

Minutes of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** meeting held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ferryhill, at 7pm on **WEDNESDAY, 4th SEPTEMBER 2019**.

PRESENT: Councillor: J. Cansella (Chair)

Councillors: Councillors C. Atkinson, P. Atkinson, N. Jones, J. Makepeace, Z. Roddam, L. Smith, R. Smith and M Walton

Officials: D. Shingleton, Acting Town Clerk
S. Hewitson, Committees & Civic Administrator

P&R12.19-20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Farry.

P&R13.19-20 MEMBERS DISPENSATION

No requests for dispensations had been received in relation to any item of business on the agenda.

P&R14.19-20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors C Atkinson and P Atkinson declared an interest in agenda item 9 as Members of the Banner Committee.

P&R15.19-20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

P&R16.19-20 MINUTES OF MEETING ON 3rd JULY 2019

Councillor J Cansella asked the following amendments be made:

P&R11.19-20 b)

Add following paragraph 'Councillor J Makepeace pointed out that he had already given Chance Drama £1,000 from his Neighbourhood budget.'

Amend proposal - add '*whilst* Members *fully support them, they would rather* funding from the Council be used to buy equipment...

P&R11.19-20 c)

Add into last paragraph Councillor J Makepeace has already given £250.

P&R11.19-20 d)

Add following after 1st paragraph:

Members noted that the Ferryhill Banner Group had completed their application form as a request by a 'Group of Individuals' and not as an 'Organisation' and raised concerns that the named applicants were three Councillors.

It was also noted that the whole amount of financial support requested was not actually for the Banner Group in its own right but would be used as a donation to the Town Band and transport costs for the Town Band.

P&R11.19-20 d) Resolution
The word form be changed to 'application'

Moved by Councillor J Makepeace, **Seconded by** Councillor R Smith to accept the minutes subject to the amendments being made.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2019 be agreed as a true and accurate record subject to the amendments being made.

P&R17.19-20 PRESENTATION

Following a resolution from the previous Policy & Resources meeting to find out more information about the free outdoor library initiative, Mrs Victoria Brown and her son Theodore were in attendance to present there proposal.

Victoria explained in detail, with assistance from Theodore, how the project would work and brought along a homemade example of what the boxes could look like.

Mrs Brown asked that if the Council couldn't fund the project would they give permission to let the project run on Council land?

The Chair advised that Members would consider this during their discussions.

Victoria and Theodore were thanked for their presentation whereupon they left the meeting.

Members felt that it was not necessary to purchase extra benches for this project and that existing benches could be used if needed.

Moved by Councillor J Makepeace, **Seconded by** Councillor P Atkinson to support the initiative and provide financial assistance of £780 to purchase the boxes from Endeavour Woodcrafts.

Councillor C Atkinson asked that her contact details be passed on to Mrs Brown so she can arrange to donate books to the project.

RESOLVED

That Council support this initiative and provide financial assistance of £780 to purchase boxes from Endeavour Woodcrafts, a letter be send to Victoria

and Theodore Brown to advise them of the decision.

P&R18.19-20 BUDGETARY CONTROL – UPTO 31ST JULY 2019

Members considered the report previously circulated.

Moved by Councillor R Smith, **Seconded by** Councillor P Atkinson to accept the recommendations of the report.

RESOLVED

That Members continue to receive reports on the Council's finances every two months, unless circumstances warrant a more frequent report and Members note the financial position of the Council at 31 July 2019 as indicated in the report and the projected figure for the year 2019/20

P&R19.19-20 FEES AND CHARGES – BURIALS

Members considered the report previously circulated.

Moved by Councillor J Makepeace, **Seconded by** Councillor R Smith seconded to accept the burial fees and charges increase.

RESOLVED

That the burial fees be increased as per the report.

P&R20.19-20 GRANTS

Members considered the report previously circulated.

The Acting Town Clerk advised Members that the Grants Policy had been amended slightly following a decision at the previous meeting which will hopefully give Members more freedom to consider grant applications.

Members were advised by the Acting Town Clerk that a suggestion had been made by Councillor J Makepeace that a condition should be included within the policy that recipients of grants should acknowledge the Council's contribution.

Councillor P Atkinson suggested a banner be purchased along the lines of 'Supported by Ferryhill Town Council' and this should be displayed by the group receiving the donation at any events. However, this can be discussed at another meeting.

The meeting was informed that no application had been received from Ferryhill Town Band therefore Members were unable to consider this.

Councillor R Smith was concerned that the Citizens Advice Bureau was

unable to provide a breakdown and would like this to be looked into for future requests, however, he would like to support the application.

Members agreed that the following financial assistance be given:

Victoria and Theodore Brown	£780
Citizens Advice Bureau	£3000
Great North Air Ambulance	£100

RESOLVED

That the amended policy be agreed and the Acting Clerk to add the condition that recipients acknowledge the Councils contribution.

Also, financial assistance be provided to Citizens Advice Bureau, Great North Air Ambulance as well as Victoria and Theodore Brown as agreed earlier in the meeting. Letters be sent advising of the Councils decision and the Citizens Advice be asked to provide a breakdown for any future requests for financial assistance.

P&R21.19-20 PROPERTY RENTALS

Members considered the report previously circulated.

It was noted that some rents can't be reviewed until a later date under the terms of the lease and some rents were already at market value.

Moved by Councillor J Makepeace, **Seconded by** Councillor R Smith and

RESOLVED

That the changes to the rents be revised as follows:

- a) Rent of Rough Furze and Swann House be increased to £150 per month with effect from 1 April 2020.
- b) Rent of 30 Market Street be increased to £400 per month with effect from 1 April 2020.
- c) Rent of Dean Bank Sports Facility be increased to £2,100 with effect from 1 April 2020, and the charge to be re-introduced in the next budget after a two year concessionary break.
- d) No change to the rent of Mainsforth Cricket Pavilion under the terms of the lease (next review due 1 April 2023), but the charge to be re-introduced in the next budget after a two year concessionary break
- e) No change to the rent of the Market Place kiosks, as these are already considered to be at market value;
- f) No change to the rent of Dean Bank Bowls Pavilion which is set at a peppercorn of £1 under a 99 year lease.
- g) No change to the rent of the Mainsforth Bowls Pavilion as only green fees of £840 have previously been collected, but consideration be given to re-introducing the charge in the next budget subject to discussions with the bowls club.
- h) Letters be sent to the appropriate bodies informing them of the changes.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.20pm

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR.....

DATE.....