

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 26th AUGUST 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, and virtually, on Wednesday, 26th August 2020 at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor Michael Stead

OFFICERS

Mr. A Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr. D. Austin (Finance Manager)
Mrs. C.A. Walton (Corporate and Policy Officer)
Mr. L. Williams (Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator)
Miss A. Donald (Town Clerk's PA)

110. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Eddy Adam, Kathy Beetham and B. Hall.

111. MEMBERS' DISPENSATION

No dispensation requests had been received.

112. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor M. Ashcroft declared a pecuniary interest under item 11 on the agenda due to his association with a local taxi company, which is used by the Council.

113. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions from the public.

114. 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 4th March 2020, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

115. 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 18th August 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

116. ACCOUNT CONTROL SHEETS

Account control sheets for the period 28th February to 14th August 2020 and the General Bank Accounts for February, March, April, May, June and July 2020 were submitted.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the accounts control sheets for the period 28th February to 14th August 2020 and the General Bank Accounts for February to July 2020 be received.

117. GRANTS / DONATIONS

The Town Clerk submitted a report which gave the current donation budget for the 2020/21 financial year as £5,500

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the current donation budget of the Council be noted.
- (ii) That an amount of £200 be donated to the Ally Cadence Trust for Spinal Muscular Atrophy.
- (iii) That the amounts of £750 to each of the St Clare's and St Mary's Foodbanks be noted under Delegated Authority from the 2019/20 budget.
- (iv) That a letter of thanks from Woodham Community Association be noted.
- (vi) That the current donation budget for the Youth Council be noted.
- (vii) That a poppy wreath for laying on Remembrance Day be purchased for £20.
- (viii) That a letter of thanks to the Youth Council from Woodham Community Association for their donation be noted.
- (ix) That a grant of £406.45 given to Aycliffe Village Residents Association for the purchase of speakers to help with the 'Alternative VE Day' celebrations be noted. This was under the understanding that the speakers were to be returned to the Council following the event for future use.

118. 2020/21 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET AS AT 30th JUNE 2020

The Finance Manager submitted a report presenting the financial position on the Council's approved 2020/21 Revenue and Capital Programme Budget for the first three months of the financial year, up to 30th June. The report quantified income losses and additional costs relating to the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact, plus an early estimate of costs and income for the remainder of the financial year and implications for the 2021/22 financial year and the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan.

Councillor Kate Hopper joined the meeting during this item.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the financial position on the Council's 2020/21 Revenue and Capital Budgets for the three months to 30th June, including the assessment of the financial impact of the Coronavirus pandemic and the early forecast of the year-end outturn position, be noted.
- (ii) That the previously reported carry forward of 2020/21 Revenue and Capital Budget savings to the 2020/21 financial year be approved.
- (iii) That further Revenue and Capital Budget Position Reports setting out the financial position as at 30th September 2020 and 31st December 2020, including updated projections of expected outturn at the October and January meetings of the policy and Resources Committee, be approved.
- (iv) That information with regard to the deferral of the Medium-Term Financial Plan and revised timetable for the setting of the 2021/22 Revenue and Capital Budgets be noted.

119. HEALTH AND SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT

The Town Clerk submitted an annual report setting out a list of accidents and reportable accidents (RIDDOR) and any reports from the Health and Safety Executive.

The report also set out information in respect of health and safety training completed during the year.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That any future accidents, reportable under RIDDOR, be reported to the next Policy and Resources Committee.

120. CIVIC CAR

Councillor M. Ashcroft left the meeting for discussion of this item.

The Town Clerk submitted a report requesting approval for the disposal of the civic car by way of sale.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the civic car be sold.

121. PURCHASE OF ELECTRICAL GROUNDS MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT

The Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator submitted a report requesting members to consider the purchase of a range of electrical grounds maintenance equipment for use within the Works Section.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the purchase of equipment be deferred pending forthcoming budget discussions and referred back to the Asset Management Member Working Group.

Councillor J.D Clare wished to record his objection to the deferral of this purchase.

122. PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT RIDE-ON MOWER

The Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator submitted a report requesting members to consider options in regard to replacing the ride-on triple mower within the Works Section.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the replacement of the triple mower be deferred pending forthcoming budget discussions and referred back to the Asset Management Member Working Group.

123. PURCHASE OF MINI-EXCAVATOR

The Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator submitted a report updating members on the purchase of a new mini-excavator for use within the Works Section. It was noted that this had been identified for replacement under the 2020-21 Capital Budget and was purchased during the Covid-19 pandemic under delegated powers of the Town Clerk and in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Town Clerk's actions be approved.

CHAIRMAN.