

Minutes of a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 29th FEBRUARY 2012 at 7.15pm.**

PRESENT **Councillor R.S. Fleming (Chairman) and**
Councillors Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, J.D. Clare,
W. Curtis, Mrs. M. Dalton, P. Ducker, G.C. Gray, I. Gray,
Mrs. J. Gray, B. Hall, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs.
S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. E.M. Paylor,
Mrs. V.M. Raw and A. Warburton.

IN ATTENDANCE Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp and G.R. Gray
Mr. Malcolm Gray (Improving Communities Co-ordinator - Livin)
Mrs. Vicky Miller (Improving Communities Manager – Livin)

OFFICERS Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mrs. C. Walton (Corporate and Policy Officer)
Mr. D. Austin (Finance Manager)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)

91. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs. B.A. Clare, V. Crosby, B. Haigh, Mrs. S. Haigh and K. Henderson.

92. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of Personal Interests were submitted by Councillor M. Iveson on Agenda Item Nos. 7 – Grants (3.1 (e) Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club) - and No. 14 - Citizens Advice Bureau as he is a member on these bodies.

93. **LIVIN**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Malcolm Gray, Improving Communities Co-ordinator, and Mrs. Vicky Miller, Improving Communities Manager, at Livin to the meeting to give a presentation and answer questions on their Community Plan.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That Mr. Gray and Mrs. Miller be thanked for their informative presentation and the production of their plan.
- (ii) That the representatives from Linin be invited to attend a future meeting once the plans are finalised on the 31st March 2012 to give a futher update.

94. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were two members of the public who had submitted questions / representations:

- (i) Mr. Ken Robson from Acorn Residents Association asked if this Council would be willing to support the CAB since their budgets have been cut.

Councillor R.S. Fleming answered the question by informing Mr. Robson that before the matter could be considered we would need to obtain some further detailed information on the whole issue of the CAB. He informed Mr. Robson that a meeting was to be held tomorrow between Town and Parish Councils of the Sedgefield area to discuss the funding issues of the CAB.

Correspondence from CAB had been circulated to members and would be discussed at Agenda item No. 14.

- (ii) Mr. Tom Hunter the Chairman of the Aycliffe Youth Council gave a representation to the Council on the grant of £1,000 which had been given by the Youth Council to ROCSOLID.

Mr. Hunter explained the reasons why the Youth Council had felt that this was an excellent organisation who were helping 16 to 25 year olds establish themselves into the community. The Youth Council also planned to work closely with ROCSOLID to offer any assistance they could.

Councillor R.S. Fleming thanked Mr. Hunter for his excellent presentation and that he was a credit to the Youth Council. The matter of the Grant to ROCSOLID would be discussed under agenda item No. 7 (4.2 (d) Aycliffe Youth Council).

95. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor B. Hall, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 18th January 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

96. **ACCOUNTS CONTROL SHEET**

Accounts control sheets for the period 6th January 2012 to the 17th February 2012 and the General Bank Account for December 2011 and January 2012 were submitted.

RESOLVED – that the accounts control sheets for the period 6th January 2012 to the 17th February 2012 and the General Bank Account for December 2011 and January 2012 were received.

97. **GRANTS / DONATIONS**

A declaration of personal interest had been submitted by Councillor M. Iveson on Item (e) – Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe, however, he would be remaining in the meeting during the discussion thereon.

The Town Clerk had submitted a report which gave the current donation budget for this financial year as £3,365.

The following requests for grants / donations had been received:

- (a) Learning Library.
- (b) Great North Air Ambulance
- (c) Durham Miners' Association

It was proposed by Councillor J.D. Clare, seconded by Council M. Iveson that an amount of £35 be donated for a 'Message of Support' in the 2012 Durham Miners' Gala Souvenir Brochure.

It was further proposed by Councillor P. Ducker, seconded by Councillor W. Curtis that no donation be made to the Miners Guild.

A named vote was requested and resulted as follows:

For a donation of £35:

Councillors Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, J.D. Clare, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, G.C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Hall, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. E.M. Paylor and Mrs. V.M. Raw.

Against the donation:

Councillors P. Ducker, W. Curtis and A. Warburton.

- (d) Friends of Senior Citizens.
- (e) Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe.
- (f) North East Autism Society.

Aycliffe Youth Council

The Youth Council donation budget is currently £2,575.

Information had been received that the Youth Council had issued the following grants since the last report:

- | | | |
|-----|--|------|
| (a) | Graffiti Artiste (Great Aycliffe Show) | £200 |
| (b) | Aycliffe's Got Talent | £ 25 |
| (c) | 6 No. Students QE (Romania / Africa) | £300 |

- (d) **ROCSOLID** (£1,000)

This donation had not been released pending further information being sought.

A background report had been submitted from the Corporate and Policy Officer on the issuing of grants by the Youth Council and the presentation from Mr. Tom Hunter also provided the details of why the donation had been given.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.

- (ii) Learning Library
That an amount of £50 be donated to the Learning Library.
- (iii) Great North Air Ambulance
That an amount of £100 be donated.
- (iv) Durham Miners' Guild
That a message of support be given at a cost of £35.
- (v) Friends of Senior Citizens
That an amount of £100 be donated towards their Queens Jubilee Entertainment Day.
- (vi) Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe
That vouchers for 2 rounds of golf and 2 meals at the Oakleaf Sports Complex be donated as raffle prizes for the Jubilee Draw.
- (vii) North East Autism Society
That no donation be given.
- (viii) That the information supplied by the Youth Council be received and the donation of £1,000 to ROCSOLID be authorised.

98. **AYCLIFFE YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Corporate and Policy Officer submitted a report setting out information in respect of the Aycliffe Youth Council, funding and finance.

The report gave the history of the Youth Council since its inception in May 2007 together with the setting of a grant budget of £4,000 each financial year for helping youth organisations and young people within the Great Aycliffe area. Details of grants issued were reported to the Policy and Resources Committee for their information.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the grants issued by the Youth Council are ratified by the Council.
- (iii) That the Chairman of Policy and Resources would talk to the Youth Council to give them information on the current financial situation that is affecting Councils.

99. **ACCIDENT STATISTICS**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report setting out accident statistics for the period January 2011 to December 2011.

The report gave details of staff accidents and reported public accidents across the Council.

For information purposes a copy of the accident statistics for years 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 had also been supplied to identify trends.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

100. **QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report in connection with the Jubilee celebrations to be held on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th June 2012 together with information on community planned celebrations that may be held on Town Council property.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the following events be agreed.
 - (a) Provision of two carpet badges indicating the Queens Diamond Jubilee.
 - (b) Provision of a specimen tree and associated plaque in the Town Park.
 - (c) Provision of trophies as required for Club Jubilee Competitions.
 - (d) Enhancement of Beacon Lighting by the provision of a Firework Salute.
 - (e) Offer of small financial grant circa. £100 to Community Groups who are organising Jubilee Celebrations.
 - (f) Members consider a joint Jubilee / Mayor's Civic Service at St. Clare's Church.
 - (g) Purchase of bunting and Union Jack to dress the Town Park.
- (iii) That any further ideas Councillors wished to have considered be forwarded to the Town Clerk.
- (iv) That the amount of £1,700 additional budget requirement be authorised.

101. **OAKLEAF GOLF COMPLEX – JUNIOR SEASON TICKETS**

The Finance Manager submitted a report following a proposal from the Golf Working Group to reduce the price of the junior season tickets at the Oak Leaf Golf Complex.

The Council and the Oak Leaf Golf Club were looking at ways to address the fall in the number of junior members and that consideration be given to the reducing the current junior season ticket by half from £50 to £25 and marketing the promotion widely in the local press.

RESOLVED – that the Junior Season Tickets be reduced to £25 for the forthcoming season on a trial basis.

102. **ROOF REPAIRS – TENDERS**

The Town Clerk submitted a report to consider a tender report provided by Harrison and Johnson in respect of roof repair / replacement works to Council property and to award the works as appropriate.

Harrison and Johnson had been retained as surveyors acting as agents for the tendering of roofing works and supervision of the project.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the tenders obtained by Harrison and Johnson be received.
- (ii) That the contract for roof works be awarded to John Flowers Ltd. as recommended by Harrison and Johnson.
- (iii) That the amended costs of circa. £20,000 as indicated in the report be accepted.
- (iv) That it be noted that additional works instructions may be required for any unforeseen works but would only be issued if needed as a formal “additional works instruction” following confirmation by the Town Clerk.

103. **PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING CENTRE REPORT**

The Early Years Officer submitted a report setting out information with regard to the attendance figures for the two Pre-School Learning Centres and the voluntary contributions current balances.

The report also set out information that the officer had been contacted in respect of a two year pilot scheme for two year old children. Further details would be obtained from an information event to be held on the 21st March and reported to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

104. **CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU**

A declaration of personal interest had been submitted by Councillor M. Iveson as he is a representative serving on the C.A.B. Committee.

A letter had been submitted from the Citizens Advice Bureau to explain to members their concerns over recent developments and changes to the funding of the service.

A discussion had previously taken place under public questions and it had been pointed out that further information needed to be obtained before any decision could be made. A meeting of Town and Parish Councils was to be held on the 1st March to discuss the matter further.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the information in the letter be noted.
- (ii) That following the meeting with other Town and Parish Councils and detailed information be received a full report be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee on the feasibility of making a donation to the CAB.

CHAIRMAN.