

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON
18th MARCH 2021**

This meeting was conducted remotely in accordance with the provisions of the 2020 Coronavirus Regulations

Present: Councillors-Sarah Boad (Chair), Janet Alty, Will Bryce, Mubarik Chowdry, Judith Clarke, Bill Gifford, Jennifer McAllister, and Louisa Radice.

Officers: Stephen Marks, Town Clerk

80. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr A Boad. (Cllr McAllister was substituting) and Cllr S Rasmussen.

81. Declarations of Interest

Councillor B Gifford declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of Warwick District Council in relation to Agenda Item 9 and as a member of Warwickshire County Council in relation to Item 6.

Councillor S Boad declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of Warwickshire County Council particularly in relation to Agenda Item 6.

82. Public Forum

There were no representations from members of the public.

83. Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 04th February 2021 (Report No.4) are confirmed as a correct record.

84. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No matters arising were identified.

Banking – It was noted that the Town Clerk was applying for access to electronic banking with the current provider.

Campion allotments – The Town Clerk advised that the Allotments Association had indicated that they hope to resolve the matter raised themselves and will advise the Town Council of any further issues.

85. PARADE UPDATE

The Committee considered report No. 6 which provided a brief update on the future approach to managing the Parade.

It was noted that the intention was for the current restrictions to remain in place until the existing national Covid restrictions are removed (anticipated June 2021). They

would then be removed and options for the long term management of the Parade would be considered with appropriate engagement and consultation with local organisations and the community.

Various aspects of the longer term management of the Parade were discussed. It was noted that the issue would be of great interest to the local community and local organisations.

It was also noted that Warwickshire County Council had issued a press release in relation to the Parade.

Resolved:

- i. That the Committee notes the update in relation to the Parade.
- ii. That the Town Council engages with future discussions regarding the management of the Parade in the short and longer term.

86. CLIMATE DECLARATION

The Committee considered report No. 7 regarding 'The Time is Now' Climate Change Declaration.

The committee discussed the declaration and noted it fitted well with the Council's objectives.

Cllr Chowdry proposed and Cllr Alty seconded that the Town Council should sign the Declaration.

Resolved that:

It be recommended to the Town Council that the Council signs 'The Time is Now' Climate Change Declaration.

87. GREEN SHOOTS FUND

The Committee considered report No. 8 regarding the County Council's Green Shoots Fund.

It was noted that the Town Council could seek to raise awareness of the fund amongst local groups, including the allotment societies. It was also noted that a number of local groups already had project proposals that they may seek funding for.

The suggestion of a 'Tiny Forest' was discussed. This would be dependent on an agreement with a landowner

Action – Town Clerk to write to the allotment societies to raise awareness of the fund.

Action – Town Clerk to explore further the possibility of a 'Tiny Forest' project with partners.

88. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

The committee considered report No. 9.

Resolved That the CIL working / task and finish group be convened in order to consider the use of the Town Council's CIL funds and report back to Policy & Resources Committee.

89. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Town Clerk provided a verbal update on the Neighbourhood Plan referendum. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had met and agreed a series of actions to raise awareness / promote the forthcoming referendum on May 6th.

The Democratic Support Officer was developing a whole series of activities in the lead up to the referendum to raise awareness of the Neighbourhood Plan and key policies within it.

It was noted that awareness should be raised through local organisations / groups and their extended networks within Leamington Spa.

90. BUDGET MONITORING

The committee considered and noted report No. 11 regarding budget monitoring. Underspends remained higher than in normal years, although the reallocation of some underspends had been considered previously at meetings of this committee and full council.

91. PAYMENTS

The committee considered and approved the list of payments provided.