

**UNADOPTED
POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on Monday 21st November 2011 in the Council Chamber, 49 High Street, Polegate at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs M Cunningham (chair), Mrs J Voyce (vice chair), G Carter, S Shing, J Harmer, E Board, J O'Riordan, T Voyce (ex officio), Mrs M Piper (ex officio)

Not Present: Cllr Mrs C Berry M Pybus

9985 Apologies for absence

Mrs C Berry (Holiday), M Pybus (work)

It was recommended to accept Cllrs Mrs C Berry & M Pybus's reasons for absence VOTE All in favour

9986 Declarations of interest

9988 T Voyce Mayors allowance

9988 J Voyce Mayors allowance

9987 Minutes of meeting held on 10th October 2011 (already adopted)

**The minutes were signed and taken as read by the chair
VOTE All in favour**

9988 Budgets 2012/13

A brief discussion took place on the initial aim for a 0% increase and the affect it would have on reserves now and in the future if the budget was financed using reserves.

Budget items were discussed in order.

Employee Costs

It was recommended that the proposed new receptionist post would be omitted and reviewed in 6 months from the appointment of the new administrative assistant and overtime increased by £500. VOTE All in favour

It was recommended that the travel expenses be reduced from £1500 to £1000 VOTE All in favour

It was recommended that the budget figures for Employee costs be as tabled below VOTE All in favour

Employee Costs

Town Clerk	29,236
Administrative Assistant	8,851
additional admin	8,677
Handyperson / Groundsman	7,956
Litter-Picker	5,012
Cleaner / Keyholder	2,415
Receptionist	0
Overtime	1,000
Finance Officer	500
Internal Auditor	540
Travelling Expenses	1,000
Training Expenses	1,000
Professional Fees	0
SSP Recovery	0
NI (ER's)	4,646
Pension Conts (ER's)	0
Course fees	0
Total costs	70,834

Review after 6 mths of
new admin star date

Administration

A Councillor asked if the Elections money was correct at £15,000 the clerk stated that she had asked Wealden District Council and they had advised it would be in the region of £15,000 and any poll or referendum would be between £15,000 - £20,000.

A councillor asked about the costs of photocopying and the newsletter. The clerk stated that the budgets although correct were being looked into as there may be cheaper ways of producing the newsletters and the photocopier contract was being reviewed at present.

A Councillor asked what service was supplied for the website. The clerk stated that hosting, Domain name renewal and some support was included and that she was currently reviewing the contract.

It was recommended that the website budget was reduced from £1000 to £500 with no allocation for the website to be updated. The clerk was asked to look at the cost of transferring to a different hosting provider. VOTE All in favour.

It was recommended that the budget figures for administration be as tabled below VOTE All in favour

ADMINISTRATION

Postage	450	
Stationery	2,300	
Photocopier Copy Charges	2,900	Clerk looking at contract
Computer Consumables	500	
		To carry forward remainder from 11/12
Office IT Equipment	0	
Legal Fees	3,000	
Audit Fees	2,100	
		Reduced from £1000 clerk looking at contract
Website Charges	500	
Insurance Premiums	5,500	
Insurance Tree Inspection	400	
Tree works Brightling Rd	1,000	
Subscriptions	3,200	
Publications	200	
Advertising	1,000	
Town Council Elections	5,000	
Refreshments	500	
Bank/Barclaycard Charges	120	
First Aid	100	
Newsletter Delivery	1,000	
Newsletter Copies	1,600	Clerk looking at reduction
Hire of Halls	200	
CAB - Telephone Charges	0	
Telephone / Fax	1,300	
Broadband / Internet Charges	400	
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION COSTS	33,270	

Town Councillors

It was recommended that the budget figures for Town Councillors be as tabled below. VOTE All in favour.

TOWN COUNCILLORS

Councillors Allowances	5,000	
Councillors Expenses	100	
Councillors Training	1,000	
		Discussed reduction but would need to increase Elderly budget agreed to remain the same
Mayors Allowance	2,000	
TOTAL TOWN COUNCILLORS	8,100	

Cllr G Carter left the room at 8.07pm and returned at 8.09pm

Cllr T Voyce left the room at 8.30pm and returned at 8.35pm

It was recommended to reduce the grants to £2000 and to allow £2000 for the Diamond Jubilee VOTE 8 for 1 against (J Harmer)

It was recommended that the budget figures for General Administration be as tabled below. VOTE All in Favour

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Investment Income	(50)	
Grants To Other Organisations	2000	Reduce to £2000 other £2000 allocated to Diamond Jubilee
Diamond Jubilee Celebrations	2000	
License Fees - 18 Spurway Park	0	
Polegate Town Map	0	
New Accountancy/Financial Information	1,000	
Photocopies/Postage recharge	(15)	
TOTAL GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	4,935	

A Councillor asked about the three separate charges for the fire precautions. The clerk stated that each building had their own extinguisher check, 49 High Street, Pavilion and Offices at Wannock (and garage). There was also a provision for the security alarms checks on the main offices in the High Street. The clerk confirmed that there was an alarm system at the offices but it was not on the schedule.

It was recommended that the budget figures for Council Offices be as tabled below. VOTE All in Favour

COUNCIL OFFICES

Council Tax	4,500
Electricity	1,700
Water Charges	250
Sewerage Charges	240
Photocopier (rent)	1,000
Window Cleaning	108
Alarm Maintenance	225
Other Office Equipment	500
Fire Precautions	300
Other maintenance	500
Hire of Chamber / Offices	(200)
Housekeeping	120
Refuse Collection (Commercial)	1,800
PWLB Loans - Capital	2,500
PWLB Loans - Interest	3,100
TOTAL COUNCIL OFFICES	16,643

It was recommended that the budget figures for 51 High Street be as tabled below. VOTE All in Favour

51 HIGH STREET - RENTED OFFICES

Expenditure	0
Fresh water -? To be recharged	0
Sewage - ? To be recharged	0
Council Tax paid by tenant	0
Maintenance - ? To be recharged	0
Income	(5,000)
Refurbishment	0

The maintenance and reserves for the pavilion were discussed.

A proposal to set £Nil in the budget calling on earmarked reserve for any expenditure. (leaving £5500 in earmarked reserve – pavilion)

VOTE 3 for 3 against 2 abstention (chair did not vote), casting vote for Motion carried

A proposal was made that any remainder from the budget for this year (maintenance) should go back into *general* reserves (not earmarked reserves). The budget to be set to £3000 and the earmarked reserve to go back to general reserves. **Motion lost**

It was recommended that the remaining budget figures for The Pavilion, Wannock Road be as table below:

VOTE All in favour

THE PAVILION, WANNOCK ROAD

council tax	3,500	New fee for Offices
Electricity	2,900	Pav & office
Electricity Office area		
Water	945	Pav & Office
Water Office area		
Sewerage	500	Pav & Office
Sewerage Office area		
Maintenance	0	To use reserve for any expenditure
Fire Precautions	200	
Rental (Health Centre)	0	
Utilities contribution	0	
Pavilion replacement	0	
THE PAVILION, WANNOCK ROAD	8,045	

It was recommended that the budget figures for Town Centre & community safety be as tabled below: VOTE All in favour

TOWN CENTRE & COMMUNITY SAFETY

CCTV Costs	3,000	To use residue from 2011/12 to fund (reserve)
Crossing Patrol	1,000	
PCSO funding for parking charges	0	
TOWN CENTRE & COMMUNITY SAFETY	4,000	

It was recommended that the skate park budget be reduced to £6000 VOTE All in favour. It was recommended that the budget figures for Recreation Grounds/Facilities be as tabled below: VOTE All in favour

RECREATION GROUNDS / FACILITIES

General Maintenance	13,200	Includes grounds Maintenance
Water	0	
Seat Provision	0	
		Increased 2.6%. Cleaned unlocked and maintained 365 days pa. Wannock Rd.
Toilets Provision	5,900	
Litterbins	0	
Lease Charges - Oakleaf	150	
Hire Fees	(1,236)	
Dog Bins	3,950	2 extra dog bins
Playground Equipment	3,000	
Safety Inspections - (All Equip)	250	
<u>BRIGHTLING ROAD</u>		
Skate Park Facilities	6,000	Reduced to incl contract charge plus maintenance repair costs
Brightling road lease charges (income)	(120)	
TOTAL RECREATION GROUNDS	31,094	

It was recommended that the budget figures for Highways be as tabled below: VOTE All in favour

HIGHWAYS

Bus Shelters	0	Can put this years in reserve, being maintained and one being replaced.
Street Signs	0	Nothing required
Noticeboards	0	being maintained no charges expected
		New contract expected WDC new tenders ESCC contribution in income
		Average price per cut is 1800. 10 cuts would cost 18,000 -ESCC contribution for 5 cuts 9000.
Urban Grass cutting	15,000	Would be a large saving.
Seat Provision	0	none now advertised for public to pay
Flower Beds & Displays	5,800	Summer Planters, council beds, hanging baskets
Council Office Garden	630	Winter flowers in council beds.
Town Focal enhancement on A2270/A27	0	Planting for the beds to include the crossroads
		11/12 budget 354 plus 1646 to make up to 2000 with earmarked reserve 2012/13 set to nil
TOTAL HIGHWAYS	21,430	
ALLOTMENTS		
Maintenance	500	
Improvements	200	as above can go to earmarked reserve and nil this year
Water Charges	525	Based on actual + 5% uplift
Rent of Land	100	Rent based on income, more plots being used now.
Allotment Fees	(965)	As per agreements possibly more as more plots now
TOTAL ALLOTMENTS	360	

The clerk stated that the first pickup did not appear to have been carried out. She was waiting for a reply from Wealden. The clerk stated that she would be asking for a discount and report back to the chair of Finance.

A Councillor asked about the play provision and the clerk stated that the amount had been reduced at the E&L budget meeting and a reserve carried forward for use on Brightling Road or other recreational activities.

The meeting was suspended from 9.18pm and resumed at 9.25pm
Cllr Shing left at 9.21pm.

Street Lighting

A Councillor asked if it would be possible to turn the lights down in the early hours. The clerk stated that a street lighting policy was being developed but that to turn the lights down would mean new equipment and therefore there would be a cost to that. The clerk stated that she was looking into reducing the energy charges (and possibly changing the contract) over the coming months as she believed this would be possible.

It was recommended that the budget figures for Street Lighting be as tabled below. VOTE All in favour.

STREET LIGHTING

Energy Charges	13,440	increase expected based on last yrs actual and this yrs projected
Maintenance Charges	16,538	ESCC Contract CHECK TOTAL 2012/3 contract details
New Work / Improvements/repairs	15,000	Aging lights replacements plus normal extra repairs
Xmas Decorations	12,000	New contract could be higher, opportunity to replace lighting scheme for 2012/15.
Additional Christmas Decorations	0	None planned
TOTAL STREET LIGHTING	<u>56,978</u>	

It was recommended that the budget figures for Prizes & prize Giving be as tabled below. VOTE All in favour

PRIZES & PRIZEGIVING

	£	
Best Allotments	50	Prizes
Best Gardens	50	Prizes
Best Dressed Houses	20	Cup for Best Dressed House
Best Dressed Shops	20	Cup for Best Dressed Shop
Prize Party	100	
civic award	250	
Mayors fund - poppy wreath remembrance day	50	
TOTAL PRIZES & PRIZE GIVING	<u>540</u>	

A Councillor asked if there were still two empty flower beds. The clerk stated that there were two empty at present but a draft advert was being prepared and the two sponsored beds were being replaced over the next three months and the other two being tidied/refreshed.

It was recommended that the budget figures for Polegate Partnership be as tabled below: VOTE All in favour.

THE POLEGATE PARTNERSHIP

Administration	0
Replacement planting in flower beds	0
Flower Beds -Hailsham (A27) Road	<u>(416)</u>
TOTAL THE POLEGATE PARTNERSHIP	<u>(416)</u>

A Councillor stated that he had been looking at further funding for youth services and following a meeting with Tracey Johnson of ESCC and a motion was made requesting that £250 be added back to the other youth activities. Following a discussion the motion was withdrawn and it was agreed not to add back the £250.

It was recommended that the budget figures for Youth be as tabled below:

VOTE All in favour.

YOUTH WORKER POLEGATE PROJECT

Expenditure	9,500	3 youth workers Not sure how long this will continue due to ESCC cuts.
Income	0	Not applicable
Other Youth Activities	0	
TOTAL YOUTH WORKER POLEGATE	9,500	

It was recommended that the budget figures for Planning be as tabled below:

VOTE All in favour.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Hire of Halls	500	Hire of halls In case of any legal fees however, totally insufficient for major case half
Legal fees	0	precept figure or more
Eplanning Equipment	0	Not required supplied by WDC.
TOTAL PLANNING COSTS	500	

It was recommended that the budget figures for the Retired be as tabled below:

VOTE All in favour.

THE RETIRED 1,000 2 Tea parties

October CPI (inflation) was set at 5% (Office for National Statistics released 15th Nov)

Two proposals were made:

A proposal to accept the budget figures as stated and take all of the deficit from general reserves. A discussion took place on the possibilities of having a 0% increase. Suggested rises were 9%, 1%, 1-2%, 5%. No seconder 0%.

Cllr O’Riordan left the meeting at 9.55pm

A proposal for 5% increase. 8 pence per week. Fixed income residents were commented upon. No seconder.

Discussion took place on having made every possible saving so far and making best use of all income sources. It was discussed that in future years the residents could be asked which services they would like to be cut if they wanted a 0% increase. Or to cut a service (3 grass cuts) and to notify that in order to make the 0% increase a reduction in service had to be made and then ask at the town Assembly for opinions on cuts.

G Carter left the room at 10.05pm and returned at 10.07pm.

A proposal was made for 2%. No seconder.

It was recommended that the budget of £261,813 and the precept request of £245,816 (an increase of 1.99%) and for the remaining deficit to be taken from general reserves be submitted to full council for approval. Seconded. VOTE 5 for 2 against (Cllr T Voyce wished to be named against, Cllr Mrs J Voyce)

SUMMARY	Year 2012/13	
	Annual Budget	<input type="text"/>

£

TOTAL EMPLOYEE COSTS	70,834
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION COSTS	33,270
TOTAL COUNCIL OFFICES	16,643
TOTAL TOWN COUNCILLORS	8,100
TOTAL TOWN CENTRE & COMM. SAFETY	4,000
TOTAL 51 HIGH STREET	(5,000)
TOTAL GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	4,935
TOTAL ALLOTMENTS	360
TOTAL STREET LIGHTING	56,978
TOTAL THE PAVILION	8,045
TOTAL RECREATION GROUNDS	31,094
TOTAL HIGHWAYS	21,430
TOTAL POLEGATE PARTNERSHIP	(416)
TOTAL YOUTH WORKER	9,500
TOTAL PRIZES AND PRIZE GIVING	540
TOTAL PLANNING COSTS	500
TOTAL THE RETIRED	1,000
PERIOD TOTALS	<u>261,813</u>

£

PRECEPT (245,816)

OPERATING (SURPLUS)/DEFICIT 15,996

The meeting closed at 10.30pm