

Minutes of the **Policy and Resources Committee** meeting held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ferryhill, at 7pm on **WEDNESDAY, 6th MARCH 2019**.

PRESENT: Councillor: J. Cansella (Chair)

Councillors: C. Atkinson, D. Farry, N Jones, J. Makepeace and Z. Roddam, R. Smith

Officials: D. Snowball, Town Clerk

P&R46.18-19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors;

A. Smith
P. Atkinson
J. Lindsay

P&R47.18-19 MEMBERS DISPENSATION

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

P&R48.18-19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest declared.

P&R49.18-19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

P&R50.18-19 MINUTES OF MEETING ON 16th JANUARY 2019

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2019 be agreed as a correct record.

P&R51.18-19 MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

The Chair expressed her concerns that the minutes of the Corporate Governance meeting had been presented to members without the *draft* watermark and prior to having been agreed by that committee. The Chair also pointed out that Corporate Governance is not a sub-committee, as stated on the agenda, but a committee which reports directly to Council. Therefore minutes of the Corporate Governance Committee should not be on the agenda, as they are not for consideration by this committee.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Corporate Governance Committee meeting be taken to the next full Council meeting, for information only.

P&R52.18-19 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED

That in accordance with the provision of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council do now exclude the public and press for the remaining items of the Agenda by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to public interest.”

P&R53.18-19 MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Personnel Sub-Committee – Confidential minutes from 14th January 2019.

The Chair suggested that, as the minutes of the Personnel Sub-Committee were confidential and were being presented for information only, it may have been better to have waited and just presented them in a confidential part of the full Council meeting next week. Most members agreed that, particularly in view of the recently discovered leak of confidential minutes to members of the public, presenting confidential minutes where not totally necessary potentially increases the risk of a further breach of confidential data.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on 14th January 2019 be received for information only.

P&R53.18-19 Councillors R Smith expressed his disappointment that this meeting had been called with so little on the agenda, having cancelled another important engagement specifically to attend. Other Members also expressed their concerns saying that the meeting was a waste of their time, Officer time and Council resources and pressed the Chair for an explanation as to why the meeting had been called. The Chair explained that, with so little on the agenda and with so many other outstanding resolutions to be progressed, she had suggested that the Clerk cancel the meeting but he had insisted that it went ahead, because it had been scheduled to take place on this date.

P&R54.18-19 The Town Clerk stated that he was ‘absolutely disgusted’ that the Chair had spoken with the Accountant regarding the need for the Budgetary Control report to be presented at this meeting, as planned, and telling him the meeting had been cancelled.

The Chair explained that the Budgetary Control report had been mentioned during a conversation regarding Corporate Governance matters and that, as the Chair of Corporate Governance Committee, she had every right to speak with Mr Shingleton about accountancy. She also explained that she had not told the Accountant that the meeting had been cancelled but, because the presentation of the report could wait for a couple of weeks, she would suggest that to the Clerk that this meeting be cancelled, due to there being so little on the agenda, which seemed like the sensible thing to do.

P&R55.18-19 The Clerk stated the Chair had 'gone behind his back' by speaking with the Accountant about the Budgetary Control Report and that meetings must take place on the scheduled dates.

P&R56.18-19 Councillor C Atkinson said that she agreed, the meeting should have gone ahead as scheduled.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.15pm

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR.....

DATE.....