

REPORT OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING 13th MARCH 2012

MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

Chairman: * Mrs A Hayward

Councillors: * T Edwards
* Mrs M Jarrett
* R Kipps
* Mrs L Sutherland
* S Watkins
* Mrs J White
* Mrs J Worrall

*Denotes members present

Also in attendance Cllr Eve

There were no members of the public present

MINUTES

11/64 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Kipps advised that he would be late.

11/65 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

1166 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting dated 24th January 2012 be approved as a true and correct record.

11/67 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

11/68 FINANCIAL COMPARISON STATEMENT 2011/12

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

11/69 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2012/13

There were two minor alterations made to the Calendar of meetings. The previously known Development Control Committee at TRDC had changed their name to the Planning Committee, and it was agreed that this should be changed on the Parish calendar, and also the meeting of the Planning Committee on 6th November would start at 8.00 pm and not 7.00 pm as indicated.

The Committee

RESOLVED

To accept the calendar of meetings for 2012/13 with the above amendments.

This was proposed by the Chairman and unanimously agreed.

11/70 ACCOMMODATION

Cllr Mrs Worrall advised that the Council's Surveyor had come to the Council to give an opinion on the way forward. He measured the office accommodation and confirmed that the main office space was inadequate for the number of staff. He felt that if the Council were to embark on substantial expense it was important to have security of tenure. There were a number of ways forward, all of which would have cost implications and therefore it was best to secure the building first to ensure that the Council got value for money.

The use of the British Legion was discussed, as well as the use of the Bullsland Hall for Council and Committee meetings. It was confirmed that the next Full Council meeting would be held at the Bullsland Hall to see if this was a suitable option for the long term.

The length of the current lease was also discussed; some Members felt that the Parish Council were in a strong position with five years remaining on the lease to start renegotiations to extend the lease. However there was still the issue of the relocation agreement to resolve. It was known that during the change over from the Urban District Council to the Parish Council, Chorleywood House was passed over to the District Council and terms were agreed to ensure that the Parish Council had offices from which to operate from. Three Rivers have stated that they do not have a copy of this agreement. It was agreed that the Parish Council should look through all their own records to see if they could find a copy.

In the meantime it was agreed that the Clerk should open negotiations with TRDC to extend the lease.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the every effort should be made to look for the historic agreement regarding office accommodation.

That the Clerk opens negotiations to extend the lease for a period of no less than 25 years.

That no further action should be taken on the possible purchase of the building until the first two actions had been resolved.

This was proposed by Cllr Watkins, seconded by Cllr Mrs White and carried six in favour and one against.

9.04 pm Cllr Kipps joined the meeting.

11/71 FOUR YEAR VISION

Members discussed what they felt would be appropriate for the four year vision and came up with the following five suggestions.

1. Grants and funding – to set up a cross committee group to look at grants and funding to try to get funds for projects.
2. Building Committee – to set up a Buildings Committee to look after all the buildings within the Council’s ownership. It was noted that over the next five years most of the leases for buildings owned by the Council would be up for renewal. It was also noted that the Parish Council did not have plans and dimensions for all the buildings and it was felt that the Councils assets should be managed. The Committee would take a Property Management Role but would not need to meet as regularly as other committees.
3. Quality Parish Council – to revisit the pro’s and con’s of becoming a Quality Parish Council and decide the way forward.
4. Communication – to set up a master document showing a ‘minute time line’ of all the decisions taken on a specific topic – such as grazing - which could be emailed to all members. This would be a starred item which would be agreed by the Committee Chairman at the start of a project.
5. Training – to look at the training needs for both Councillors and Officers.

11/72 CLOSURE

The meeting having started at 8.00 pm, finished at 9.31 pm

These minutes have been checked by the Chairman.

Signature Date.....

These minutes were agreed as a true and correct record at the Policy & Resources meeting and signed by the Chairman.

Signature Date

