

Report 4

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 18th MARCH 2019 AT THE TOWN HALL, PARADE, LEAMINGTON SPA

Present: Councillors Ann Morrison (Chair), Janet Alty, Sarah Boad, Hayley Grainger, David Greenwood, Daniel Howe and John Knight.

Four Members of the public were present.

83. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Judith Clarke.

84. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations of non-pecuniary interest were made:-

Councillor	Agenda item	Interest
Councillor S. Boad	5 Christmas Lighting	Member of BID Leamington Ltd
Councillor H. Grainger	5 Christmas Lighting	Member of BID Leamington Ltd

85. **PUBLIC FORUM**

No members of the public were present.

86. **MINUTES**

Consideration was given the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th February, 2019 (Report No. 4).

It was noted that the final sentence on page 2 (Minute 72- Proposed Relocation of Warwick District Council Offices) omitted to record the two abstentions to the original motion.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 11th February 2019 are confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the following correction:-

Minute 72 (Proposed Relocation of Warwick District Council Offices)

On being put to the vote the Motion was lost by 2 votes for, to 4 votes against, with 2 abstentions.

87. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(i) **Christmas Lighting (Minute 74)**

The Town Clerk reported on the outcome of various meetings between prospective contractors and Officers prior to the formal tendering of a contract for the provision, removal, storage and testing of seasonal lighting and infrastructure. The Current contract had expired and a new one would need to be let for the 2019 Christmas season which would extend for a period of 4 years to 2023. A summary of the principle features of the contract and the pre-tender engagement was circulated and a copy is attached to these Minutes.

It was now probable that evaluation of the tenders would occur prior to the appointment of new Committees of the Council after the May elections and that therefore the Town Clerk should represent the Council at the formal evaluation of the tenders.

RESOLVED that the Report is received and a further report made to the Council on completion of the tendering process.

Note In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, Councillors Boad and Grainger, having declared non-pecuniary interests in the above item, remained in the meeting and took part in the discussion and voting.

(ii) **Old Milverton Allotments – Damage to site boundary (Minute 78)**

The Town Clerk reported that following further representations to Warwickshire County Council, work had now commenced to safeguard the site through the installation of new fencing. The County Council has also undertaken to complete re-planting of the area damaged during works in the summer of 2018.

RESOLVED that the Report is noted.

88. **STAGECOACH SERVICES 67 AND 67A**

Consideration was given to letter from the Secretary of St Mary's Residents Association concerning the decision by Stagecoach to change the route of its Bus Services 67 and 67A. A copy of the letter is attached to these Minutes.

The Committee was advised that the original Bus route had been changed so that buses were now travelling along St Mary's Road as part of their journey between Sydenham Drive and Radford Road. Residents had expressed strong concerns as to the unsuitability of this route for reasons of highway safety, congestion, environmental damage, obstruction of private access and potential damage to the bridge over the Grand Union canal.

The Town Clerk also reported the initial observations of the Passenger Transport Development Manager of Warwickshire County Council which indicated that as this route was a commercial service that attracted no public subsidy, the County Council had limited jurisdiction over the route. However in view of the various points raised by the Residents Association, these matters would be investigated and a response sent to the Residents Association and the Town Council in due course.

The Committee expressed concern at the apparent absence of notification to local residents before these changes were put in place and the potential impact on the local environment from traffic queueing along St Mary's Road. It was noted that the Town Council had previously invited representatives of Stagecoach to a meeting with Members of the Town Council following changes to bus services across the Town which was not planned after the Council elections.

RESOLVED

(i) that the changes to the 67 and 67A services are discussed with representatives of Stagecoach at a future meeting arranged after the Council elections;

(ii) that St Mary's Residents Association is thanked for bringing this matter to the Council's attention and advised of any future meeting with the Company.

89. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Consideration was given to a Report (Report No. 7) that summarised the outcomes from the six week period of consultation in relation to the first draft of the Leamington Neighbourhood Plan.

The Committee was advised that during the consultation period, 14 locations had been used for informal drop-in sessions. These had attracted 692 comments and observations with 53 written comment cards being completed. A further 16 email replies had been received. Many of the observations referred specifically to policy areas that were addressed in the Plan including protecting green space, improving infrastructure, social housing, improved connectivity, including cycle-ways and expanding the Town Centre Shopping experience.

The response would now be assessed in conjunction with the Council's Planning Consultant before embarking on the next formal stage of Consultation.

The Committee acknowledged the work undertaken by the Steering Group which had helped to develop the Plan to its current state of progress.

RESOLVED that the report is noted.

90. **ANNUAL TOWN ASSEMBLY**

The Town Clerk reported on arrangements for the Annual Town Assembly which would be held on 8th April at the Town Hall, Leamington commencing at 7.00 pm. Attendance was expected to be in the region of 30 people with 8 local organisations wishing to make a presentation on their work.

RESOLVED that the Report is noted.

91. **ACCOUNTS**

Consideration was given to a schedule of accounts arising for payment since the last meeting.

RESOLVED that the schedule of accounts in the sum of £599.20 including £83.33 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, is approved for payment

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