

## **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Radstock Lane, Earley, Berkshire on Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 commencing at 7.45pm.

### **Present**

Chairman – Councillor N Jorgensen

Councillors Mrs J Clark, M Firmager, T Holton, R Houlbrooke, Mrs P Jorgensen, C Smith and B Wedge

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G Grandison

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### **1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **2. VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor B Wedge be appointed Vice Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

### **3. APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES & WORKING PARTIES**

Consideration was given to the appointment of Sub-Committees and Working Parties for the ensuing year.

**RESOLVED** that

the following be appointed:

*Staffing Review Sub-Committee* – Councillors A Bradley, Mrs L Chambers, Mrs J Clark, Ms P A Dunn, M Firmager and N Jorgensen

*Standing Orders Working Party* – Councillors Mrs L Chambers, M Firmager, R A Houlbrooke, N Jorgensen, Mrs P Jorgensen and B Wedge

*Service to Earley Award Panel* – Councillors J Armstrong, A T Bradley, Mrs L Chambers, M Firmager and R A Houlbrooke

the following not be formed:

*Community & Youth Sub-Committee*

### **4. SUB-COMMITTEES & WORKING PARTIES**

#### **4.1. Community & Youth Sub-Committee**

##### **4.1.1 Minutes of Meeting**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Community & Youth Sub-Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017, a copy of which is appended to these Minutes for the information of Members. And it was

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes be received and approved.

4.1.2 Meetings of the Sub-Committee

It was **RESOLVED**

1. that for a trial period of six months, the Community & Youth Sub-Committee Meetings be amalgamated with the Policy & Resource Committee Meetings
2. that matters formerly dealt with by the Community & Youth Sub-Committee will appear first on the Policy & Resources Agenda and that all participants who had previously attended from the Community Organisations be invited to attend
3. that the meeting will commence at 7.15 and 45 minutes will be allowed for the Community & Youth items

5. **LOCAL AUTHORITIES PROPERTY FUND**

**RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of this item.

6. **THAMES VALLEY POLICE**

6.1 Woodley Neighbourhood Action Group

Councillors noted that the Bulmershe & Whitegates Borough Ward, which included the Town Whitegates Ward, was policed from Woodley rather than Earley. Consequently there has been a proposal to set up a Woodley & North Earley Neighbourhood Action Group which it was hoped would work closely with both Earley & Woodley Town Councils.

It was anticipated that there would be an initial meeting during the week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> June and that Whitegates Town Councillors had been informed. It was

**RESOLVED** that the Committee Chairman ask Councillor Mrs A Swaddle to represent Earley Town Council at the inaugural meeting and report to the next Council Meeting.

6.2 Speed Indicator Device

Councillors noted that further to Minute 54 where a request for funding towards a speed indication device (SID) was agreed in principle, the Town Clerk had contacted the Area Inspector who had responded as follows:

*“We will not be guaranteeing that the SID will be available for a certain amount of days in specific parishes. Instead I believe the Community Speed Watch Scheme will deploy the equipment to where there are complaints of speeding from members of the community or to areas where they have already identified that speed reduction work is required.*

*In Earley the neighbourhood team have previously completed speed reduction work with a SID in Rushey Way, Ryhill Way, Carshalton Way and Meldreth Way. However the use would not be limited to these locations.*

*The frequency of use will depend on the amount of volunteers available to deploy the equipment. However early indications suggest there is a growing pool of potential volunteers to allow the equipment to be deployed several times a week. Where it is deployed will again depend on where the complaints are coming from.*

*I hope that helps. If you require any further information please let me know”*

Councillors considered whether the Council should still proceed with contributing to the SID and it was

**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk request further information on how the roads within Earley will fit into the picture of use across the Borough.

## **7. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

### **7.1 Letters of Thanks**

It was noted that letters of thanks had been received from:

- Berkshire Vision
- Earley Bus
- The Link Visiting Scheme
- M S Therapy Centre
- Readibus
- Me2 Club
- Reading CAB
- Earley Day Centre
- Wokingham CAB
- Sue Ryder Duke of Kent Hospice

### **7.2 Homestart**

A letter of thanks had been received from Homestart. The Town Clerk reported that he had met with the Scheme Manager to talk about the services that are provided by Homestart within Wokingham Borough. Following the resolution of this Committee at Minute 33.1.2 of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016, the Scheme Manager indicated that a meeting to discuss in greater depth, with the Committee, the assistance given to Earley residents would be beneficial and it was

**RESOLVED** the Homestart Wokingham Scheme Manager be invited to come and speak to a future meeting of the Committee and to invite all Councillors to attend.

## **8. LICENSING APPLICATION**

Councillors noted the following Reading Borough application for renewal of a Private Hire Vehicle Operator’s Licence previously attached.

Applicant: Mr Toqeer Ahmed,  
Trading Site: 67 Culver Lane, RG6 1DX

**RESOLVED** that there is no objection to renewal of the licence.

## **9. ORDERS FOR PAYMENT**

The Committee noted details of Orders for Payment paid since the last meeting of the Town Council (Vouchers 1 - 38) a copy of which is attached to these Minutes.

**10. PUBLICATIONS**

The Committee noted that the following publication had been received in the Council Offices and was available for viewing in the Council Chamber:

Earley Neighbourhood Action Group:	Agenda for Meeting held on 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2017
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**11. PRESS RELEASES**

Consideration was given as to whether any of the foregoing items should be the subject of a special press release. It was

**RESOLVED** that the following items should receive emphasis:

1. The item relating to the appointment of Councillor B Wedge as Vice-Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee should receive emphasis
2. The item relating to the appointment of Councillors to the following sub-committees and working parties should receive emphasis

Staffing Review Sub-Committee  
 Standing Orders Working Party  
 Service to Earley Award Panel

3. Further information on the changes to the Community & Youth Sub-Committee and its purpose, together with an invitation to Community Members to attend.

**12. TERMINATION OF MEETING**

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 8.45 pm.