

Minutes of a meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 14th JULY 2010 at 7.15pm.**

PRESENT **Councillor R.S. Fleming (Chairman) and**
Councillors S. Bambridge, W.M. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, V. Crosby, W. Curtis, Mrs. M. Dalton, P. Ducker, G.C. Gray, I. Gray, B. Hall, K. Henderson, T. Hogan, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, Mrs. V.M. Raw, A. Warburton.

OFFICERS Mrs. C. Walton (Corporate and Policy Officer)
Mr. D. Austin (Finance Manager.
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)

28. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs. J. Gray, B. Haigh, Mrs. S. Haigh, M. Iveson and Mrs. S.J. Iveson.

29. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of a personal interest were declared by Councillors J.D. Clare and Mrs. V.M. Raw on agenda item No. 8 (Woodham Community Technology College – Grant) and they would be leaving the meeting for the discussion thereon.

30. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

31. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor B. Hall, seconded by Councillor J.D. Clare, and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meetings of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 12th May 2010, 2nd June 2010 and the Special Meeting of the Committee held on the 23rd June 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

32. **PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Councillor B. Hall, seconded by Councillor V. Crosby, and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meetings of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on the 16th June and 23rd June, 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

33. **ACCOUNTS CONTROL SHEET**

Accounts control sheets for the period 28th May 2010 to the 2nd July 2010 and the General Bank Account for May 2010 were submitted.

RESOLVED – that the accounts control sheets for the period 28th May 2010 to the 2nd July 2010 and the General Bank Account for May 2010 were received.

34. **GRANTS / DONATIONS**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report setting out requests for the Council's support of donations to be considered and issued under the Wellbeing Power. The following applications had been received for consideration:

- (i) Finchale Training College
- (ii) Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament

There had been no donations or grants issued by the Aycliffe Youth Council since the last Committee meeting.

Letters of thanks had been received from:

- (i) Durham County Council – Newton Aycliffe Library - £300
- (ii) Parish of Saint Mary & St. Joseph - Raffle Prizes of Meal Voucher and Golf Vouchers – Value £114.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) Finchale Road Training College
That no donation be made on this occasion.
- (ii) Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament
That the Council would support the event by allowing the Tournament teeing off times free of charge on the 10th September 2010.
- (iii) Letters of Thanks
That the letters of thanks be received.

NOTE:- The following Councillors have received training in the use of the Wellbeing Power:

Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, T.R. Bowman, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, V. Crosby, W. Curtis, Mrs. M Dalton, P. Ducker, R.S. Fleming, G.C. Gray, I. Gray, B. Hall, K. Henderson, T. Hogan, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. V.M. Raw and A. Warburton.

35. **WOODHAM COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE – GRANT**

Declarations of a personal interest were declared by Councillors J.D. Clare and Mrs. V.M. Raw on this item and they both left the meeting during the discussion thereon.

The Corporate and Policy Officer submitted a report in connection with a request which had been received from Woodham Community Technology College for a grant/donation to assist with the development of a facility at the college site to increase pitch capacity.

Consideration was given to the application when members discussed the large amount of donation which would be needed for this venture. It was felt that this would be more appropriate if it was considered by the Area Action Partnership.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That no donation be made to Woodham Technology College.
- (iii) That Woodham Technology College be informed that it may be appropriate for them to contact the Area Action Partnership for a donation to their venture.

Councillors J.D. Clare and Mrs. V.M. Raw returned to the meeting at this point.

36. **PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING CENTRES REPORT**

The Early Years Officer submitted a report setting out information with regard to the attendance figures and voluntary contributions at the three Pre-Schools.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the report be received.

37. **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN**

The Finance Manager submitted a report together with the Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2010/2011 to 2012/2013 for members' consideration.

This document is one of the most important plans for the Council's consideration which puts in place the framework for the planning of revenue and capital spending via the annual budget. The Finance Manager and Chairman gave an in depth presentation on important points in the Plan.

Members asked questions of the Finance Manager and Chairman bearing in mind the significant cuts being made to public sector spending.

It was proposed by Councillor J.D. Clare, seconded by Councillor W. Blenkinsopp that the Medium Term Financial Plan be accepted with a proviso that the figures would need to be reviewed.

Following consideration of the report and members questions to the Finance Manager it was

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Medium Term Financial Plan 2010 to 2013 be approved.

38. **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS**

Information had been circulated in connection with the attendance of representatives at a Diversity and Media Training Seminar to be held in London from the 24th to the 26th September 2010.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the Council is not represented at this Seminar.

39. **NATIONAL MARKET TRADERS FEDERATION**

The Town Clerk and Finance Manager had submitted a report to consider a request from the Newton Aycliffe Market Traders Co-operative for a reduction in the Annual Licence fee charged.

The Finance Manager explained the current situation following the temporary reduction of £3000 which had been previously given at a meeting of the Committee in September 2009. This one year period would end in September of this year.

Members considered the options for the licence fees for the market and the possibility of continuing with the reduction fee of £3,000 per annum bearing in mind that the current agreement would end in May 2011 when a new market agreement would be drawn up.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the rent be reduced by a sum of £3,000 for a further year.

CHAIRMAN.