

UNADOPTED

POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 30th May 2006 in the Council Chamber, 49 High Street, Polegate at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Carter (Town Mayor), S. Barber, Mrs C Berry, M. Cunningham, M Fitzgerald, G. Gibbs, J. Harmer, Mrs D Joy, R. Martin, Mrs M Piper, Mrs I Scarborough, Mrs J Voyce, B. Winn

Public: none

Press: 1 member of the press

7187 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. T Voyce

7188 Declarations of interest

There were none.

7189 Minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting held on 15th May 2006

The following items were reserved:

Minute 7168 Representatives to Outside Organisations - a query was raised as to whether a letter had been sent to the School advising that Cllr. Winn had agreed to act in this capacity. It was confirmed that a letter had indeed been sent.

Cllr. Harmer had also been appointed as outside representative to the Windmill but this was not indicated in the minute. Noted and Cllr. Harmer's name was subsequently included as representative to the Windmill.

Minute 71787 Tower Mill Place - a query was raised as to whether Wealden had been contacted with regard to an Officer attending the meeting this evening. Members were advised that there had been some confusion by the Officer as to the date of the meeting who in any event was unable to attend. However a 21 page report had been made available which clearly set out the proposals and decision making process and this had been distributed to members prior to the start of the meeting.

Minute 7160 It was pointed out that an error had been made in Cllr. Watkin's title in that he was a district councillor, not a county councillor. This was noted and the minute corrected accordingly.

Minute 7182(d) seat at skatepark - had the groundsman been able to investigate a more secure fixing for the seat? Members were advised that the groundsman was not able to effect a more secure fixing than that already in existence and had tried as far as possible to make it secure. However determined people(s) would be able, by perseverance, to remove it from its base. It was confirmed that, for the time being, the seat was still being stored and would be reinstated in due course and when the current spate of vandalism had died down.

Minute 7186(a) administrative matters - it was agreed to take this item in confidential session.

7190 Matters arising from the minutes

The Mayor proposed that two additional items be included on the agenda as follows: NHS debate and discussion document and the Polegate Partnership.

This was seconded and agreed by all.

a) minute 7170 inspection of deeds and documents - it was confirmed that a new file had been created containing copies of the Council's deeds and documents - noted.

b) Tower Mill sheltered housing scheme - time was allowed for members to peruse the report which had been distributed prior to the start of the meeting (having only been made available earlier in the day). The report set out the process and consultation results which had led to the options listed, the preferred option being the sale of the site on the open market with the capital receipt being invested in the future development of other Council sheltered schemes.

Members were advised that the document would go before Cabinet on 7th June when a decision as to the future of Tower Mill would be made. All three District Councillors would be attending that meeting but it was unlikely that they would be able to sway the opinion of Cabinet in the face of the strong recommendations contained in the report. It was hoped that as many councillors as possible would attend.

It was therefore proposed that the Town Council should recommend that any monies realised from the sale of this facility should be put back into Polegate to provide at least, and preferably more than, the same level of sheltered housing that is currently provided.

A comment was made that it was unfortunate that Wealden had not made the possible sale of Tower Mill more public from the beginning. It had in fact been 'on the table' for the past three years and discussed at numerous meetings but had only recently received publicity.

County and District Councillors had visited residents to obtain their views and had done what they could to put forward those views. Only two of the current residents wanted to move out of the area closer to family. 19 residents were still remaining. Strength of feeling from residents and public alike resulted in a petition being presented to Wealden for the retention of the facility.

It was pointed out that the statistics in the report cited that 16 of the 19 residents were visited by Wealden Officers whereas an in-depth survey should include everyone!

One of the main problems is the resiting of existing residents especially the very elderly who were often unable to cope with being moved out of familiar surroundings with disastrous results.

At this point attention was drawn to the original proposal that a letter be sent to Wealden stating that the monies realised from the sale of Towermill should not be commuted to other areas in the district but should be invested in Polegate to provide at least the same, if not a higher level, of sheltered housing accommodation. In addition suitable accommodation should be made available for the 7 residents who wish to remain in Polegate.

This was seconded and agreed by all. A draft letter to be prepared for approval.

7191 Financial matters

a) accounts for payment - all approved. Council's thanks to Cllr. Carter are also recorded for his support and help in resolving the insurance matters.

b) review of fees and charges - some changes were suggested as follows:

Pavilion - currently no fixed charge, proposed £20.00 per event. This proposal was not taken up. A second proposal was offered that it be left to the discretion of the Town Clerk to negotiate a rate dependent upon the event with a minimum charge of £20.00. This was seconded and unanimously agreed.

Stoolball - proposal of £25.00 per match which was considered too high. A further suggestion of £15.00 was voted upon as follows:

In favour 4

Against 8

Therefore the match cost to remain at £10.00

Council Chamber and Reg Shingleton Room - following discussion it was proposed, seconded and agreed by all that a risk assessment be carried out to establish a realistic level of charging taking into account heating, electricity, administration costs, deposits etc. This to be carried out jointly by the Assistant Town Clerk and RFO for reporting to Council in September.

7192 Adoption of minute of standing committees

Personnel of 9th May 2006 - the minutes, having been previously circulated in draft form, had been accepted as a correct record of the meeting and it was therefore proposed by the Chair of Personnel that they be adopted. This was resolved unanimously.

7193 Communications from the Town Mayor

The Mayor advised that the three new bus shelters had now been erected, two on Pevensey Road and one on Eastbourne Road - noted.

The Mayor of Saintry-sur-Seine and a group of French cyclists had met with the Mayor and some of the councillors on Friday 26th May. The meeting had been a success but was marred by the fact that the cycle track from Newhaven to Seaford had a flint surface and consequently this resulted in a number of punctures. It was therefore agreed to write to Sustrans requesting that the flint surface be replaced with a material that was more 'user friendly'.

The Twinning visit from Appen went well and the buffet lunch at the School was well attended, an atmosphere of camaraderie and friendship prevailing.

7194 Resignation of councillor

Cllr. Gatrill's letter of resignation was read to members. Unfortunately family and work commitments did not allow Cllr. Gatrill regular attendance at meetings and adequate involvement in the Council's affairs. It was agreed that the seat should remain vacant pending the election in 2007.

7195 Matters dealt with as urgent

There were none

7196 NHS consultation and discussion paper - creating an NHS fit for the future - members were advised that an invitation had been received to attend a debate to be held on Wednesday 14 June at 4.30 p.m. at Eastbourne Town Hall. Four members indicated their availability to attend.

7197 Polegate Partnership - it was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to take this item into confidential session.

7198 Town Clerk's report

a) vandalism report - attention was drawn to the incident of vast amounts of chocolate sweets being strewn over the skatepark which had to be cleared away by the groundsman. The sweets were identified as belonging to Britannia Superfine. The incident was reported to the police but the company was apparently not aware of any thefts.

However, as the fence to the rear of this company's property has been in a state of disrepair for some considerable time giving easy access to the site members agreed that a letter should be sent advising Britannia of both problems, the fence and vast quantities of sweets being deposited on Council facilities, and requesting that they take steps to ensure that their site is secured.

b) **bus shelters** - now in place, as previously advised by the Mayor

7199 Sussex ambulance responder scheme

A request had been received from the representative of the ambulance service (Tim Fellows) to meet with councillors to move this project forward and a copy presentation for inclusion on the website provided. However members felt that the ambulance service, and not the Council, should move the project forward. It was also suggested that the presentation was too long for inclusion on the Council's website and that instead a link should be set up to direct people to the Sussex Ambulance website.

It was agreed to contact Tim Fellows and ask exactly what help he required from the Council and also to ascertain whether sufficient volunteers had been recruited and that if a working group was required to promote the scheme that this should be comprised of sponsors, volunteers, etc. It was also queried whether there were any charitable funds available for the provision of a machine.

7200 Town map

Members were advised that no progress was currently being made on the Town Map and the question was raised as to whether it should be held in abeyance until after the boundary change became effective next year. Some discussion then took place with members considering whether the map should be made larger to include places on the periphery of the town. It was suggested that the map should go ahead as quickly as possible, to include the new boundaries, and be published on the website.

However, members were then reminded that the original plan was that the map should be produced along the lines of the map originally drawn by the children of Polegate School and reproduced for the millennium. It was to be attractive and pictorial.

It was then proposed, seconded and agreed by all that the Assistant Town Clerk would make contact with Willingdon School to progress the map along the lines originally agreed.

7201 Correspondence requiring action

a) **letter from cricket club re condition of ground** - some discussion ensued regarding the ground generally and its maintenance. The groundsman had spent some considerable time clearing and reseeding the lines that had been marked out in creosote which had burnt the ground. The football pitch had been harrowed and rolled at the end of the season and was in better condition than the cricket pitch. The grass was cut on a weekly basis throughout the summer and the groundsman had been instructed to weedkill as appropriate.

It was suggested that the groundsman should put in a written report as to the condition of the ground and this was subsequently agreed.

It was also noted that the cricket club had held a barbecue at the ground following a match at the weekend and the groundsman had had to spend a considerable amount of time clearing up rubbish, cans and bottles which had been left all over the recreation ground. In view of this members considered that there might be some merit in charging a deposit for the use of the ground.

It was therefore proposed, seconded and agreed by all to write to the cricket club thanking them for their concern and pointing out that maintenance was undertaken as necessary and that the ground had been inspected and was not considered to be dangerous. In addition the club was required to seek permission from the Council prior to holding any barbecues and that it was not acceptable to leave a hot barbecue in the Pavilion. The Club to also be reminded that the fencing panels, concrete and sand should be removed from the side of the store.

b) **creation of footpath Victoria Road to Brook Street** - historically this access has always been a vehicular right of way but over time the tritten had become neglected and unused. The County Council is now proposing to reopen the path but only as a footpath and not for vehicular access - noted.

c) **Local Authority Byelaws discussion paper** - members were advised that the document was mostly concerned with Magistrate's Court cases and that it was not pertinent for Council comment - noted.

7202 Correspondence for noting

a) **roadworks Windmill Road** - commencing 30 May for 5 weeks to install new kerbs and resurface footways - noted.

b) **Willingdon Community School First Year Review** - available in the office - noted.

c) **Folkington Lane** - temporary road closure two consecutive days within four week period commencing 26 June - noted.

7203 Dates of next cycle of meetings

Full Council	19 th June
Planning	6 th June

7204 Resolution

It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all that owing to the confidential nature of the next business to be transacted the press and public be excluded from the rest of the meeting.

7205 Confidential matters

- a) Personnel matters
- b) Administrative matters