

UNADOPTED

POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **Town Council** held on **Monday 20th June 2005** in the Council Chamber, 49, High Street, Polegate at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs. J. Harmer (Town Mayor), S. Barber, Mrs. C. Berry (from 7.16pm.), G. Carter, Mrs. E. Coleman, M. Cunningham (from 7.10pm.), M. FitzGerald (from 7.30pm.), G. Gibbs, Mrs. D. Joy, R. Martin, Mrs. V. Morson, Mrs. M. Piper, Mrs. I. Scarborough (from 7.15pm.), Mrs. J. Voyce, T. Voyce and B. Winn.

Barry Knights (Town Co-ordinator) Press 1 Public 1

6770 An apology for absence was received from Cllr. Gatrill

6771 Declarations of interest in matters on the agenda

Interests were declared as follows:

Item 4 - Polegate and Stone Cross Cricket Club - Cllr. Mrs. Morson

Item 21(b) - Licence for the Windsor Club - Cllrs. Barber and Mrs. Coleman

Item 14 - Accesses onto Council Owned Land - Cllrs. Mrs. Piper, Mrs. Voyce and Voyce

6772 Welcome to new Councillor

The Town Mayor welcomed Cllr. Brian Winn to his first Full Council Meeting

6773 Meeting with representatives of the Polegate and Stone Cross Cricket Club

Cllr. Mrs. Piper proposed that Standing Orders be suspended to enable the Cricket Club representatives to address the Council. This was seconded by Cllr. Martin and resolved.

Standing Orders suspended

This meeting had been arranged because of ongoing issues relating to the storage of Cricket Club equipment in the Council's garage/store and the Cricket Club's request to air their concerns to the Council. The Town Mayor welcomed the Chairman and Secretary of the Club to the meeting and invited them to raise their concerns. A paper outlining the history of the issues had previously been circulated by the Town Clerk.

The Cricket Club did not dispute the historical facts but said that because of rising costs they could not raise the funds to build the Scoreboard/store and that whilst they are aware of the desperate need to replace the existing shed on Health and Safety grounds, even that cost has escalated beyond the Club's means.

The Cricket Club said that they are seeking the Council's assistance to help them by giving them time to finish the job. When asked if the Cricket Club could access grants the Chairman said that grants are few and far between but they are hoping to access some money from the Sports Council because of the work they are doing with Willingdon School and with developing ladies cricket. The Cricket Club also advised that they will be entertaining a team from Australia, which is the Australian equivalent of The Lords Taverners and that they would be making this event a major fund raiser. The match is scheduled for July 13th.

Councillors made several suggestions of ways to help the Club and it was resolved as follows:

1. To waive match fees for the current season (Cllr. Mrs. Morson did not vote and Cllr. Mrs. Scarborough abstained)
2. To consider making a grant of £500 subject to the Cricket Club making an application in the usual way.
3. That this is subject to the Cricket Club's undertaking (subject to building inspection approval) to commence the work to replace the dilapidated garage by 1st August and to complete it by 31st October.
4. The Council's Garage/Store may be used during the period of the building works but the Cricket Club will have to find new homes for all the equipment if the new store is not complete by 31st October.

It was agreed that this would be confirmed to the Club in writing.

The Town Mayor thanked the Cricket Club for their attendance and re-instated Standing Orders.

Standing Orders re-instated

6774 Police Matters

The Town Clerk had circulated a letter from Inspector Brown reporting that due to an additional allocation of PCSO resource he is able to reduce the area covered by each PCSO and that as and from 4th July the Polegate area will be covered by Gareth Hollister.

Unfortunately there was no Police presence and members referred to the weekly Police reports and members were particularly concerned about youths throwing bricks at cars from bridges over the bypass. The Police liaison member said that this matter is being dealt with by the Police. Another member reported that a resident had been attacked in the new alleyway between the development site and the old car park boundary and was concerned that this will continue to be a problem area. The member was advised that this has been raised as a planning issue for the development. Another member said that there had been an incident at Ken's Newsagent and that the culprit had been apprehended but we have not been informed of the outcome. Another member said that the Police are not interested in Polegate. Cllr. Mrs. Scarborough proposed that because of its sensitive nature, the rest of the Police report be deferred to the confidential section of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Martin and so resolved.

6775 Minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting of the Council

The minutes, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed as a correct record, and signed by the Town Mayor.

6776 Matters arising from the minutes

- a) Bus Shelters – Adshel – The Town Clerk reported on the e-mails sent since the last meeting and reported that the last one received on 15th June states that the two planning applications had been posted to Wealden DC that day. Noted. Cllr. Martin asked if the re-sited bus shelter at Nelson Terrace could be cleaned up and the Town Clerk advised that this is already on the handyman's schedule.
- b) SALC Training Weekend – The Town Clerk advised that Cllr. Winn was the only Councillor able to attend and had attended 3 modules on the Friday. Cllr. Winn reported that it had been a very busy day, but most enjoyable and most informative and he thanked the Council for authorising his attendance.

- c) Recreational Land – Byelaws – The Town Clerk advised that he had written to the ODPM seeking advice on a nuisance to neighbours clause in the byelaws but the e-mailed response gives 20 days for a reply. Cllr. Mrs. Scarborough asked if the Town Clerk had sought advice from Wealden DC and advised him to speak with Mr. John Glover.
- d) Improvement to the BMX Track – The Town Clerk circulated a report on the work currently being carried out. Noted.

6777 Youth Services Report

The Town Clerk had circulated a report from the last meeting with the Youth Services. Cllr. Mrs. Scarborough said that she felt very positive that things are now moving forward and proposed that the Council gives permission for the Skatepark event. This was seconded by Cllr. Carter and agreed by all. Some discussion took place about the suggestion that a graffiti wall could be provided somewhere within the Town. It was resolved, by 9 votes to 5, Cllr. Mrs. Berry wishing to be named as one who voted against, to arrange a meeting to discuss the proposal more fully with the Youth Development Service (YDS). It was also resolved that a small working group of Councillors be appointed to meet with the YDS, and that the group be formed by Cllrs. Mrs. Scarborough, Mrs. Coleman, Mrs. Joy, Mrs. Morson and Winn.

Cllr. Mrs. Berry wished to have it recorded that she is totally against the provision of a graffiti wall anywhere in Polegate.

6778 Financial Matters

- a) **Final Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2005** – The Town Clerk presented the draft of the final accounts for approval and explained two variations from the draft approved at the previous meeting for consideration. It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Scarborough, and resolved, to approve the accounts as submitted incorporating the variations, viz: a) to carry over £4000 unspent reserve for additional works at the Skatepark in lieu of £2400 previously agreed, and b) to meet the cost of redecorations at the Pavilion and The Council Office (£3272.00) from Revenue and not from Repairs and Renewals Fund as previously agreed. It was also resolved that the Council could answer YES to the questions in the Statement of Assurance subject to the Town Mayor and Cllr. Martin being satisfied that the appropriate action has been taken in response to matters brought to its attention by auditors.
- b) **Application for grant aid from the Eastbourne and District Preservation Society** – The Council considered a request from the Society for grant aid towards the 40th Anniversary of the Society which was formed to restore and manage the Polegate Windmill for future generations. Copies of accounts had been submitted. It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Coleman, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Morson and resolved to make a grant of £600.00.

6779 Adoption of minutes of Standing Committees

- a) Personnel of 27th May 2005 – Cllr. Mrs. Scarborough presented the minutes for perusal and, there being no matters raised proposed their adoption, which was so resolved.
- b) Planning of 31st May 2005 – Cllr. Voyce presented the minutes for perusal and, there being no matters raised proposed their adoption, and this was so resolved.

6780 E-mailing of minutes

Cllr. Mrs. Voyce referred to minute 6325(a) of the meeting of the Council held on Monday 16th February 2004 whereby it was agreed that there should be no second distribution of minutes but that Councillors who so requested could also receive a copy of the minutes by e-mail so that they have ready access to them. The same minute also required the Town Clerk to copy sections of "old" minutes as background to agenda items where appropriate. Cllr Mrs. Voyce asked if these practices could be put into operation on a regular basis, and this was agreed. On a show of hands Cllrs. Cunningham, Martin, Mrs. Scarborough and Mrs. Voyce asked for minutes to be e-mailed to them.

6781 Highways verges grass cutting in Polegate

A report of the meeting held with the contractor and the contract supervisor was circulated to all Councillors. The Town Clerk advised that the Contractor has accepted that there is an order for 5 additional cuts which gives a regular 3 weekly cut. The Town Clerk reported that the sixth cut is currently reserved so that it can be used at the end of the season or early next spring as appropriate and that the Contractor has been asked how best to use 6 additional cuts to give the best results. Cllr. Mrs. Scarborough advised that a review of the current cut will be carried out on Thursday. It was also reported that it will be very difficult to get the County Council to give up resources to enable the Town Council to enter into its own contract in future years but the attempt is still being made.

6782 Wannock Road Recreation Ground

A letter from the Bernhard Gardens Residents' Association (the Association) referring to ongoing anti social behaviour issues in the Recreation Ground, and especially the car park, at night and also in the pathways around the houses. The Association identified the problems and made some suggestions to rectify the situation. Members considered the detail of the letter and it was resolved as follows:

- a) in the first instance - to ask the County Council to provide a street light in the area requested by the Association
- b) to replace the hedge on the Wannock Road frontage to the Recreation Ground with bow topped fencing
- c) to provide a gate or barrier at the vehicular entrance to the recreation ground car park to be locked when the Health Service staff have left at the end of the day.
- d) because consideration needs to be given to Sports functions and weekends, to seek a price for regular locking and unlocking of the vehicle barrier by a security firm
- e) to advise the Association of this decision in writing and to send a copy to Inspector Brown
- f) to authorise the Town Clerk, the Town Mayor and Cllr. Mrs. Berry to obtain the quotations and to let the necessary contracts as a matter of urgency.

6783 Access to Council Owned Land

Cllr. Mrs. Scarborough declared a prejudicial interest in this item and left the room. The Town Clerk presented a plan of where the accesses are and a draft agreement which could be sent to the residents to regularise the situation that exists and prevent them gaining any legal rights. Councillors agreed that rather than try and get residents to sign the agreement we should first try and identify ownership and whether any covenants have been broken. It was suggested that this can be done on-line at £2.00 a property and it was resolved to carry out this exercise first.

It was also resolved:

- a) In the case of 19 Spurway Park to require the owner to reinstate the boundary fence that has been removed, and
- b) In the case of 70 Heron Ridge to require the owner to remove the gutter which deposits rain water from the shed onto Council land
- c) To obtain additional legal advice regarding the desire to have all the accesses removed

6784 Communications from the Town Mayor

The Town Mayor reported that he had enjoyed a successful visit to Appen with the Twinning Association where he had spent some time with the Burgermeister. He thanked Councillors for their support for the Civic Service.

6785 Reports from County and District Councillors

The Town Clerk had previously circulated a written report from Cllr. Martin and circulated reports from Cllrs. Mrs. Scarborough and Watkins. It was agreed that there needs to be more clarification of the consultation procedure with the District Council in relation to licensed premises applications. No other matters were raised.

6786 Report from the Meadow Working Group

Cllr. Voyce presented a report from the working group together with recommendations for this year's development work. It was resolved to approve the recommendations, viz:

- a) to install a picnic table
- b) to carry out weed killing of thistles
- c) to provide a number of copies of an information leaflet, and
- d) to mulch the new trees to retain moisture
- e) to consider the installation of a second picnic table at a later date to enable the monitoring of the first table to take place.

6787 Updates from lead councillors and other working groups

- a) Shrubs etc. on the service road – Hailsham Road – Cllr. Mrs. Scarborough reported that a design has been produced which will give a block of a single colour to each bed and is planned with shrubs that will withstand the winds that whip up Hailsham Road. Costs are being obtained and Barry Knights, the Polegate Partnership Co-ordinator is seeking sponsors.
- b) Allotments – Cllr. Gibbs reported that the re-numbering would take place later this week and that he would be judging for the best kept allotment at the end of August.
- c) Civil Protection – Cllr. Gibbs reported that the Emergency Plan has now been completed and is approved. Cllr. Gibbs advised that he would make a presentation to the Council at the next meeting in July and the Council would be included in a disaster exercise in September and that he would be looking to all Councillors to volunteer to take part.
- d) Polegate Partnership – Cllr. Mrs. Voyce reported that the Partnership is going OK but we are not getting the participation that we should expect from other members of the partnership.

6788 Notification of matters dealt with as “urgent”

The Town Mayor advised that the repair of the roundabout at Wannock Road had been authorised as a matter of urgency and it was resolved to confirm the action taken.

6789 Town Clerk' Report

- a) Report back from the District/Parish and Town Council conference – The Assistant Town Clerk had prepared a paper following the conference which was duly noted
- b) Bring Forward Schedule – The Town Clerk presented the schedule for perusal. It was resolved:
 - i) to move on with the web site with a professional provider irrespective of Willingdon School's renewed interest
 - ii) to move forward on providing the litter bin in the Council Office garden and to thank Ken for the work carried out cleaning the patio area
 - iii) to give notice to the Primary Healthcare Trust that the Council will deal with the Electricity supply issues and recharge the cost
 - iv) to chase WDC for a decision on the anti pollution notices at the level crossing
- c) Vandalism Report – The report was reviewed and it was noted that not all incidents had been reported to the police for a crime number and it was resolved that all incidents should be reported to receive a crime number. Cllr. Mrs. Berry reported that there had been a Shopwatch meeting and that Shopwatch had been re-formed and that a ring-round system has been re-instituted.

6790 Correspondence requiring action

- a) Cuckmere Community Bus – A letter was received asking if the Council would like to send a representative to their regular meetings. Cllr. Mrs. Joy volunteered to attend the meetings and this was supported and approved unanimously.
- b) Wealden DC – application for licence – The Windsor Club – It was resolved that the Town Clerk identifies the details of the application and responds appropriately after consultation with the Town Mayor. It was further resolved to object to the way the consultation letter comes to the Council without details of the application.
- c) Model Engineering Club – proposed lease – The Town Clerk circulated a letter from the Club in response to the Council's offer of a 7 year lease. It was resolved to take this item in the confidential section of the meeting
- d) Eastbourne BC – Local Development Framework – The Town Clerk circulated a summary and questionnaire together with an invitation to attend a presentation on Wednesday 29th June. It was resolved to ask the Assistant Town Clerk to attend the presentation as an approved duty.

6791 Correspondence for noting

- a) Wealden DC – Management of Public Conveniences – The Town Clerk circulated a letter advising that, with effect from 1st June, the public conveniences would remain open throughout the weekend but would not be cleaned or serviced on Sundays in line with the proposals in the consultation document.
- b) Wealden DC – decriminalisation of parking – The Town Clerk circulated a letter from the District Council in response to the Council's call for the District Council to decriminalise parking in Wealden which shows that this is not likely to happen in the short term at least. It was agreed to refer the response to the Car Parking Working Group

6792 Dates of the next cycle of meetings

Full Council	18 th July 2005
Planning Committee	as and when necessary

6793 Resolution to take next business in confidence

Cllr. Voyce 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. Carter and so resolved.

6794 Confidential Matters

- a) Police Matters
- b) Model Engineering Club - proposed lease
- c) Council Offices - lease of premises
- d) Personnel Matters

