

Minutes of the meeting of the Resources & Policy Committee held at the Sportsman Meeting Room, Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longmead, Hatfield AL10 0AN on Wednesday 8 December 2010 at 19:30.

PRESENT: Councillor C. Juggins (Vice Chairman in the Chair)
Councillor M. Alder
Councillor M. Clark
Councillor S. Laver-Walton
Councillor R. Wheeler
Councillor G. Wiltshire

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

52. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor D. Berry and Councillor D. Kay.

53. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

54. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2010 were approved and signed as a true record.

55. GRANTS SUB COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2010 were noted.

56. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

57. GRANT APPLICATION

Members considered the application by The Welwyn and Hatfield Foyer and RESOLVED that;

- i) £226.84 be vired from the Partnership Funding Budget to the Community Activities Budget; and
- ii) £250 be awarded to the Welwyn and Hatfield Foyer to purchase food for their Christmas dinner.

(Action: Clerk)

58. VIRING FUNDS

Members noted the suggestion and RESOLVED that funds set aside in the Capital Program for 2010/11 to purchase a computer for the Head of Technical Services be vired to purchase a computer for the Office Assistant.

(Action: Responsible Finance Officer)

59. HALF YEAR FIGURES

The Responsible Finance Officer presented the half year figures together with explanations of any significant variances.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

60. CONSULTATION: AMENDMENTS TO THE LOCAL COUNCIL PRACTITIONERS' GUIDE

Members noted the consultation document and RESOLVED that

- (i) the Responsible Finance Officer be authorised to respond on behalf of the Council by the deadline set; and
- (ii) the Responsible Finance Officer report back on the options available to this Council to ensure compliance whilst maintaining fidelity to Members' satisfaction.

(Action: Responsible Finance Officer)

61. CODE OF AUDIT PRACTICE – VFM CONCLUSION CRITERIA

Members noted the 2010/11 Code and that Financial Planning and financial health; Understanding costs and achieving efficiencies; Financial reporting; and Risk Management and Internal control would form part of the VFM Conclusion Criteria for Larger Councils.

(Action: Clerk / Responsible Finance Officer)

62. HEALTH AND SAFETY RISK MANAGEMENT

Members considered the quotations received and RESOLVED that NALC be requested to advise what assistance (if any) that they provide to the sector.

(Action: Clerk)

63. CLOSURE OF PARK EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT CENTRE

Members considered the County Council consultation and requested that the Clerk respond that this proposed action was speculating on decisions regarding the incinerator and the Welwyn Hatfield Core Strategy as such any

action regarding the school should not be considered unless and until those two proposals proceed.

(Action: Clerk)

64. STRATEGIC PLAN

Members considered draft pages relating to Green Issues, Corporate and Democratic Core and the Town Centre.

Members requested that under “Save Energy and Natural Resources” an additional comment be to consider installing solar and wind power. Under “Clear up litter” a litter pick event in the Town Centre be arranged.

65. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members noted the schedules and RESOLVED that they be noted and approved.

66. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted that the next meeting of the Committee will take place on 26th January 2011 at 19:30.

Closure: 20:50

Chairman