

Minutes of a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 5 JUNE 2013 at 7.15pm.**

PRESENT **Councillor R.S. Fleming (Chairman) and**
Councillors E. Adam, D.G. Atkinson, J. Atkinson, B. Blenkinsopp, A.M. Chandran, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, M.A. Dalton, I. Gray, G.C. Gray, B. Hall, K. Henderson, Mrs. I. Hewitson, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. V.M. Raw, and C. Wheeler.

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

3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors R. Bowman, N. Collinson and Mrs. S. Haigh.

4. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

5. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

6. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

7. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor J.D. Clare, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 17th April 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8. **ACCOUNTS CONTROL SHEETS**

Accounts control sheets for the period 12th April to the 24th May 2013 and the General Bank Account for March and April 2013 were submitted.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the accounts control sheets for the period 12th April to the 24th May 2013 and the General Bank Account for March and April 2013 be received.

9. GRANTS / DONATIONS

The Town Clerk had submitted a report which gave the current donation budget for this financial year as £4,000 together with information on the carried forward amounts from the previous year, making the donations budget for £2013/14 £8,650.

The following requests had been received:

- (a) 'Mayor's Charity Golf Day'
 - (i) Request for the free use of the Golf Course for the Mayor's Annual Golf Tournament to take place.
 - (ii) Request for the issue of a voucher for a promotional free round of golf to each participating person in the tournament.

- (b) 'Greenfield Arts'

Application for funding for an event to be held in West Park (Referred from the Recreation Committee – 29 May 2013 (Minute No. 13(iii)).

Aycliffe Youth Council

The Youth Council donation budget had been set at £2,500 and together with an amount of £1,000 from the previous year being carried forward the budget for 2013/14 was now £3,500.

The following grants had been proposed by the Youth Council at their meeting held on the 18th April 2013:-

- (a) Rocsolid - £300 to go toward the costs for an Educational Visit to Beamish Museum.
- (b) Horndale Residents Association MUGA - £500 contribution (to be held until March 2014) to be paid on the achievement of the remaining outstanding monetary balance needed by the Horndale Residents Association to undertake the project.
- (c) Great Aycliffe Show - £1,000 to be allocated to help fund the cost of computers and computer games should this activity proceed at the 2013 Show.

It was pointed out that the £1,000 for the computers at Aycliffe Show would not be required as no further sponsorship had been obtained therefore it was proposed that the £1,000 be placed into the donations budget for the current year making the donation/grant budget £9,650.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.

(ii) 'Mayor's Charity Golf Day'

- (a) That permission be granted for the free use of the Golf Course for the Mayor's Annual Charity Golf Day.
- (b) That a promotional voucher for a free round of golf be given to participating persons in the tournament.

(iii) Greenfield Arts

That a donation of £5,000 be given to Greenfield Arts towards the funding of an event to be held in West Park.

(iv) Aycliffe Youth Council - The following grants had been proposed.

- (a) Rocsolid – That the amount of £300 be donated to Rocsolid for an Educational Visit to Beamish Museum.
- (b) Horndale Residents Association – That the promisory £500 contribution (to be held until March 2014) be paid on the achievement of the remaining outstanding monetary balance needed by the Horndale Residents Association to undertake the project.
- (c) Great Aycliffe Show – That it be noted that the £1,000 would not now be needed for the computers and games at the Aycliffe Show following the lack of other sponsors.

- (iv) That the £1,000 for the provision of computers at the Aycliffe Show be placed into the current donation/grant budget making the budget total £9,650 for the current year.

10. **PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING CENTRES**

The Early Years Officer submitted a report setting out information in respect of the Pre-School Learning Centres.

The report gave information on attendance figures and the current waiting list numbers.

Voluntary contribution information was given up to the 24th May 2013 and the proposal to hold a 'Party in the Park' for all the pre-school children.

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

11. **2012/13 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET YEAR END OUTTURN POSITION**

The Finance Manager submitted a report to provide members with details of the final year end position on the Council's approved Revenue and Capital Budgets for the 2012/13 financial year.

The report outlined the impact of the year end financial position on the Council's Balances and Reserves together with the key year end financial issues relating to the Council's Balance Sheet.

The Statutory Statement of Accounts were to be presented to an Extra-Ordinary meeting of the Council to be held on the 25th June 2013

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the year end financial position of the Council's 2012/13 Revenue Budgets be received.
- (ii) That the year end financial position on the Council's 2012/13 Capital Programme be received.
- (iii) That the year end position on the Council's Balances and Reserves be approved.
- (iv) That the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme carry forward requests referred to in paragraphs 5.2 and 6.11 to 6.12 and Appendices 3 and 5 be approved.
- (v) That quarterly budgetary control reports continue to be submitted during 2013/2014 detailing the financial position and estimated outturn on the Council's 2013/2014 Revenue and Capital Budgets.
- (vi) That it be noted that the Council wished to give a vote of thanks to the Finance Manager for the excellent work and clarity of his reports.

12. **CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU**

At the Policy and Resources Meeting held on the 17th April it had been resolved that a Working Group be formed to consider the Citizens Advice Bureau in more detail (Minute No. 102 (ii) referred) with the membership being chosen following the Annual General Meeting of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor J.D. Clare and seconded by Councillor R.S. Fleming that the Council does not appoint a Working Group to consider assistance to the CAB.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that a Citizens Advice Bureau Working Group be not appointed.

13. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

It was proposed by Councillor A.M. Chandran, seconded by Councillor M. Dalton and

RESOLVED – that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it was, in the opinion of the Council, advisable that the public and press be excluded from the meeting.

14. **MARKET RELOCATION**

The Town Clerk had submitted a private and confidential report to advise members of the change of market location and information relating to negotiations that had taken place with Daejan (Durham) Ltd. in regard to a rent reduction in recognition of the change of location and trading opportunities.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the temporary negotiated agreement with Daejan (Durham) Ltd. and the non-charge of rent during the period of the town centre refurbishment be agreed.
- (iii) That it be agreed that the Council waive their administration charge during the period of the town centre refurbishment.
- (iv) That suitable agreements be entered into to reflect the above changes with Daejan (Durham) Ltd. and the Newton Aycliffe Market Traders Co-operative.
- (v) That it is made clear to the Newton Aycliffe Market Traders Co-operative that these agreements and subsequent rent reductions are applicable only during their temporary re-location from the town centre.

CHAIRMAN.