

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 21st OCTOBER 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, 21st October 2020 at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT

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

OFFICERS

Mr. A Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr. D. Austin (Finance Manager)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin Officer)
Miss B. Mason (Clerical / Events Assistant)

124. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Eddy Adam, Mrs. D. Bowman, Mrs. M. Dalton, I. Gray, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and Paul Symons.

125. MEMBERS' DISPENSATION

No dispensation requests had been received.

126. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

127. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions from the public.

128. 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 26th August 2020, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

129. PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE

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

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meetings of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on the 30th September and the 14th October 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

130. AUDIT, RISK AND GDPR SUB-COMMITTEE

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

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Audit, Risk and GDPR Sub-Committee held on the 7th October 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

131. ACCOUNT CONTROL SHEETS

Account control sheets for the period 27th August to the 9th October 2020 and the General Bank Accounts for August and September 2020 were submitted.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the accounts control sheets for the period 27th August to the 9th October 2020 and the General Bank Accounts for August and September 2020 be received.

132. GRANTS / DONATIONS

The Town Clerk submitted a report which gave the current donation budget for the 2020/21 financial year as £4,893.55.

The following two applications had been received for consideration of awarding a grant:-

- (i) 'Great North Air Ambulance' – donation to their organisation.
It was proposed and seconded that an amount of £250 be given on this occasion.
- (ii) 'Xcel Church' – donation towards Christmas projects.
Members felt that, as many organisations and charities would be struggling this Christmas through the pandemic, they felt there would be more applications being submitted. It was suggested all applications for donations towards Christmas festivities be considered at the same time so the Committee would be able to make a decision on how much money would be available to assist with Christmas applications.

It was noted that the Aycliffe Youth Council donation for 2020/21 is currently £1,980.

There had been no applications for donations from the Youth Council.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the current donation budget of the Council be noted.
- (ii) That an amount of £250 be donated to the 'Great North Air Ambulance'.
- (iii) That the application from the Xcel Church for a donation towards their Christmas projects be deferred pending receipt of any other applications received for assistance with Christmas activities and recovery from the effect of the Coronavirus pandemic on their fund raising activities.
- (iv) That all applications received for help be considered jointly in order to make a decision on the amounts that could be donated.

- (v) That suitable publicity be undertaken to advise local organisations within Great Aycliffe of the opportunity to apply for grant assistance.
- (vi) That the current donation budget for the Youth Council be noted.

133. SALE OF CIVIC CAR

The Town Clerk had submitted a report to update members on the sale of the Civic Car by sealed tender bids.

Six bids had been received with the highest bid being £1,100. The car has been disposed of to the bidder of £1,100.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

134. STAFF ACCIDENT - RIDDOR

The Town Clerk submitted a report to update members regarding a recent staff accident which was reportable under RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations).

On the 19th September 2020 a park patrol operative tripped while walking across the Depot yard. He fell, causing swelling and bruising to both wrists and left knee. The surface is flat and covered with tarmac, with no defects or breaks and there was no obvious reason for the trip. The incident was reportable under RIDDOR because the injury prevented the operative from working for more than seven days. The operative is now back at work.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

135. 2020/21 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET POSITION TO 30TH SEPTEMBER AND EXPECTED OUTTURN FORECAST

The Finance Manager had submitted a report setting out the half-year financial position on the Council's approved 2020/21 Revenue and Capital Budget and a projection of the expected year-end outturn position.

The report quantifies the income losses, additional costs and savings relating to the Coronavirus Pandemic and how these have impacted upon the Council's Revenue Budget and overall financial position.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the half-year financial position of the Council's 2020/21 Revenue and Capital Budgets and the projection of year-end expected outturn be received.
- (iii) That a further Revenue and Capital Budget Position report be submitted to the January Policy and Resources Committee, detailing the financial position as at 31st December 2020 and the updated projection of the expected outturn.

- (iv) That the proposal to set aside £100,000 from the 2020/21 Revenue Budget saving in a Covid-19 Recovery Reserve, with a view to passing these savings back to local taxpayers via one-off investments during the 2021/22 financial year, subject to the financial situation of the Council allowing this be accepted.

136. 2021/22 BUDGET SETTING FRAMEWORK AND TIMETABLE

The Finance Manager submitted a report to seek approval from members of the proposed framework and timetable for the setting of the Council's 2021/22 Revenue and Capital Programme Budgets.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the budget framework and timetable for the setting of the Council's 2021/22 Revenue and Capital Budgets be approved.

137. AYCLIFFE VILLAGE GREEN FENCING

The Works and Environment Manager had submitted a report for members to consider a request to fund the supply of materials to install a 45 metre section of bird's mouth fencing on Aycliffe Village Green to prevent vehicle encroachment. (Minute No. 100 of the Environment Committee held on the 14 October 2020 referred).

An amount of £450 was being requested to supply materials for the 45 metre section of birds mouth fencing from the County Hotel to the Crossroads. With the Works Department staff carrying out the installation over the Autumn period.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That an amount of £450 be made available from the Environment Projects Revenue Budget to supply birds mouth fencing for the 45 metre section of the Village Green from the County Hotel to the crossroads.

CHAIRMAN.