of standing orders. It was resolved that a small working group be formed to undertake the review of committees and working groups. Cllrs. J. Rogers, J. Harmer, Mrs M. Piper, A. Watkins and S. Barber agreed to be members of this group.

7846 Christmas Lights Competition

The results of the Christmas Lights competition were noted

7847 Financial Update

- a) Approval of accounts for payment – The list of accounts for payment was approved
- b) Monthly financial update – The update for the month of December was approved
- c) Budget amendment – The clerk explained that the original budget figures approved by Council at the meeting held in December omitted an amount of £1,200 in respect of costs associated with planning. It was resolved that these additional costs should be incorporated into the expenditure budget for 2008/2209 thereby increases the budget to £233,882.

7848 Town Clerk's Report

The content of the Town Clerk's report was noted.

7849 Communications from the Town Mayor

The Mayor explained that he intended to spend up to £100 from his fund on a Council Social Evening.

7850 No Cold Calling Zones

It was noted that the scheme will be officially launched in Polegate on 10th March 2008 at 6:00pm in St John's Church Hall, Polegate.

7851 Correspondence

- a) 2008/2009 WDC Budget Consultation – Cllr. A. Watkins offered to draft a response to the budget proposals on behalf of the Town Council
- b) Wealden District Council (WDC) Gladedale Appeal – The rejection of planning approval by WDC in respect of the submission by the Gladedale Group was noted. It was resolved that council should write to Planning Officers at WDC in support of their rejection.
- c) ESCC Future of Gilda Centre – The content of the letter from Mike Cornish was noted

- d) Planning Conference Invitation – The invitation for two members of the Council to attend the conference was noted. The clerk was asked to ascertain whether it would be possible for more than two members of council to attend this event.

7852 Grants and Donations

When the budget for 2008/2009 was agreed it was decided to include amount of £7,500 for Grants and Donations. The potential recipients of any Grants and Donations were not identified. It was resolved that the clerk should prepare a list showing the recipients of any Grants and Donations in 2007/2008 together with the names of the organisations who had applied for such funding in the forthcoming financial year.

7853 Date of the next cycle of meetings

Full Council - Monday 11 February at 7:30 pm
Planning - Tuesday 29 January at 7:30 pm
Personnel – As and when required
Finance – As and when required

7854 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.