

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 November 2017 commencing at 8.00pm.

Present

Chairman – Councillor N Jorgensen

Councillors Mrs J Clark, M Firmager, G Grandison, T Holton, R Houlbrooke, Mrs P Jorgensen, Mrs A Swaddle and B Wedge

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Smith (Borough Meeting)

33. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 27th September 2017 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

34. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Committee noted details of the financial transactions for the period ending 30th September 2017, a copy of which is appended to these Minutes. .

35. ESTIMATES

35.1 Financial Year 2018/19

Consideration was given as to whether there were any major projects that this Committee would wish to undertake in the 2018/19 financial year, so that the Town Clerk could ensure adequate provision was made in the estimates for that period. Further to consider projects for the following financial year as part of the three year financial planning.

RESOLVED that

Provision be made in the 2018/19 Draft Capital budget for the following items:

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Council Offices | - | Upgrade of sanitary ware
(Subject to assessment of need) |
| Council Offices | - | Upgrade of security systems |
| Council Offices | - | Replacement phone system |

35.2 Budget Working Party

The Town Clerk advised that, as had been the recent practice, a Budget Working Party, to meet in January, before the next meeting of this Committee and the full Council meeting in February, had been constituted. The agreed membership in the past was members of this Committee, together with other members of the Town Council who might wish to attend. Because it was a Working Party, any conclusions reached at the meeting would be in the form of recommendations.

He advised that, if Members were so disposed to form the Working Party again, it was suggested the meeting be held on Wednesday 24th January 2018 at 7.30 pm.

RESOLVED

1. that the Budget Working Party be re-formed and a meeting of that Working Party be convened on Wednesday 24th January 2018 at 7.30 pm.
2. that Members of the Working Party be all Members of the Policy & Resources Committee together with any other Members of Council who wish to attend.

36. SUB-COMMITTEES & WORKING PARTIES**36.1 Community & Youth Sub-Committee**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Community & Youth Sub-Committee held on 27th September 2017, a copy of which is appended to these Minutes. It was

RESOLVED that the Minutes be received and approved.

37. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**37.1 Wokingham Sports Partnership**

Members were reminded that, on previous occasions, the Town Council had, under Section 137, match funded the contribution made from the Wokingham Sports Sponsorship Fund to various young people within the area. A request for further funding had been received from Wokingham Borough Council and, in accordance with the wishes of Members, the letter containing the names of the recipients had been appended to the Agenda.

RESOLVED that in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Section 137, as amended by the Local Government Housing Act 1989, Section 36, a contribution of £1,050 be made to the Wokingham Sports Sponsorship Fund.

37.2 Grant Applications

Consideration was given to a schedule of grant applications, as previously circulated to Members, which detailed the level of funding awarded in previous years and the amounts requested by the various organisations for 2018/19.

Declarations of interest were declared by Councillor Pauline Jorgensen in connection with Revitalise and Councillor Michael Firmager in connection with ARC and The Link Visiting Scheme.

It was noted that both ARC (youth support) and the Wokingham branch of the Citizens Advice Bureau had requested larger donations than in previous years. With regard to the application from Revitalise, although Members were of the opinion that it was a good cause, it was felt that the Town Council did not have the resources to be able to donate to that particular organisation. In consideration of the application from Sue Ryder – Duchess of Kent Hospice and The Link Visiting Scheme it was noted that the applications lacked clarity with regard to the specific connection with Earley. With regard to the application from Revitalise, Members noted that less than 1% of Earley residents benefited from the service.

RECOMMENDED that, subject to budget approval, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Section 137, as amended by the Local Government Housing Act 1989, Section 36, contributions be made to the various applicants as set out below:-

	£
ARC	2000.00
Me2 Club	400.00
Readibus	1,500.00
Earleybus	650.00
Earley Volunteer Driver Bureau	250.00
Citizens Advice Bureau (Reading)	2,000.00
Citizens Advice Bureau (Wokingham)	
Homestart Wokingham District	350.00
Wokingham Job Support Centre	300.00
Wokingham Volunteer Centre	100.00
Berkshire Vision (County Blind Society)	650.00
MS Therapy Centre Berkshire	400.00
ACE (Activity Centre Earley)	100.00
Sue Ryder – Duchess of Kent Hospice	250.00
The Link Visiting Scheme	500.00
Cruse Bereavement Care	200.00
Wokingham Borough Sports Council	1,000.00

RESOLVED that, subject to approval of the above recommendation

1. no grants be made to Revitalise
2. Revitalise be informed that the Town Council could not make a grant because the request was for an individual connected with Earley and this is not permissible under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972.
3. Sue Ryder – Duchess of Kent Hospice and the Link Visiting Scheme be asked to clarify the number of Earley residents assisted by their organisations.
4. box 9 on the Grant Application Form be altered for future years to request the total number of people helped and the total number of Earley residents helped.
5. A total sum of £2,000 be allocated to Citizens Advice Bureaux, to be apportioned by the Town Clerk to reflect the proportions of Earley users at each of the two CABs.

38. ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

The Committee noted details of Orders for Payment paid since the last meeting of the Town Council (Vouchers 504 - 552) and Imprest Account (Vouchers 067 – 080) a copy of which is attached to these Minutes.

39. PUBLICATIONS

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

Me2 Club:	September 2017 Newsletter
Wokingham Borough Council:	Voluntary Sector Review News, November 2017

40. 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 receive special attention

1. the item relating to the match funding of the contribution made from Wokingham Sports Sponsorship Fund to local young people
2. Planting of Community Trees in Sol Joel Park subject to agreement by Community Trees

41. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 9.17 pm.