

Minutes of a Meeting of the Resources and Policy Committee held in the Council Offices, Kennelwood, Town Centre, Hatfield on Wednesday 25 January 2006 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR G WILTSHIRE (CHAIRMAN)

COUNCILLORS: A. APPLEBY, N. ATKINSON, M. CLARK,  
J. HAWKINS, P. O'BRIEN, R. SMITH, MRS M. WHITE.

ALSO PRESENT FOR MINUTES 58 – 62

COUNCILLORS C. CROFT, MRS H. LAMING, M. LONG, H. MORGAN.

OFFICERS PRESENT: P. CLARK (TOWN CLERK)

P. WIDDICOMBE (DEPUTY TOWN CLERK)

58. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs L. Mendez.

59. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meetings held on 7 December 2005 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

61. POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk. After a wide-ranging discussion it was

RESOLVED

- (i) That the sum of £15,000 be set aside in the Budget to fund a Police Community Support Officer.
- (ii) That any funding be subject to a satisfactory Service Level Agreement.
- (iii) That a Working Party be established to consider and report back on any proposed Agreement, that Working Party to consist of Councillors Atkinson, Hawkins, Mrs Laming, O' Brien and Mrs White.

62. BUDGET 2006/2007

The Committee considered the draft budget for 2006/2007 and noted that the Members of the Leisure Committee recommended that there be no amendments to the Leisure items and proposed fees and charges.

RESOLVED

That the draft budget for 2006/2007 be approved with the provision of £15,000 towards a PCSO and that the Council be recommended to levy a Precept of £722,000.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:55PM FOR A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL AND RECONVENED AT 8:08PM

Councillor Atkinson left the meeting.

63. CIVIC SERVICE/ST GEORGE'S DAY PARADE

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED

That decision to combine the Civic Service with St George's Day from 2007 be confirmed and that all those who replied be advised of this, and invited to a meeting in due course.

64. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk and noted the information regarding the services to Larger Local Councils and the NALC Advice Service. The Committee then considered the NALC Direct Information Service.

RESOLVED

That the Internet Direct Information Service be subscribed to at a cost of £90 per annum.

65. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT IN ENGLISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT: THE FUTURE

The Committee considered the Discussion Paper published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

RESOLVED

That proposals and the Government's response be welcomed but that concern be expressed about the suggestion of having county-wide committees to assess parish cases and that the good relationships with the Standards Committee and Monitoring Officer in Welwyn Hatfield be cited as an example of Best Practice.

66. LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS: SHIPPING THEIR FUTURE

The Committee received and noted the Consultation Paper issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

67. SPECIAL EXPENSES

Councillor O'Brien advised the Committee that the meeting of the District Council's Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee scheduled for 14 February had been cancelled and that Special Expenses would be considered at the meeting on 21 March.

68. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED

That the schedules circulated with the Agenda be approved, the schedule of cheques before the meeting totalling £54,935.89, not as advised in the Agenda.