

Minutes of a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 23RD JANUARY 2019 at 7.15 p.m.**

PRESENT **Councillor R.S. Fleming (Chairman) and**
Councillors Eddy Adam, M. Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, Bill Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, George C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, Dave Hardaker, Mrs. I. Hewitson, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Kate Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw, Ken Robson, Paul Symons and Sally Symons.

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

69. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was submitted by Councillor P.J. Bergg.

70. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

71. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest had been submitted.

72. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

73. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor M. Iveson, seconded by Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 5th December 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

74. **SERVICE REVIEW WORKING GROUP**

The notes and following recommendations from the meeting of the Service Review Working Group held on the 8th January 2019 were submitted for consideration:-

- (i) That a letter of thanks be sent to Browns Cowie & Co for their comprehensive report.
- (ii) That a grouping of trees to the immediate rear of the Sports Complex be removed gradually and selectively, in accordance with advice in the report, in order to improve rear access.
- (iii) That proposed access improvements to the rear of the Sports Complex be referred to the Recreation Committee for consideration.

It was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary, seconded by Councillor Dave Hardaker and

RESOLVED – that the notes and recommendations from the Service Review Working Group held on the 8th January 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

75. **PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Councillor M. Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor M. Iveson and

RESOLVED – that the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on the 10th January 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

76. **ACCOUNTS CONTROL SHEETS**

Account control sheets for the period 30th November 2018 to the 11th January 2019 and the General Bank Accounts for November and December 2018 were submitted.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the accounts control sheets for the period 30th November 2018 to the 11th January 2019 and the General Bank Accounts for November and December 2018 be received.

77. **GRANTS / DONATIONS**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report which gave the current donation budget for this financial year as £2,021.

There had been no applications for grants received.

Aycliffe Youth Council

The current donation budget for the Aycliffe Youth Council Financial Year is £540.

The following grant was recommended for consideration by the Policy and Resources Committee at a meeting of the Youth Council:-

- £60 to be used for the purchase of 3 raffle prizes to raise funds for defibrillators and training.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the current donation budget of the Council be noted.
- (ii) That the current donation budget for the Youth Council be noted.
- (iii) That the amount of £60 towards the cost of defibrillators and training be agreed.

78. **2018/19 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET POSITION TO 31st DECEMBER 2018 AND PROJECTION OF YEAR END OUTTURN**

The Finance Manager submitted a report to present the financial position on the Council's approved 2018/19 Revenue and Capital Programme Budget for the nine months up to 31st December 2018 together with an updated projection of the expected year-end outturn position.

Following comments which had been received via social media Councillors had a lengthy discussion on the current position of the Council and the way Officers had delivered a positive outcome and delivery of services for the projection of the expected year-end outturn.

Councillors wished to record that this Council has absolute confidence, and expresses its support, to the Town Clerk, Finance Manager and Officers of the Council and has no doubt in their integrity in making decisions.

A named vote was requested which was unanimous in support of the Officers:-

'Councillors Eddy Adam, M. Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, Bill Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, George C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, Dave Hardaker, Mrs. I. Hewitson, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Kate Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw, Ken Robson, Paul Symons and Sally Symons.'

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Council's appreciation and support be recorded for the work carried out by Officers and Staff.
- (iii) That the financial position on the Council's 2018/19 Revenue and Capital Budgets up to the 31st December 2018 and the projection of expected year-end outturn be approved.

79. **APPROVAL OF THE 2019/20 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET**

The Finance Manager had submitted a report seeking approval from members for the Council's 2019/20 Revenue and Capital Budget.

This approval would then enable the 2019/20 Precept and Town Council Tax to be set at the Council meeting on the 30th January 2019.

It was clarified that budget items as accepted by approval of the budget, in a number of cases, would be subject to further reports to the appropriate Committees or Council for approval.

A named vote was requested on the acceptance of the 4.99% increase and resulted in a unanimous decision:

'Councillors Eddy Adam, M. Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, Bill Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, George C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, Dave Hardaker, Mrs. I. Hewitson, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Kate Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw, Ken Robson, Paul Symons and Sally Symons.'

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the final 2019/20 Revenue and Capital Budget proposals as set out in the report and appendices be approved.
- (iii) That the Precept be set at £1,661,050 which would result in a 4.99% increase in the Town Council Tax, a contingency sum of £12,500 and a contribution to capital reserves of £75,000.

CHAIRMAN