

POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 6th February 2006
in the Council Chamber, 49, High Street, Polegate at 7.30pm.

Present Cllrs. J. Harmer (Town Mayor), Mrs. E. Coleman, M. Cunningham,
R. Martin, Mrs. V. Morson, Mrs. M. Piper, Mrs. I. Scarborough and B. Winn.

Hilary Lewis and Jan Murphy - ESCC Youth Services Press 2

7034 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Barber, Mrs. Berry, Carter, FitzGerald, Gibbs, Mrs. Voyce and Voyce

7035 Declarations of interest in any items on the agenda
No interests were declared

7036 Meeting with Hilary Lewis and Jan Murphy to discuss Youth Services provision in Polegate

Cllr. Cunningham referred to last year's annual meeting of electors where there was a lot of positive talk about the development of services and money to go with it but here we are again, nothing happening and no money.

Hilary and Jan replied that there was money earlier in the year but the problem with Polegate is that there is no building in which to develop services. Money has since become tight and they still have problems recruiting and retaining staff. The mobile unit is still available but they only have one member of staff, who is female, and they need another, preferably male, and someone to drive the mobile unit - which could be the same person.

Hilary and Jan said that the Participation Worker has left but that she had built up a good relationship with a number of youths and that there are 6 young people very keen and ready to form a Youth Council, but they need to know how this can operate and what the Council can offer them. Funding is an issue as the County Council cannot access any funds. Because of this the County Council has affiliated to the Sussex Clubs for Young People. Jan said that a grant application for £1000 had been made to provide for some sports activities but money had run out and the bid had been re-submitted on 30th December.

Cllr. Cunningham said that the kids here wanted something to do.

Cllr. Mrs. Scarborough said that there used to be funding for two workers two evenings a week in Polegate and asked where that funding had gone. Neither Hilary nor Jan were aware of this historical funding but said that where there are two workers in a small town it is because there is a partnership agreement with some funding coming from the Community.

Mention had been made of the lack of premises and it was re-iterated that the Pavilion in Wannock Road was available. Jan said that they would still need an additional worker to operate from the Pavilion.

The Town Mayor reported on the crime and anti social behaviour reports we receive from the police each week and identified that there is an escalating problem in the town. He said that the Local Strategic Partnership had placed the County Council as lead partner for Youth Services, but it was failing to deliver. It was said that we have been over and over this so many times that the County Council does

pocket, but they do not have one. Budgets continue to reduce, wages keep going up and so do expectations. She said that they have had to close premises in Eastbourne. Cllr. Mrs. Scarborough asked if the County Council could create a business plan. She said that we had lost the opportunity to rent premises because there was no commitment and no plan. Jan asked if the crime rate was going up in Polegate. She said that resources are available from the Safer Wealden Partnership to address crime issues but that Polegate has not been identified as a hot spot. The Town Clerk then accessed the current week's police reports which shows the extent of the growing problems in Polegate. However, it was reiterated that currently Polegate has not been identified as a hot spot.

There was then some discussion about where the YMCA fitted in with the recent discussions about funding although it was generally believed that the YMCA would be useful for accessing grants and providing premises in partnership with other agencies.

It seemed that there was going to be no move forward until resources were found to fund one additional youth worker for two 3 hour sessions per week. Jan said that she would e-mail the cost to the Town Clerk tomorrow.

It was agreed that another meeting should be set up with the Council, Youth Services and the YMCA to move things forward and that this matter be placed on the next Full Council agenda.

The meeting ended at 8.40pm.