

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2020 AT THE TOWN HALL, LEAMINGTON SPA**

Present: Councillors Mubarik Chowdry (Chair), Janet Alty, Alan Boad, Will Bryce, Judith Clarke, Bill Gifford, Jennifer McAllister (substituting for Cllr S. Boad), Louisa Radice, and Susan Rasmussen.

76. **APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Sarah Boad.

77. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations on this occasion.

78. **MINUTES**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2020 (Report No. 4).

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2020 re confirmed and signed as a correct record.

79. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(i) **RAILWAY BRIDGES – PIGEON CONTROL MEASURES**

The Town Clerk reported that following discussion at the last meeting, a further communication had been made with Network Rail but no commitment to initiate improvements to the protected netting under the railway bridge at Lower Avenue had been obtained. It was suggested that the matter is raised directly with the Chief Executive of Network Rail whose contact details would be provided to the Clerk by Councillor Gifford.

**RESOLVED** that details of the Council's correspondence with Network Rail are sent to the Chief Executive and the matter is included on the Agenda at the next meeting.

(ii) **TOWN COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

Consideration was given to a Report (Report No. 5) with regard to setting out SMART measures of achievement. The Committee was reminded that at the last meeting it had asked to consider initially two of the six objectives previously agreed by the Council with other Committees also being tasked with doing the same.

The proposed objectives and measures set out in the Appendix were discussed and some minor amendments proposed as follows:-

Objective No	Goal	Objective	Achieved by	Responsible Committee
6	Promote equality for all, and particularly in the more socially deprived area in the Town.	by promoting health and wellbeing to all our residents	To investigate hosting a Community Fair for community & voluntary groups as a means of co-ordinating advice to residents	Cultural and Community
12	Raise awareness of the role of the Town Council.	by motivating and managing our staff complement with best management practice and financial procedures.	1) the staff appraisal programme is regularly reviewed, at least once every 4 years; and 2) The Town Clerk is subject to annual appraisal by the Group Leaders	Policy & Resources Committee

Following further discussion, it was

**RESOLVED**

(i) that the revised Goals and SMART objectives in Appendix 1 are approved subject to the amendments to objectives No. 6 and No.12 as agreed; and

(ii) that a further report is made to the next meeting on reporting arrangements for representational duties on bodies external to the Town Council.

80. **CLIMATE CHANGE TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate Change Action Group held on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2020. (Report No. 6).

The Committee noted that the Task and Finish Group had now progressed to development of a draft Action Plan. Some actions were not within the remit of the Town Council and it was recognised that Warwick District Council particularly would be progressing an ambitious programme over the next few years that would be aimed at managing the effects of climate change. It was suggested that the Group should ensure that its final recommendations have regard to the emerging policies put forward by the Principal Councils.

The Annual Town Assembly to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> April was a further opportunity to address public concerns in relation to addressing climate change and the theme of

the meeting this year would be “Clean Air Leamington”. It was hoped that this would help provide public support for measures that both addressed the air quality issue and assisted the implementation of a climate change action plan.

**RESOLVED** that the work of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group is welcomed and that a final report is made to the Council having regard to the Climate Change action plan of Warwick District Council.

81. **WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL CONCESSIONARY PARKING**

The Committee was advised that the District Council had extended an invitation to all Town Councils in the District to identify two days during 2020 on which parking charges would be waived in District Council operated Car Parks. The Committee was advised that Remembrance Sunday was currently a fee free day therefore two further pay free days could be selected by the Town Council.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) concessionary parking in District Council car parks in Leamington Spa is offered on Friday 8th May (VE/VJ celebrations) and Sunday 15th November (activation of Christmas Lighting); and
- (ii) the District Council is thanked for its generous concession.

82. **ALLOTMENT RENTALS 2020- 2023**

Consideration was given to a Report (Report No. 8) advising the Committee of proposed increased rental payments for those agreements in which land was leased to the Town Council for use as Allotments.

Following consideration of the Report it was

**RESOLVED** that the following rental payments shall apply from 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020:-

<b>Allotment Association</b>	<b>Current Rent</b>	<b>Proposed rent (per annum)</b>
Old Milverton Allotment Association -Land west of Old Milverton Lane	£600	£660
Cliffe Allotment Association –Land east of Old Milverton Lane	£700	£800
Binswood Allotment Association– Land off Northumberland Road	£2750	£3050
Campion Hills Allotments, Black Lane, Lillington	£2415	£2680

83. **WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION FUND**

Consideration was given to a Report, (Report No.9) concerning the Town Council participation in the Local Government pension Scheme.

The Report summarised the outcome of the recent triennial valuation exercise which had resulted in a reduction in the rate of contribution for the Council from 24% to 21.1% of gross salary. The Committee noted that the performance of the Fund over the three year period had been robust with the overall funding level now at 92% of liabilities. The Fund now benefitted from the pooling of resources of many Local Government Pension Funds through the Border to Coast Partnership which offered significant advantages in terms of scale, regulation and investment expertise.

The Committee regarded the Council's participation in the LGPS as a significant aspect of its recruitment and retention policies. In answer to a question, the Town Clerk confirmed that the Fund Managers had regard to high standards of diligence and environmental levels of responsibility in which regard investment was now being made in a variety of environmentally sustainable sources such as Companies engaged with green energy generation and electric transport options.

**RESOLVED** that the Report is received.

84. **ACCOUNTS**

A schedule of accounts of accounts arising for payment was circulated and a copy is attached to the signed Minutes.

**RESOLVED** that the schedule of accounts in the sum of £2738.93, including £250 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, is approved.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.05 pm.