

## **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2022**

Minutes of the meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 7.15pm.

### **PRESENT**

#### **Councillor Arun M. Chandran (Chairman)**

Councillors Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Lindsey Aston, Jim Atkinson, John Clark, Bob Fleming, George Gray, Ian Gray, Mrs. Sandra Haigh, Brian Haigh, Andy Hill, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, John Moore, Ken Robson, Michael Stead, Anne Woodward and John Woodward.

### **OFFICIALS**

Mr. D. Austin (Town Clerk)

Mrs. T. Woodhead (Finance Manager)

Mr. S. Cooper (Works and Environment Officer)

Mr. L. Williams (Grounds Maintenance Services Coordinator)

Mrs. S. Stretch (Senior Administrative Officer)

### **7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Dorothy Bowman and Carl Robinson.

### **8. MEMBERS DISPENSATIONS**

No dispensation requests had been received.

### **9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **10. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

### **11. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Bob Fleming, seconded by Councillor Ken Robson and

**RESOLVED** - that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee, held on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 12. PERSONNEL SUB COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Bob Fleming, seconded by Councillor Ken Robson, and

**RESOLVED** - that the minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Sub Committee, held on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022, and the minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Sub Committee, held on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 13. ACCOUNT CONTROL SHEETS

Account Control Sheets for the period 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and the General Bank Account for April 2022 were submitted for approval.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that the Account Control Sheets for the period 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and the General Bank Account for April 2022 be received.

## 14. 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 £3,500 is currently available in the 2022/23 Small Grants and Donations Budget, £2,000 in the Youth Council Grants Budget, £8,868 in the COVID Recovery Community Grants Fund and £5,109 in the Community Benefit Fund, including the balances carried forward from 2021/22 financial year.

The following grant and donation requests were considered:

### a) **Great Aycliffe Indoor Bowls Club**

A grant application was received from the Great Aycliffe Indoor Bowls Club, based within the Oak Leaf Sports Complex, for a £1,999 grant towards the cost of purchasing an electric wheelchair for the use of a member of the club.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor Lindsey Aston, that the Council purchase a manual wheelchair to be owned by the Council and made available to all users of the bowls hall at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex, at an estimated cost of £749.

A discussion took place and concerns were raised by Councillor Jed Hillary about the precedent which could be set in relation to other sports facilities provided by the Council to request a similar wheelchair and the budgetary concerns that would raise.

A vote took place on the proposal with the following results:

For – 15 votes                      Against – 5 votes

The proposal was carried.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that

- (i) the Council purchases a manual wheelchair for use by all users of the Oakleaf Sports Complex bowls hall.

**b) Aycliffe Village Local History Society**

A donation request was received via a letter from the Aycliffe Village Local History Society. The donation request related to the cost of some repairs that are required for the headstone of Newton Aycliffe's first resident; Mr Don Perry.

After a brief discussion it was suggested that the £175 be agreed for the costs of the stonemason repair but no donation be given towards the church faculty costs.

The Chairman wished to have it recorded in the minutes that this was a one-off exception to the donation rules, in light of the connection to the history of the town, and that the Council would not normally agree to similar donations in the future.

A vote was taken on the proposal and passed unanimously.

It was proposed by Councillor Tony Armstrong, and seconded by Councillor Ken Robson and

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that

- i) £175 be given to meet the stonemason costs of repairing the headstone;
- ii) No donation is given towards the cost of the faculty from the diocese.

**c) Ukraine Donations**

Members discussed further donations to the ongoing Ukraine crisis.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that

- iii) The Town Council dispense with the standing item to consider further donations to the ongoing Ukraine crisis and that further donations can be specifically requested via the normal channels if required.

**d) Post Grant Questionnaire from Sedgefield 75 Swimming Club**

Members received a post grant questionnaire from Sedgefield 75 Swimming Club including a request to retain the unspent funds and use them towards the costs of further sessions.

It was proposed by Councillor Bob Fleming, and seconded by Councillor Ken Robson and

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that

- iv) the post grant questionnaire be received, and that Sedgefield 75 Swimming Club retain the remaining £355 towards the costs of the swim sessions.

## 15. 2021/22 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET YEAR-END OUTTURN POSITION

The Finance Manager submitted a report providing Members with the year-end outturn position on the Council's approved Revenue and Capital Budgets for the 2021/22 financial year.

The report also outlined the year-end position on the Council's balances and reserves, loans, investments and debtors.

Councillor Bob Fleming commended the Finance Manager on an excellent and detailed report and outlined his concerns around the future outlook for Council.

Councillor Eddy Adam proposed to move all the recommendations of the report and asked that thanks be recorded to the Finance Manager and wider staffing team for their efforts in delivering the positive outturn position.

He further suggested that consideration be made for setting aside some funds towards the towns' 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year and the 200-year anniversary of the Stockton Darlington Railway celebration in 2025.

The Chairman stated that each group can talk to the Finance Manager to discuss any financial issues direct.

It was proposed by Councillor Eddy Adam, and seconded by Jim Atkinson and

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that

- (i) the year-end financial position on the Council's 2021/22 Revenue Budgets be received;
- (ii) the year-end financial position on the Council's 2021/22 Capital Programme Budgets be received;
- (iii) the year-end position on the Council's Balances and Reserves be received and the proposed allocation of those balances be approved;
- (iv) the Revenue Budget, COVID-19 Recovery Reserve and Capital Programme carry forward requests referred to in paragraphs 5.2, 5.4, and 6.11 be approved;
- (v) members will continue to receive quarterly budgetary control reports during the 2022/23 financial year, detailing the financial position and expected outturn on the Council's 2022/23 Revenue and Capital Budgets.

## 16. RAPID DEPLOYMENT CCTV CAMERA PROJECT UPDATE

The Town Clerk provided Members with an update in relation to the Rapid Deployment CCTV Camera Project that is currently being developed in partnership with Newton Aycliffe Police, Durham County Council, Great Aycliffe County Councillors, GAMP and Livin.

A discussion took place and concerns were raised about the monitoring of the existing fixed cameras by Durham County Council's Chilton Control Room.

It was proposed by Councillor Ken Robson, and seconded by Councillor Eddy Adam, and

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that

- i) the report be received;
- ii) the ownership of the two rapid deployment cameras purchased by the Town Council be transferred to Durham County Council, subject to written assurances that the cameras will always remain in Great Aycliffe.
- iii) the Town Council fixed CCTV camera service level monitoring agreement with Durham County Council is reviewed, and an update report is submitted to this committee at a future date.

## 17. CHANGES TO LEGISLATION IN THE USE OF REBATED FUELS

The Grounds Maintenance Service Co-ordinator submitted a report to inform Members of changes to the legislation regarding the use of rebated gas oil (red diesel) and to advise of the financial implications of this change for the Town Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Eddy Adam, and seconded by Councillor Jim Atkinson, and

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that the information be received.

## 18. REPLACEMENT 4X4 WORKS VEHICLES

The Works and Environment Manager submitted a report to request members' consideration of the options for replacing the two Mitsubishi L200 4x4 vehicles within the Works Section.

It was proposed by Councillor Eddy Adam, and seconded by Councillor Jim Atkinson, and

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that

- i) the report be received
- ii) that Officers purchase two Isuzu D-max 4 x 4 vehicles at a cost of £44,500, and to offset the additional budget cost via the disposal of the existing L200 vehicles by sealed bid auction.

**19. PERSONNEL SUB COMMITTEE VACANCY**

It was requested that Members agree the appointment of Councillor Tony Armstrong to the vacant position for the Independents Group on the Personnel Sub Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun Chandran, and seconded by Councillor Ken Robson and

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that

- i) Councillor Tony Armstrong be appointed to the vacant Independents' position on the Personnel Sub-Committee.

**20. ADDITIONAL CAPITAL BUDGET APPROVAL**

Following the approved decision at the Recreation Committee meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022, members were asked to approve an additional £1,300 capital budget to upgrade the driving range ball dispenser machine.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that

- i) an additional £1,300 capital budget be approved upgrade the driving range ball dispenser machine.

**CHAIRMAN.**