

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, 15th March 2017 commencing at 7.45pm.

Present

Chairman – Councillor N Jorgensen

Councillors Mrs J Clark, Miss P Dunn, M Firmager, T Holton, R Houlbrooke, Mrs P Jorgensen (from 8.00pm), Mrs J Rance JP and Mrs A Swaddle.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Wedge (Holiday)

51. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee as amended at Minute 4.3.1 held on 30th January 2017 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

52. HELP SHOP REPORT

Further to Minute 44, where it was resolved to place this item on the Agenda for further discussion, the Town Clerk circulated a spreadsheet highlighting summary information showing current trends in the Helpshop. The Town Clerk reiterated that while the figures generally remain constant, trends vary from month to month particularly with sales and enquiries for blue rubbish bags and garden bags experiencing peaks and troughs.

The Town Clerk reminded Members that detailed information was available for perusal on request.

53. LOCAL AUTHORITIES PROPERTY FUND

Further to Minute 46, the Town Clerk presented a proposal to engage an Independent Financial Adviser and reported that following a recommendation, he had contacted James Ryan & Thornhill, a specialist in the sector who, for a charge of £350, would not only look at the CCLA Property Fund but would also include an analysis of the alternative investment opportunities available. He had also contacted JPM Asset Management who would charge £750 and provide an initial report plus an ongoing fee to look after the Town Council's assets. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that

1. the Town Clerk contact James Ryan & Thornhill to ascertain whether they hold the appropriate indemnity cover, and subject to confirmation, that they be the preferred Independent Financial Adviser.
2. the Town Clerk contact Wokingham Town Council to ascertain further detail on their experience of the CCLA Property Fund.

54. THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Further to the presentation by Inspector Alastair Lloyd at Minute 2.2.3 of the Community & Youth Sub-Committee held on 24th January 2017, Councillors considered further information provided relating to establishing Cold Calling Zones.

Councillors also considered the request for funding towards the Speed Indication Device (SID) referred to in the further information provided. Members debated the issues and it was

RESOLVED that

1. the Council would offer support to residents setting up Cold Calling Zones by asking them to speak to the local Councillor and/or direct them to Wokingham Borough Council Trading Standards.
2. the request for funding towards the Speed Indication Device (SID) was agreed in principle but that the Town Clerk would ascertain the number of days the device would be used for the benefit of Earley Residents, the deployment locations and frequency that the device would be used within Earley.

55. LICENSING APPLICATION

Further to Minute 64, an amended application for a new Street Trading Licence was received for the following:

Applicant: Mr Simon Smith – Dambuster Burgers
Trading Site: Harley Davidson car park, 660 Wokingham Road, Earley

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk respond with the following observations:

There were still concerns about the application but, notwithstanding, should consent be forthcoming then:

1. the Trading Times must be strictly adhered to
2. the location of the van to the rear must be as shown on the sketch plan
3. bins need to be provided and all litter cleared up
4. residents in Skelmerdale Way to the rear should suffer no disturbance and should be consulted on the proposal

56. STAFFING MATTER

56.1 Finance Manager

The Town Clerk reported the resignation of the Finance Manager as she had relocated to Devon at short notice. In the interim, the Council were employing the services of a temporary accounts clerk to provide time to examine the current job description and give consideration to potential changes to the post.

57. ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

The Committee noted details of Orders for Payment paid since the last meeting of the Town Council (Vouchers 645 - 718) a copy of which is attached to these Minutes.

58. PUBLICATIONS

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

Berkshire Youth:	“What’s On”, March 2017
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Me2 Club:	February 2017 Newsletter
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59. 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 Huge Earley Litter Pick (HELP) on 19th March 2017 should receive special press attention.

60. TERMINATION OF MEETING

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