

Minutes of a meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2011 at 7.15pm.**

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

**OFFICERS**                Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)  
Mr. D. Austin (Finance Manager)  
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)

94. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, T. Hogan, W. Iveson and Mrs. A. Palmer.

95. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests were declared by Councillors V. Crosby, M. Iveson and G.C. Gray on Agenda Item No. 8 (3.5) (Sedgefield and District Citizens Advice Bureau).**

**A declaration of personal interest was submitted by Councillor I. Gray on Agenda Item No. 8 (3.1) (Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society).**

**A prejudicial interest was declared by Councillor Mrs. J. Gray on Agenda Item No. 12 (Section 106 Agreement Monies – Sanderson Close).**

96. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

97. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton, seconded by Councillor V. Crosby and

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

98. **AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Councillor B. Hall, seconded by Councillor Mrs. V.M. Raw and

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee held on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

99. **PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE**

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

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

100. **ACCOUNTS CONTROL SHEET**

Accounts control sheets for the period 14<sup>th</sup> January 2011 to the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2011 and the General Bank Account for January 2011 were submitted.

**RESOLVED** – that the accounts control sheets for the period 14<sup>th</sup> January 2011 to the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2011 and the General Bank Account for January 2011 were received.

101. **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 donation budget currently stands at £2,635.

(a) The following applications had been received for consideration:

**A personal declaration of interest had been submitted by Councillor I. Gray on Item (i) Aycliffe & District Bus Preservation Society and he left the meeting during the discussion thereon.**

- (i) Aycliffe & District Bus Preservation Society
- (ii) East Durham Play and Community Network
- (iii) Great North Air Ambulance
- (iv) Butterwick House Children's Hospice

**A personal declaration of interest had been submitted by Councillor M. Iveson on Item (v) Sedgefield and District Citizens Advice Bureau and he left the meeting during the discussion thereon.**

**Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests were submitted by Councillors V. Crosby (Chairman of C.A.B.) and Councillor G.C. Gray (Member of the C.A.B. Board) and they left the meeting during the discussion thereon.**

- (v) Sedgefield and District Citizens Advice Bureau
- (vi) Veterans Badge Presentation Day

(b) **Aycliffe Youth Council**

Information was submitted that the Aycliffe Youth Council had not issued any donations since the last meeting and their donation budget currently stood at £3,250.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended:

- (i) Aycliffe & District Bus Preservation Society  
That an amount of £200 be donated.
- (ii) East Durham Play and Community Network  
That no donation be made.
- (iii) Great North Air Ambulance  
That an amount of £200 be donated.
- (iv) Butterwick House Children's Hospice  
That an amount of £200 be donated.
- (v) Sedgefield and District Citizens Advice Bureau  
That an amount of £500 be donated.
- (vi) Veterans Badge Presentation Day  
That the Town Clerk obtain more information from the organisers on the proportion of veterans who are from Great Aycliffe who are to be presented with badges before a final decision can be made on funding.

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

**Councillors Mrs. D. 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, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw and A. Warburton.**

102. **EARLY YEARS LEARNING CENTRES REPORT**

The Early Years Officer submitted a report setting out information with regard to the attendance figures and voluntary contributions for the two Pre-School Learning Centres.

**RESOLVED** – that the information in the report be received.

103. **2011 – 2012 REVENUE BUDGET ADJUSTMENT**

The Finance Manager submitted a report seeking approval by Members of a minor amendment to the Council's approved 2011 – 2012 Revenue Budget.

It was reported that a small error had been discovered in the calculation of the depreciation charge included in the Budget. The amount being a difference of £1,150 and the Finance Manager was seeking approval for this amount to be added to the Revenue Budget Contingency Sum which would increase the Contingency Sum from £15,000 to £16,150.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the amendment to the Council's 2011 – 2012 Revenue Budget of £1,150 be approved.

#### 104. **FOOTBALL STORAGE CONTAINER**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report for members to consider a request from Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre AFC to site a storage container on land forming part of the Works Depot site on School Aycliffe Lane. The container was required for the storage of equipment which is used for training, coaching and practice. Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre AFC are allocated four pitches at the Oakleaf Sports Complex fields.

The football club are prepared to fund the container, fencing etc. and the only implications would be the cost of solicitors fees, any planning application and a decision on an applicable rent to cover related charges such as rates.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That agreement be made in principle subject to further negotiations, legal advice and a successful planning application.
- (iii) That a further report be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee prior to the matter being finalised.

#### 105. **SECTION 106 MONIES – SANDERSON CLOSE**

**A declaration of personal and prejudicial interest was submitted by Councillor Mrs. J. Gray on this agenda item as she is a supporter of the Woodham CTC project. Councillor Mrs. Gray left the meeting during the discussion thereon.**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report for members to consider a response to Durham County Council in regard to the proposal to use Section 106 Monies from the Sanderson Close development to add to the funding required to provide a 3G pitch at Woodham Community Technology College.

The Town Clerk pointed out that Section 106 monies were agreed by the former Sedgefield Borough Council as part of the Bett Homes Development adjacent to Woodham Burn. The sum in question was £23,800. The Town Council requested that the monies be used to fund an extension to the Town Park play area to provide a toddlers play area.

It was noted that the Section 106 monies were allocated for landscaping and play area improvements.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That Durham County Council be advised that this Council does not agree with the proposal for Section 106 monies to be spent on the development of a 3G Pitch at Woodham Community Technology College
- (iii) That the County Council be also advised that these monies were to be allocated, in total, to the Town Council for the provision of a toddlers play area given the fact that the landscaping below Sanderson Close has already been undertaken by this Council.

- (iv) That, if necessary, an application be submitted by this Council to enable the funding to be released for the provision of additional play equipment.

106. **BUTTERWICK HOSPICE – USE OF SPORTS COMPLEX**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report following an application by a resident of Newton Aycliffe seeking members consideration for the use of the Oak Leaf Sports Hall, free of charge, for the purpose of a 5-a-side tournament to raise funds for the Butterwick Hospice.

The Sports Complex Manager had indicated that there are no objections to the use of the sports hall on off-peak times, date to be agreed.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That agreement, without prejudice, be given for the free use of the sports hall for a 5-a-side tournament to be held on a date agreed with the Sports Complex Manager.

107. **BURIAL CHARGES**

The Town Clerk and Works Manager had submitted a report following a previous report to Policy and Resources in January 2011 (Minute No. 88). At that meeting Officers were asked to further investigate ways to produce an equitable and workable scheme for the charging of cemetery fees for non-residents.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the following exemptions would be made the charging of triple fees to non-residents:
- The deceased was the owner (or the spouse of the owner) of the grave (held exclusive right of burial) and was a resident when the purchase was made.
  - Death occurred within 12 months of the deceased moving out of the parish.
  - The deceased had moved to receive appropriate nursing care for the persons needs which was not available in the parish.
  - The deceased was a serving member of the Armed Forces living in temporary accommodation, whose parents are still residents of the Parish.
- (iii) That the changes to the charging policy is implemented with the revised schedule of charges effective on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011.

108. **ACCIDENT STATISTICS**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report setting out accident statistics from January 2010 to December 2010.

The report gave details of staff accidents and reported public accidents across the Council.

For information purposes a copy of the accident statistics for years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 had also been supplied to identify trends.

**RESOLVED** – that the information be received.

109. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS - HITACHI SITE**

The Chairman informed the meeting of the good news that Hitachi had been granted the site at Newton Aycliffe for the production of the new trains. This was excellent news for the town with new jobs being created together with the possibility of further major companies moving to Newton Aycliffe.

Members felt that the hard work of the people involved with bringing this major project to Newton Aycliffe should be recognised.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that the Town Clerk write to our Member of Parliament, Mr. P. Wilson, and the members of the Economic Development Committee at County Hall, congratulating them on the hard work they have done to bring the Hitachi development to Newton Aycliffe.

**CHAIRMAN.**