

Minutes of a Meeting of the Resources and Policy Committee held in the Council Offices, Kennelwood, Town Centre, Hatfield on Wednesday 13 April 2005 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR G. WILTSHIRE (CHAIRMAN)

COUNCILLORS: N. ATKINSON, M. CLARK, J. HAWKINS, O' BRIEN
M. WHITE

ALSO PRESENT FOR MINUTES: COUNCILLOR MRS H LAMING

OFFICERS PRESENT: P.C. CLARK (TOWN CLERK)

P. WIDDICOMBE (DEPUTY TOWN CLERK)

M. SMITH (POLICY & PROJECTS OFFICER)

81. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs L Mendez, H. Morgan

82. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 January 2005 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

83. BEST VALUE

The Notes of the Meeting of the Best Value Panel held on the 18 March 2005 were received. The Committee then considered the report of the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the recommendations of the Panel be approved and adopted subject to the revised Aims and Objectives being considered as part of the final Best Value Performance Plan.
- (b) That the Council be asked to give delegated authority to the Resources and Policy Committee to agree and approve the Best Value Performance Plan.

84. TWINNING

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Twinning Advisory Sub-Committee held on 23 February 2005 and 12 April 2005 were received. The Committee then considered the report of the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the delegation consist of Councillors Appleby, Clark, Long, Mrs Mendez, O' Brien, Mrs White, the next Vice – Chairman of the Council and the Town Clerk together with Barry Clark and Mrs Davina Taunton if they wished to go.

- (b) That the Council meet the travel costs of the delegation but that any partners would have to pay for their own travel.

85. GRANTS

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Grants Sub-Committee held on 9 February 2005 were received. The Committee then considered a Grant Application by Essendon and Woodhill Parochial Church Council and a request by Welwyn Hatfield Council for a contribution towards the cost of a revised Activity Map.

RESOLVED

- (a) That Essendon and Woodhill Parochial Church Council be advised that the Town Council would only consider Grants for Capital purchases such as a mower.
- (b) That the sum of £500 be contributed towards the cost of a revised Activity Map.

86. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 15 March 2005 were received

87. DISTRICT, PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS' MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2005 were received. The Committee was unhappy with the response of Welwyn Hatfield Council to the concerns regarding the treatment for "Special Expenditure" of the costs of King George V Playing Fields at Welwyn Garden City.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk pursue the matter with District Council Officers.

88. KENNELWOOD HOUSE OFFICES - RELOCATION

The Committee considered the Fee Proposal submitted by Millbridge Building Surveyors.

RESOLVED

That the Fee Proposal is the sum of £1995 be approved and that the Birchwood Working Party meet the Surveyors on site before they begin their work.

89. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Town Clerk.

RESOLVED

That a new computer and printer be purchased the County Supplies within the approved budget of £1,000.

90. PURCHASING ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee received and noted the report of the Deputy Town Clerk.

91. BUSINESS RATES

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Town Clerk.

RESOLVED

That the Committee engage Baker Lambie to appeal against the revaluations for Birchwood and High View Depot.

92. COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The Committee considered the existing Committee Structure and the powers delegated to Committees and Sub-Committees. Councillor Clark raised issues regarding the presentation of expenditure on Grounds Maintenance.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the current Committee structure be retained.
- (b) That Councillor Clark would discuss his concerns with the Town Clerk and that a report would be submitted in due course to a future meeting.

93. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED

That the draft Calendar of Meetings before the Committee be approved and adopted.

94. UH COMMUNITY FORUM

The Committee considered a letter from the Dean of Students at the University of Hertfordshire regarding the future of the Community Forum.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the proposals be welcomed in principle.
- (b) That the Town Clerk, accompanied by the Leader of the Council, seek a meeting with the Dean of Students to discuss the details of his proposal.

95. CIVIC SERVICE

RESOLVED

That the Civic Service be held at St. John's Hilltop at 10:00am on Sunday 19th June.

96. ANNUAL CITIZEN'S AWARD

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED

That the timetable before the Committee be approved and that the terms of the Award be amended to limit the nominated good cause to being one within Hatfield.

97. AUDIT PLAN 2005/06

The Committee considered the Audit Plan and the report of the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED

That the Plan including the Audit Fee be accepted.

98. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED

That no charge is levied for Hatfield electors but anyone else is charged £1.00 per side of A4 to include postage in the UK with a minimum charge of £5.00.

99. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

The Committee considered the consultation from the Standards Board and the report of the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED

That the Council respond in the terms set out in the Addendum to these Minutes.

100. CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICES: WHY NEIGHBOURHOODS MATTER & VIBRANT LOCAL LEADERSHIP

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED

That the Town Council respond pressing the benefits of further emparishment.

101. CHAIRMAN

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED

(a) That the Town Clerk research the cost of the Town Mayor.

- (b) That until a decision is made on whether the Council has a Town Mayor consideration of a Badge or Flag for the Chairman's Car be deferred.

102. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL PAYMENTS

RESOLVED

That the schedule listed on the Agenda be approved.