

Minutes of the meeting of the Resources & Policy Committee held at the Sportsman Meeting Room, Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longmead, Hatfield AL10 0AN on Wednesday 30 November 2011 at 19:30.

PRESENT: Councillor M. Clark – Elected Chairman for the meeting
Councillor M. Alder
Councillor L. Clark
Councillor C. Juggins
Councillor S. Laver-Walton
Councillor L. Mendez
Councillor R. Wheeler

OFFICERS: C. A. Lloyd (Town Clerk)
P. Widdicombe (Deputy Town Clerk)

31. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor M. Clark was elected Chairman for the meeting.

32. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M. White, and Councillor G. Wiltshire.

Members wished Councillor White a speedy recovery.

33. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

34. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2011 were approved and signed as a true record.

Councillor M. Clark advised Members that he had contacted rotary regarding the twinning signs attached to the Hatfield entrance signs on the highway.

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor R. Wheeler declared a personal interest as Chairman of the CVS.
Councillor S. Laver-Walton declared a personal interest as the volunteer driver of the CVS minibus.

Councillors M. & L. Clark declared a personal interest in the Memorial Hall as members of the Parochial Church Council.

36. GRANTS SUB COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Grants Sub Committee held on 12 October 2011 were noted.

37. SOCIAL NETWORKING POLICY

Members expressed concern at some of the details contained in the Council's PC and Internet Policy which impacted on the draft Social Networking Policy.

RESOLVED that both policies be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee for consideration.

38. WELWYN HATFIELD CVS GRANT APPLICATION

Members considered the grant application for capital and revenue funding.

RESOLVED that £546 be awarded to pay towards 2 A boards and an 8ft x 2ft sign and fitting and the CVS be invited to resubmit a request for sign writing the minibus when discussions had concluded between the Leader of the Council and the Chairman of the CVS on the feasibility of purchasing a replacement vehicle.

(Action: Clerk)

39. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2011/12

Members noted the very satisfactory audit report and thanked the Responsible Finance Officer for all of his hard work.

40. STRATEGIC FIVE-YEAR INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN

Members considered draft plan and RESOLVED that the plan be approved.

(Action: Deputy Clerk)

41. LORD WILLIAM CECIL MEMORIAL HALL

Members considered the potential rent the hall's owners were anticipating from any leaseholder together with terms for the lease such as it being a full repairing lease. Members did not consider that this Council could justify exposing itself to potentially high rent and repair costs even though this was an important community asset.

RESOLVED that no further action be taken at present.

42. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members queried gas and electricity bills being brought under one provider, the provision of staff uniforms and the cost of the Lemsford dart board.

Members were advised that the gas and electricity contracts did not end at the same time and cost analysis carried out by the Deputy Town Clerk had shown that purchasing dual fuel tariff was not as low as the tariff current being used.

Members were advised that uniform purchase was within budget and included personal protective equipment required by law as well as uniforms providing a Town Council identity.

The dart board had been purchased from County Supplies which under Financial Regulations did not require 3 quotations. Officers noted Members concerns regarding this.

RESOLVED that the payments be noted and approved.

43. INVESTMENTS

The Responsible Finance Officer advised that the new CCLA deposit account had been opened with £350,000 deposited earning 0.7% interest. The accounts at Barclays and NatWest stood at £400,000 each and would be drawn down as revenue funding dictated.

44. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted that the next meeting of the Committee will take place on 25th January 2012 at 19:30.

Closure: 20:37pm

Chairman