

Minutes of a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2011 at 7.15pm.**

**PRESENT**                      **Councillor R.S. Fleming (Chairman) and**  
Councillors 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. Haigh, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, T. Hogan, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. E.M. Paylor and A. Warburton.

**IN ATTENDANCE**        Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp

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

68.    **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. D. Bowman, Mrs. J. Gray, K. Henderson and Mrs. V.M. Raw.

69.    **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

70.    **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Mr. A.M. Chandran raised a question on item No. 6 (Account Control Sheets). He raised a query as to why there is a cost to the cutting and bailing of the Wildlife Meadow when, to his recollection, in the past, the land had been cut on a basis of cut and taken away for personal use.

The Town Clerk explained that this was no longer possible as the grass cuts were of no value to a farmer due to contamination. Detailed information would be sought from the Works Manager on this matter and forwarded to Mr. Chandran for his information.

71.    **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor J.D. Clare, seconded by Councillor V. Crosby and

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

72.    **CHARGES WORKING GROUP**

Notes and recommendations from the meeting of the Charges Working Group held on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2011 were submitted.

The Working Group had made a number of recommendations for changes to the Council's Fees and Charges for 2012/13.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that the notes and the following recommendations from the Charges Working Group held on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2011 be agreed.

- (a) Cemeteries  
That the charges be frozen at the existing levels for 2011/12 working on the assumption that Double Taxation Grant will continue. Should there be a change to this grant a further special meeting would be arranged to look at any possible changes.
- (b) Football Pitches  
Charges to be increased by 5% rounded up or down to the nearest £5.  
Plus an extra £10 to be charged to each pitch.  
Junior fees to be calculated to a rate of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the full adult rate.  
That the pitch at St. Oswald's be removed from the list of charges as it no longer exists.  
That the charges for Simpasture and Moore Lane pitches be re-looked at if the improvements to their changing rooms are carried out.
- (c) Pre-School Learning Centres  
The charges for pre-schools be frozen for 2012/13.
- (d) Allotments  
The charges for allotments are set a year in advance so the charges for 2012/13 had previously been set.  
It was agreed that the allotment site charges for 2013/14 be frozen in line with the 2012/13 charges.  
There was consideration on the increased charges being levied for tipping and the disposal of rubbish from the allotment sites. The allotment A.G.M. is to be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> November and the Chairman of Environment was requested to discuss the minimising of rubbish to keep tipping costs down. Also to encourage the use of composting bins.
- (e) Sports Complex  
That an increase of 50p. be made on membership prices.  
That an increase of 5% be made on five-a-side, bowls, netball and all junior prices for 2012/13.  
That the Complex Manager keep a check on the booking times of facilities used by junior members with a view to only allowing juniors to play at certain times.  
That squash, badminton and table tennis prices be frozen at the existing level.  
That the function room hire charges be frozen and a new £5 per hour hire rate be introduced for bookings where a buffet is booked.
- (f) Golf Complex / Driving Range  
That the cost of season tickets be increased by £5 each with the exception of juniors.  
That the 18 to 21 full time education season ticket be re-introduced at a cost of £150, however, it **must** be stipulated that the purchaser be in full time education.  
That green fees, buggy hire, visiting parties and driving range prices remain frozen.  
That officers and the Golf Professional are authorised to publish special promotions.
- (g) Caravan Site  
That the charges be increased by 5% (rounded up to the nearest 50p).

73. **ACCOUNTS CONTROL SHEET**

Accounts control sheets for the period 21<sup>st</sup> October 2011 to the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2011 and the General Bank Account for October 2011 were submitted.

**RESOLVED** – that the accounts control sheets for the period 21<sup>st</sup> October 2011 to the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2011 and the General Bank Account for October 2011 were received.

74. **PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING CENTRE REPORT**

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

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

75. **BREWERY SPONSORSHIP – OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report setting out information with regard to the 5 year sponsorship contract the Oakleaf Sports Complex entered into with Heineken.

The current contract was due to end in December 2011, however, to date the barrellage for sponsorship was in a deficit of £3,706 which would need to be repaid. This could be achieved by paying the outstanding amount in December when the contract is finished or by agreeing to an overrun of the contract to finish the barrellage as per the contract. Members were asked to consider the options.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the outstanding contract be allowed to overrun to repay the outstanding barrellage.
- (iii) That the Leisure Manager and Finance Manager seek possible new suppliers for drink products.

76. **LAND SALES / ACQUISITIONS / LICENCES - UPDATE**

The Town Clerk submitted a report setting out the current progress of land sales, granting of licences and transfer of land to the Town Council on the following items:

- (i) Land purchase to the rear of 4 High Barn Road.
- (ii) Transfer of land in the Clarence Chare area from Livin.
- (iii) Licence for siting of a storage container at the Council Depot.

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

77. **2012/13 BUDGET SETTING UPDATE**

The Finance Manager submitted a report to provide Members with an update on the setting of the Council's 2012/13 Revenue and Capital Budget.

The report set out a number of on-going issues that would need to be taken into account in the setting of the Council's Budget including the final notification of the Great Aycliffe Tax Base, Double Taxation Grant and CCTV monitoring costs by Durham County Council.

Members were asked to delay the setting of the 2012/13 Precept and the Town Council Tax until the meeting of the Full Council on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the update on the setting of the 2012/12 Revenue and Capital Budget be agreed.
- (ii) That the Council's 2012/13 Revenue Budget is set at the Policy and Resources Committee meeting to be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012 to allow the incorporation of a number of outstanding issues including the final notification of the Council Tax Base and the level of Double Taxation Grant by Durham County Council.
- (iii) That the 2012/13 Council Precept and Town Council Tax be set at the meeting of the Council scheduled to be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

78. **STANDING ORDERS EXEMPTION FORM – SOLAR PANELS**

The Town Clerk and Finance Manager had submitted a Contracts and Procurement Standing Orders Exemption Application Form in respect of the installation of photovoltaic solar panel system on the Council Offices roof.

**RESOLVED** – that the Exemption Application be accepted.

**CHAIRMAN.**