

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on Wednesday 1st December 2021 at 7.15pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Arun M. Chandran (Chairman)

Councillors Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Neil Collinson, Bob Fleming, George Gray, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Mrs. Sandra Haigh, Jed Hillary, Kate Hopper, Andrea Miller, John Moore, Carl Robinson, and Michael Stead.

OFFICERS

Mr. D. Austin (Town Clerk)

Mrs. S. Stretch (Senior Administrative Officer)

78. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Peter Bergg, Dorothy Bowman, John Clark, Phillip Hawkins, Wendy Hillary, and Ken Robson.

79. MEMBERS DISPENSATIONS

There had been no applications for dispensations.

80. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There was a non-pecuniary declaration of interest from Councillor George Gray on Agenda Item 9 as he has relatives in Acle Scout Group.

81. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

82. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Bob Fleming, seconded by Councillor Brian Haigh and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee, held on the 20th October 2021, be confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

83. ASSET MANAGEMENT MEMBER WORKING GROUP NOTES

The notes and recommendations from the meeting of the Asset Management Member Working Group held on the 26th October 2021 were submitted for consideration as follows:

- i) That the update report and detailed appendices be received and agreed.
- ii) that the warranties on any remaining roofs on Council properties be checked and the roofs in question be inspected six months prior to the date of expiry of the warranty.
- iii) That a feasibility study be undertaken on Simpasture Park Pavilion with a view to submitting an application for funding to the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Area Action Partnership Towns and Villages Fund. The feasibility study to include the following points:
 - a) The option for an internal restructure and refurbishment to maximise and modernise the space available and include the installation of showers and toilets.
 - b) The option to demolish and re-build the pavilion if that would be more appropriate and cost-effective.
 - c) That the current usage of the building be taken into account in the feasibility study.
 - d) The possibility of funding from other external sources in addition to GAMP be considered e.g. National Lottery, Football Association, and Sport England.
- iv) That the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee consider using monies from the Covid Recovery Fund to finance the feasibility study for Simpasture Park Pavilion.
- v) That the draft 2022/23 Capital Programme Budgets be agreed.
- vi) That works vehicles continue to be replaced using capital reserves but when replacing smaller works vehicles, officers consider the feasibility of leasing and include these in the committee report.

A detailed discussion took place regarding the Simpasture Park Pavilion feasibility study recommendation.

It was proposed by Councillor Bob Fleming and seconded by Councillor Carl Robinson that the Simpasture Pavilion feasibility study be deferred and referred back to a Asset Management Member Working Group meeting in the new year for further consideration.

It was requested that a full report be drafted for the Asset Management Member Working Group meeting covering current usage of the facility, an indication of the cost of the feasibility study, and any available external funding e.g. from GAMP.

It was also requested that a site visit be arranged for Members.

RESOLVED - that the notes and recommendations of the meeting of the Asset Management Working Group, held on the 26th October 2021, be confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman – subject to the following:

- (i) that the Simpasture Pavilion feasibility study be deferred and referred back to a meeting of the Asset Management Member Working Group in the New Year for further consideration.
- (ii) that officers investigate the costs of the feasibility study, potential sources of funding, and provide information on the current usage figures for the Simpasture Pavilion.
- (iii) that officers arrange a site visit to Simpasture Pavilion for Councillors.

84. AUDIT, RISK AND G.D.P.R SUB COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Councillor Eddy Adam, seconded by Councillor Jed Hillary, and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Audit, Risk and G.D.P.R Sub Committee held on the 3rd November 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

85. ACCOUNT CONTROL SHEETS

Account Control Sheets for the period 15th October 2021 to 5th November 2021 and the General Bank Account for October 2021 were submitted for approval.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the Account Control Sheets for the period 15th October 2021 to 5th November 2021 and the General Bank Account for October 2021 be received.

86. GRANTS AND DONATIONS

The Town Clerk submitted a report setting out the Grants and Donations requests which had been received since the last meeting.

It was reported that a total of £2,761 is currently available in the 2021/22 Small Grants and Donations Budget, £2,000 in the Youth Council Grants Budget, £9,968 in the COVID Recovery Community Grants Fund and £5,109 in the Community Benefit Fund.

An application was received from the Acle Scouts Group for a grant from the COVID Recovery Fund. The scout group, who are based in Aycliffe Village, were requesting a grant of £600 towards the cost of replenishing craft supplies post-COVID and to support Christmas crafting activities and events.

It was proposed by Councillor Eddy Adam, seconded by Councillor Jed Hillary, and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that a grant of £600 be awarded to the Acle Scouts Group from the Covid Recovery Fund.

87. DRAFT COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AND AWARDS SCHEME

The Town Clerk submitted a report setting out for the consideration a draft Community Recognition and Awards Scheme for the Council, following the request at the Council Meeting on 27th October 2021.

Councillor Arun M. Chandran proposed that officers be thanked for producing the document but requested that approval of the scheme be deferred to allow time for each political group to review the scheme and feedback any proposed changes to the Town Clerk, ahead of the scheme being brought back for approval in the new year.

A detailed discussion took place during which a number of suggestions were put forward by councillors including comments that the scheme nomination criteria and approval process could be simplified, the annual awards ceremony section of the scheme should be removed, and that the prize values could be reconsidered.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran and seconded by Councillor Neil Collinson and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:

- (i) officers be thanked for producing the draft Community Recognition and Awards Scheme;
- (ii) approval of the scheme be deferred, allowing time to take on board comments and feedback from each political group, and that an updated scheme be reported to a future Policy and Resources meeting for consideration and approval.

88. ADDITIONAL CAPITAL BUDGET APPROVAL

It was requested that an additional Capital Programme Budget approval of £9,250 for the sports complex kitchen roofing works, as agreed at Recreation Committee on 24th November 2021, be approved.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor Neil Collinson and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) that the additional Capital Programme Budget approval of £9,250 for the sports complex kitchen roofing works, as agreed at Recreation Committee on 24th November 2021, be approved.

CHAIRMAN.