

REPORT OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING
1ST DECEMBER 2009

MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

Chairman: * Mrs J Worrall

Councillors: * Mr M Green
*Mrs M Hampton
*Mrs A Hayward
* Mrs M Jarrett
* Mr R Kipps
*Mr K Morris
*Mr S Watkins

*Denotes members present
Also in attendance Cllr N Eve

RECOMMENDATION

There were no recommendations.

09/30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

09/31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

09/32 FIVE YEAR PLAN

Cllr Worrall proposed two items relating to P&R, and advised that specific delegated items should be brought to the other relevant Committees.

1. The furniture in the Council Chambers needs to be repaired / restored. The Chairman felt that the Council should find out the value of the chairs, prior to commencing any quotations for repair.

It was generally agreed that the chairs were in need of restoration however there was concern that an independent valuation may have cost implications however it was considered necessary to find out if the chairs have any antique value.

The Committee
RESOLVED

To obtain a valuation of the chairs to see if they were worth saving and repairing.

2. Cllr Worrall. – announced that the Parish Office is not fit for purpose and breached the statutory regulations as it was over crowded. This problem did not have a quick fix and would need careful consideration for the future.

The Committee
RESOLVED

That this item would need to come back to a future committee for further consideration

09/33 BUDGET 2010/11

The Chairman clarified the position with the Budget Strategy. A Nil budget increase would mean that the figures we will be working from will be last years precept figures, a stand still budget meant that inflation was taken into account but there was no growth in real terms.

Members debated the base figures for the 2010/11 budget based on a nil increase. Whilst there was an obvious desire to keep any increases as low as possible the revised budget was in most cases already in excess of the original. If members chose to ignore the advice from the Clerk, then each Committee will have to resolve the problems encountered. Members considered that should the Council be unable to meet the target of a zero increase then the Council would have to decide whether the shortfall should come from the reserves, efficiency saving, increase in income potential or cuts in service. Every committee should be focused on trying to obtain a zero increase wherever possible or justify the increases.

The Chairman Cllr Mrs Worrall stated that there was a need to ensure that the Committees understand what they are doing as the relevant Committee could be criticised by the auditors.

The Committee
RESOLVED

That the budget strategy for 2010/11 be a zero increase

That each Committee look at their budget and advise what savings can be made, with a target of nil % increase on original figures.

This was proposed from the Chair and seconded by Cllr Watkins, and carried seven in favour with one abstention

09/34 HALIFAX RESERVE ACCOUNT

Cllr Worrall – advised the Committee that Cllr Liley had been in touch with a financial advise web site re whether the Parish Council is covered by the protection scheme and needed clarification on splitting the money into two different accounts. To date he has had no response to this request.

There appears to be difficulties finding a Society to take money as we are a Parish Council
The savings were previously in the Halifax for two years and it was generally felt that they should not be tied up for any longer period.

The Committee
RESOLVED

That P&R to look at the savings in the first meeting of 2011.

That the money be left in the Halifax for a two year term.

This was proposed from the Chair and seconded by Cllr Morris and unanimously agreed.

09/35 CLOSE

The meeting having started at 7.00pm and finished at 7.31pm

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