

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 8th APRIL 2013 HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, PARADE, LEAMINGTON SPA

Present: Councillors Sue Ingleby (Chairman), Sarah Boad, David Greenwood, Bill Gifford, John Knight and Alan Wilkinson

Apologies: Councillors Tim Crockford and Ann Morrison

67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

68. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

69. BARONESS MARGARET THATCHER

The Committee noted the announcement earlier in the day of the death of the former Prime Minister, Baroness Thatcher and Members expressed their condolences.

70. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 March 2013 are approved and signed as a correct record.

71. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Donation of Bench

The Town Clerk reported that the Conservation Architect at Warwick District Council had raised no objection to placing a bench on the Parade in the vicinity of the Premier Inn, subject to approval of the proposed design. He confirmed that final placement of this item would be agreed with the County Surveyor.

RESOLVED that the report of the Town Clerk is noted and work proceed with the provision of a bench on the Parade in a suitable location approved by the County Surveyor.

72. HYBRID ARTS – LADDER PROJECT

Consideration was given to a report (Report No. 6) setting out an application from Hybrid Arts for financial assistance with a programme of training and development for unemployed young people (the Ladder Project). The Committee noted that the funding request from this Council of £4,500 would form a small part of a project costing £53,000 which would be largely dependent on funding from Warwick District Council's Urban/Rural Capital Fund, the Lottery and the King Henry VIII Trust. There was some conjecture as to the applicability of funding from the King Henry VIII Trust for projects based in Leamington Spa.

The Committee noted the excellent track record of Hybrid Arts in delivering projects involving young people and endorsed the objectives of the Ladder Project.

RESOLVED

- (i) that a grant in the sum of £4,500 is made to Hybrid Arts, subject to confirmation of the award of match funding from third parties; and
- (ii) that the Town Council's contribution is drawn from the Youth Initiative Fund (£4,000) and the Social Cohesion Fund (£500).

73. ELECTORAL REVIEW FOR WARWICK DISTRICT

Consideration was given to a report (Report No. 7) which confirmed the conclusion of the Review of Electoral Ward boundaries by the Local Government Boundary Commission. The Committee noted, with disappointment, that despite its strong representations to the Local Government Boundary Commission, no major amendments had been made to parish electoral arrangements within Leamington Spa. The electoral changes would therefore result in the establishment of 11 new Wards, several of which created significant boundary inequality compared with the Commission's own suggested criteria. It was also noted that the new Wards did not relate to the District Wards and, as a consequence, there could be significant confusion amongst the electorate as scheduled elections for both District and Town Councils would take place at the same time.

RESOLVED that Warwick District Council is requested, as a matter of urgency, to conduct a Community Governance Review under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, 2007, with a view to addressing the electoral anomalies created by the Electoral review of Warwick District 2013.

74. PROPOSED ONE-WAY TRAFFIC FLOW – OSWALD ROAD

Consideration was given to a report outlining the proposed introduction of a one-way traffic system on Oswald Road to manage traffic between Rugby Road and Warwick Place.

RESOLVED that no objection is raised to the proposed one-way traffic arrangement along Oswald Road between the A445 (Rugby Road) and B4099 (Warwick Place).

75. PRECEPT REFERENDUMS BILL

Consideration was given to a report (Report No. 9) consisting of a briefing paper from the National Association of Local Councils with regard to the introduction of a Private Members' Bill in the Houses of Parliament concerning a precept referendum for Local Councils.

The Committee noted that, whilst there was a strong likelihood that the Private Members' Bill would not become law, it did represent a potential threat to the ability of Local Councils to manage their budgets and set a precept accordingly. The Committee generally considered that the proposals within the Private Members' Bill were unwieldy and unduly restrictive and that a letter should be sent to the local MP seeking his support in opposing the proposed legislation.

RESOLVED that a letter is sent to the local MP seeking his support in opposing the proposed legislation contained within the Precept Referendums Bill.

76. TRANSITION TOWN LEAMINGTON

The Town Clerk reported a letter from the Co-Treasurer of Transition Town Leamington seeking a financial contribution of £546 towards the cost of maintaining the website and other operating costs of Transition Town Leamington. The Committee generally considered that the costs of maintaining the website were somewhat excessive and a contribution of £350 was duly proposed and seconded.

RESOLVED that a grant of £350, drawn from the Council's balances, is made towards the revenue costs of Transition Town Leamington.

77. ACCOUNTS

A schedule of accounts arising for payment since the last meeting had been circulated and a copy is attached to the signed Minutes.

RESOLVED that the schedule of accounts is approved for payment.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and ended at 7.00pm