

Minutes of a meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 27th OCTOBER 2010 at 7.15pm.**

PRESENT **Councillor R.S. Fleming (Chairman) and**
Councillors 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, R.S. Fleming, G.C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Haigh, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, Mrs. V.M. Raw and A. Warburton.

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

51. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors T. Hogan, M. Iveson and Mrs. S.J. Iveson.

52. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A declaration of prejudicial and personal interest was submitted by Councillor G.C. Gray in respect of Agenda Item No. 7 (3.1) (Grants / Donations) and he would be leaving the meeting during the discussion thereon.

53. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

54. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor W. Curtis, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton, and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 15th September 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

55. **AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Councillor W. Iveson, seconded by Councillor B. Hall, and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee held on the 13th October 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

56. **ASSET MANAGEMENT MEMBER WORKING GROUP**

It was proposed by Councillor G.C. Gray, seconded by Councillor B. Haigh that the recommendation to dispose of the boats at West Park be referred back for further discussion.

Councillor G.C. Gray had requested a named vote which resulted as follows:

For the reference back of the disposal of the boats at West Park: (6)

Councillors W. Curtis, P. Ducker, G.C. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Haigh and A. Warburton.

Against the reference back of the disposal of the boats: (16)

Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, V. Crosby, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, I. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Hall, K. Henderson, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. E.M. Paylor and Mrs. V.M. Raw.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor J.D. Clare, and

RESOLVED – that the notes and recommendations of the Asset Management Member Working Group held on the 21st October 2010 be accepted subject to the following:

Minute No. 3 - 'Appointment of Vice-Chairman'

There was no seconder to the proposal of Councillor W. Curtis as Vice-Chairman but as there were no other nominations Councillor Curtis was duly elected as the Vice-Chairman.

- (i) That Officers investigate the disposal of boats.
- (ii) That quotations be sought for full tarmac works to the Sports/Golf Complex roads and car parks.
- (iii) That quotations be sought for the demolition of Horndale Pavilion.
- (iv) That consideration be given as to how to fund a Capital refurbishment of Horndale Park with particular reference to play equipment provision.

57. **ACCOUNTS CONTROL SHEET**

Accounts control sheets for the period 10th September 2010 to the 15th October 2010 and the General Bank Account for September 2010 were submitted.

RESOLVED – that the accounts control sheets for the period 10th September 2010 to the 15th October 2010 and the General Bank Account for September 2010 were received.

58. **GRANTS / DONATIONS**

A declaration of prejudicial and personal interest was submitted by Councillor G.C. Gray in respect of item 3.1 St. Clare's Church and he left the meeting during the discussion thereon.

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

- (i) St. Clare's Church
Donation towards the installation of a new central heating boiler and works to fit a new gas meter.

It was proposed by Councillor J.D. Clare, seconded by Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp that an amount of £200 be donated.

It was further proposed by Councillor W. Curtis, seconded by Councillor P. Ducker that an amount of £500 be donated.

A vote took place on the two proposals and resulted in an amount of £200 being donated to St. Clare's Church.

Aycliffe Youth Council

Information was submitted that the Aycliffe Youth Council had not issued any donations since the last meeting.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

St. Clare's Church

An amount of £200 be donated to the Church Funds.

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, I. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Haigh, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. V.M. Raw and A. Warburton.

Councillor G.C. Gray returned to the meeting.

59. **EARLY YEARS LEARNING CENTRES REPORT**

The Early Years Officer submitted a report setting out information with regard to the attendance figures at the two Learning Centres.

RESOLVED – that the information in the report be received.

60. **EARLY YEARS' SERVICE PLAN**

The Early Years' Officer submitted a report and draft Early Years Service Plan for the period September 2010 to August 2011 for members consideration.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the Early Years Service Plan be accepted.

61. **AIMS AND TARGETS UPDATE**

The Corporate and Policy Officer submitted a report with updates on the status of the Council's Aims and Targets.

Councillor W. Curtis referred to Aim No. 3 (Item 20) with regard to the Best Value Review of the Oakleaf Sports Complex. The signing off of this review had not been finalised pending the end of year statistics and income and expenditure figures being available. An item would be placed on the next Policy and Resources Committee agenda for a final update of the review.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.

- (ii) That an item regarding the Best Value Review of the Oakleaf Sports Complex be placed on the agenda of the Policy and Resources Committee.

62. **RISK UPDATE**

The Corporate and Policy Officer submitted a report to give members and update on the Council's current business risk status.

Members referred to various items on the Quarterly Risk Review with particular emphasis on Ref. No. HS5 (Lone Working).

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- (i) That the information be received.
- (ii) That it be noted that a Policy on 'Lone Working' would be subject to discussion at a future meeting.

63. **OAK LEAF SPORTS COMPLEX RUNNING TRACK**

The Works Manager had submitted a report for members consideration on the cost to grass-over the dolomite running track at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex. This had been requested by the Recreation Committee meeting held on the 8th September 2010.

Two options were submitted for consideration.

- (i) Grass over the running track at a cost of £6,750.00.
- (ii) Grass over the running track and incorporate a turf reinforcement mesh at a cost of £13,250.00.

It was proposed by Councillor B. Hall and seconded by Councillor J.D. Clare that a decision on the running track be deferred for Officers to investigate other solutions.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that Officer's investigate other solutions for the running track and report back.

64. **OAK LEAF SPORTS COMPLEX – ASSET MANAGEMENT WORK**

The Leisure Manager and Town Clerk submitted a report to provide an update on the planned 2010/11 asset management works at the Oakleaf Sports Complex.

It had previously been agreed that the following works be carried out using the 2010/11 Capital Programme Budget.

- Window replacement
- Carpet in the Table Tennis Area

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That authority be given for the works be funded from the Capital Programme Budget.

65. **REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT 2010/11**

The Finance Manager submitted a report to provide members with details of the financial position on the Council's approved Revenue and Capital Programme Budget for the six months to the 30th September 2010.

The Finance Manager explained a situation which had occurred with the rates associated with the Depot. These rates had not been assessed correctly in the past and had been queried by the Finance Manager.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the half year financial position on the Council's Revenue Budgets and projection of expected outturn for 2010/11 be received.
- (ii) That the financial position on the Council's Capital Programme be received.
- (iii) That the likely movement on the Council's balances be received.
- (iv) That approval be given to write off the £50 unrecoverable debt.
- (v) That a further Budgetary Control Report would be submitted to the January Policy and Resources Committee detailing the financial position at the 31st December 2010 and a projection of expected outturn.
- (vi) That members wished to applaud the honesty of the Finance Manager in the way he had dealt with the assessment of rates at the Depot.

66. **2011/12 POLICY AND RESOURCES BUDGETS**

The Finance Manager had submitted a report seeking comments and feedback from members on the draft Revenue and Capital Budgets for 2011/12 in respect of the Policy and Resources Committee and gave a verbal update.

Members considered each section of the Budgets for the Policy and Resources Committee.

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

67. **2011/12 DRAFT REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET**

The Finance Manager submitted a report setting out a summary of the Council's overall draft 2011/12 Revenue and Capital Budget as based on the draft Recreation, Environment and Policy and Resources Committee budgets which had previously been considered by members.

The final Revenue and Capital Budget proposal would be reported to a further meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee for approval on the 8th December with the Precept and Council Tax being set at the meeting of the Full Council on the 15th December.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the following information be received and agreed:

- The attached overall summary of the draft 2011/2012 Revenue and Capital Budget and the likely level of Precept and Council Tax increases and movement on the Council's balances.
 - The information be taken into account when considering the individual Committee Budgets and any comments or amendments submitted to the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of each Committee.
- (ii) That Members wished to record their appreciation and congratulations to the Officers and Finance Manager on the excellent production of the Council's draft Budgets.

68. **RECREATION COMMITTEE – RECOMMENDATION**

An item regarding a refund of £40 for a trade stand at the 2010 Aycliffe Show had been referred from Minute No. 36 of the Recreation Committee held on the 20th October 2010 for payment.

RESOLVED – that the amount of £40 be refunded for the hire of a trade stand.

CHAIRMAN.