

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 June 2011 at 19:30.

PRESENT: Councillor R. Wheeler - Chairman  
Councillor G. Wiltshire - Vice Chairman  
Councillor M. Alder  
Councillor L. Clark  
Councillor M. Clark  
Councillor C. Juggins  
Councillor S. Laver-Walton  
Councillor L. Mendez  
Councillor M. White

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

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

2. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2011 were approved and signed as a true record.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

5. ANTI-INCINERATOR FIGHTING FUND

Members considered the Report of Officers. It was suggested that the Council would welcome the setting up of a Committee / Group with a constitution, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and Members (one of whom to be a representative from the Town Council) to oppose the plans and planning application from Veolia. A grant application could then be submitted by the Committee / Group for up to £15,000 funding which must be match funded from other interested parties.

It was RESOLVED that

- (i) £15,000 be vired from the £20,000 fund set aside for making Council facilities available for celebrations for the Royal Wedding and a town centre event for the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hatfield House to the grants budget; and
- (ii) A grant application be welcome along the lines of the preamble to this minute.

6. COUNCIL WEBSITE

Members considered the Report of Officers and RESOLVED that details and prices from the local provider be obtained and assessed against the quotation by In Touch with Communities.

(Action: Clerk)

7. MEMBERS' EXPENSES

Members considered the Report of Officers and RESOLVED that mileage or taxi fares be paid for training courses but no other travelling expenses be paid including for attendance at Council meetings.

Councillor L. Mendez declared an interest in this item as a Member of Breaks Manor Management Committee and an allotment holder at Green Lanes.

(Action: Clerk)

8. RECYCLING

Members considered the Report of Officers and RESOLVED that;

- i) Paper recycling be introduced for the Council's office;
- ii) A scheme for encouraging hirers to recycle (including loss of deposit) be considered; and
- iii) Breaks Manor be offered the Council's composting facility at Green Lanes Allotments for their green waste.

(Action: Clerk)

9. MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS 2010/11

Members considered the Report of Officers and congratulated Paul Widdicombe on his excellent work. Members noted that the Council continued to bank with NatWest and Barclays and every effort was made to achieve a fair return on deposits without compromising the Council's security of assets. RESOLVED that the Accounts for 2010/11 be approved.

(Action: Deputy Clerk)

10. PARTNERSHIP REQUEST

Members considered the Report of Officers. Members were very supportive of the scheme but were of the opinion that a larger operation such as Serco were a more appropriate partner for the Borough. RESOLVED that no Partnership be agreed and the Clerk report back to a future meeting on the employment of an apprentice.

(Action: Clerk)

11. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Members considered the Report of Officers and RESOLVED that the Council's legal services be tested for price and quality of provision.

(Action: Clerk)

12. INTERNAL AUDITOR'S INTERIM UPDATE

Members considered the Report of Officers, the actions taken were noted and it was RESOLVED that the report be approved.

(Action: Clerk)

13. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Officers were requested to carry out an audit of cleaning products for all sites to ensure value for money was being achieved.

Members noted that the external audit fees had been paid for 2009/10 including the additional technical advice charge. It was anticipated that the external audit for 2010/11 should cost less with the "lighter touch" regime. Officers advised that with the closure of the Audit Commission some refund of fees paid was anticipated.

It was noted that the electricity deal with Southern Electric would finish on 30 Sept 2011 and the Deputy Clerk undertook to review dual-fuel deals available to the sector.

RESOLVED that the payments be noted and approved.

14. GRANTS SUB COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2011 were noted

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted that the next meeting of the Committee will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at 19:30.

Closure: 9pm

Chairman