

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 04TH FEBRUARY 2021

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

Present: Councillors Sarah Boad (Chair), Alan Boad, Will Bryce, Mubarik Chowdry, Judith Clarke, Bill Gifford, Louisa Radice, Susan Rasmussen and Nick Wilkins

Also present for part of meeting: Cllr McAllister

Officers: Stephen Marks, Town Clerk

Tributes to Mota Singh

The chair noted the sad death of Mota Singh. Mota was a former Town Councillor and Mayor of Leamington Spa, as well as holding many other significant roles.

A minute's silence was held in tribute.

Several members of the Town Council spoke in tribute to Mota Singh, noting his contribution to the local community over many years.

67. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Alty

68. Declarations of Interest

Councillor A Boad declared a non pecuniary and non-prejudicial interest as a member of Warwick District Council in relation to Agenda Item 6

Councillor B Gifford declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of Warwick District Council in relation to Agenda Item 6 and as a member of Warwickshire County Council in relation to Item 7.

Councillor S Boad declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of Warwickshire County Council in relation to Agenda Item 7 – Local Transport Plan

69. Public Forum

There were no representations from Members of the public.

70. Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 16th December (Report No.4) are confirmed as a correct record.

71. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No matters arising were identified.

72. **Future High Streets Fund**

The committee received an update on the Future High Streets Fund from Warwick District Council (WDC) Officers Guy Collier and Martin O'Neill. Key points included:

The Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) was a central government fund, intended to help rejuvenate town centres.

Having previously developed proposals and a business case, WDC found out in late December that they had been offered an in principle grant award of £10million.

The bid included a number of projects:

- Town Hall – creative hub.
- Spencer Yard / creative quarter.
- Sustainable movement project
- Confidential projects

As the grant award was less than the £14.5million sum requested in the bid, further work was needed to refine the proposals or secure the remaining funding from elsewhere. WDC is in discussion with its partners to inform a further submission to central government by 26th Feb 2021.

WDC welcomes the Town Council's input into the formal governance of the programme.

It was noted that the Town Council should consider future updates on these and related projects.

The committee thanked Mr Collier and Mr O'Neill for their presentation.

At this point Cllr McAllister left the meeting.

73. **Warwickshire Local Transport Plan – Key Themes Consultation**

The Committee considered the report No 7 in relation to the Local Transport Plan Key Themes consultation.

It was noted that the themes in the transport plan were very broad and had links to a range of the Town Council's own objectives and aspirations.

Resolved that the consultation be considered by the Town Council at its meeting on 4th March, in advance of the 18th March consultation deadline.

74. **Neighbourhood Plan Update**

The committee considered report number 8 regarding the Neighbourhood Plan.

A number of key points were raised.

The issue of whether the Town Council itself can proactively campaign for a yes vote needs clarification.

Due to the ongoing Covid situation it will be difficult to engage with the community face to face. We will need to maximise use of other forms of communication.

Need to build on the enthusiasm that was achieved during the creation of the plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will meet on 23rd February.

75. Banking arrangements

The Town Clerk provided a verbal update. It was intended to establish electronic banking arrangements with the current provider. It was noted that the Triodos Bank account opened previously will be closed, as it does not meet the Council's needs.

76. Insurance renewal

The committee considered report No 10.

Resolved that the Council's insurance policy be renewed in accordance with the three year arrangement previously approved.

77. Allotments – Campion Hill

The Town Clerk advised that further enquiries were still being made in respect to the issue reported by Campion Hills Allotments Association. The item will be brought back to the committee in the future if necessary.

78. Budget Monitoring

The committee considered the update provided and noted the situation.

79. Payments

The committee considered a schedule of payments.

Resolved that the schedule of payments are approved.

The meeting conclude at 19:12.