

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 4 MARCH 2020 – 7.15 p.m.

Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on Wednesday, 4th March 2020 at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor R.S. Fleming (Chairman) and

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

OFFICERS

Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)

Mr. D. Austin (Finance Manager)

Mr. S. Cooper (Works and Environment Manager)

Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)

96. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Kathy Beetham, P.J. Bergg, J. Clark and Sally Symons.

97. MEMBERS' DISPENSATION

No dispensation requests had been received.

98. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest had been submitted.

99. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions from the public.

100. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Dave Hardaker, seconded by Councillor M. Iveson and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 22 January 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

101. PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE

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

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on the 12 February 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

102. PRE-SCHOOL SUB-COMMITTEE

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

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Pre-School Sub-Committee held on the 25 February 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

103. ACCOUNT CONTROL SHEETS

Account control sheets for the period 17 January to the 21 February 2020 and the General Bank Account for January 2020 were submitted.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the accounts control sheets for the period 17 January to the 21 February 2020 and the General Bank Account for January 2020 be received.

104. GRANTS / DONATIONS

The Town Clerk had submitted a report which gave the current donation budget for this financial year as £2,775.

The following application had been received seeking financial assistance:-

- ‘CPR and Defibrillator Project Funding’

A letter of thanks had been received for the Council’s donation of £100 to the Red Box Project.

The Aycliffe Youth Council current budget for the Financial Year 2019/20 was reported as £890.

The following application had been received by the Aycliffe Youth Council for consideration. The Youth Council had made the following recommendation and sought approval from the Policy and and Resources Committee for the payment:-

- ‘Application from a Young Person to play in the England Junior Mens U17 Water Polo Squad. An amount of £150 had been recommended ‘.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the current donation budget of the Council be noted.
- (ii) That an amount of £750 be donated to the ‘CPR and Defibrillator Project Funding’.
- (iii) That the letter of thanks from the Red Box Project for the Council’s donation be received.
- (iv) That the current donation budget for the Aycliffe Youth Council be noted.
- (vi) That the proposed amount of £150 to the ‘Young Person’ to play in the England Junior Mens U17 Water Polo Squad be authorised for payment.

105. TELEPHONE BOX REMOVAL – WHINLATTER PLACE

Information had been received from Durham County Council with regards to the removal of the payphone telephone box situated in Whinlatter Place due to lack of use and were seeking comments.

Members were of the opinion that this box was a service for the Whinlatter Place area which is where elderly residents are more likely to need access to a telephone line.

It was felt that this Council should object to the removal of the telephone box, however, an article be placed in the Newton News for individuals to lodge their own comments on the removal of this telephone box.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That this Council objects to the removal of the actual Service and Telephone Box from Whinlatter Place on the grounds that it is the only one in the area which has a large number of elderly residents who need the use of a telephone line.
- (ii) That an article be placed in the Newton News to inform members of the public of the intentions of BT and for them to give their comments / objections direct to Durham County Council.

106. REVIEW OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE 2019/20

The Corporate Management Team had submitted a report to provide information to enable the Policy and Resources Committee to undertake the annual review of the effectiveness of the Council's Internal Audit Service for the 2019/20 financial year, in line with non-statutory best practice.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Policy and Resources Committee supports the Corporate Management Team's conclusion that the Council's Internal Audit arrangements are effective.
- (iii) That the Policy and Resources Committee review of the effectiveness of the Internal Audit Service be taken into account in the Annual Review of the effectiveness of the Council's system of internal control and the approval of the 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement.
- (iv) That Officers be commended for the excellent work carried out throughout the year.

107. FINANCE SERVICE PLAN 2020/21

The Finance Manager had submitted a report and Service Plan in respect of the Finance Service for 2020/21.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Finance Service Plan for 2020/21 be approved and accepted.

108. BUSINESS RISK OUTTURN REPORT 2019/2020

The Corporate Management Team had submitted a report and information for Members to consider and approve the end of year current corporate business risks for the Town Council.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Outturn Business Risk Register for the year end 2019/20 be approved.

109. VE DAY MEMORIAL BENCH

The Works and Environment Manager had submitted a report for Members to consider alternatives for commemorative benches to mark VE Day.

A budget figure of £1,500 had been carried forward to provide three metal benches within the memorial garden at St. Clare's Church.

Quotations had been received to depict VE Day from the original supplier of benches previously installed. As there were no benches available these would need to be a bespoke design which would cost in the region of £1,650.

Alternative suppliers were contacted to provide the bespoke design. Fabrication North could supply benches at a cost of £600. This would allow all three of the old wooden benches in St. Clare's Garden to be replaced with bespoke metal benches at an additional amount of £300 to the current budget figure.

Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp proposed and it was seconded by Councillor Mrs. S.J. Iveson that a VE Day bench be purchased at a cost of £600 and sited in Aycliffe Village. This was supported and agreed that four benches be obtained.

Members were asked to consider designs for the benches and it was proposed that two VE Day benches be ordered and erected prior to the 7th May, one for St. Clare's and one for Aycliffe Village. Members were asked to consider designs for the other two benches for St. Clare's.

A suggestion to depict the DLI was made and at this point Councillors R.S. Fleming and Jed Hillary declared personal interests as members of the DLI.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the a total of four benches be purchased using the carried over budget of £1,500 and an amount of £900 from the contingency budget.
- (iii) That two benches be purchased to depict VE Day and be erected in St. Clare's Garden and Aycliffe Village.
- (iii) That the themes for the other two benches to be purchased and placed in St. Clare's Garden be considered further.

CHAIRMAN.