

## **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 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016 commencing at 7.45pm.

### **Present**

Chairman – Councillor N Jorgensen

Councillors A Bradley, Mrs J Clark, Mrs M de Jong (from 8.02pm), R A Houlbrooke, T Holton, Mrs P Jorgensen, Ms J Rance, B Wedge and P Willis

In attendance Councillor G Grandison

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### **42. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **43. ESTIMATES OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

#### **43.1 Draft Estimates of Income & Expenditure**

Consideration was given to the Draft Estimates of Income & Expenditure for this Committee for 2016/17 and the revised estimates for 2015/16. In connection therewith, the committee noted and approved details of the financial transactions for the period ended 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015 included within the report.

Members further noted and examined the Estimates of Income & Expenditure for 2015/16 and the Revised Estimates for 2016/17 compiled by the Standing Committees, together with the approved Estimates of this Committee and the recommendations received from the Budget Working Party, a copy of which was circulated to Members under separate cover, in order to make recommendations to the Council accordingly.

The Town Clerk advised that Members had received that the latest revised Estimates of Income & Expenditure together with the Notes from the Budget Working Party Meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016 under separate cover prior to the meeting.

**RESOLVED** that the Budget Working Party notes be considered as confidential business.

Following the discussions in confidential session it was further

**RESOLVED** that

1. The notes of the Budget Working Party, attached herewith, be approved.
2. Recommendations at 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6 as detailed and amended be approved.
3. The Planning Committee be requested to consider Sol Joel Parking as a standing agenda item.

#### **43.2 Precept Working Papers**

Consideration was given to the Town Clerk's Precept Working Papers, copies of which had been circulated with the notes from the Budget Working Party prior to the meeting. Arising therefrom, the Committee was requested to assess the amount required as the Town Precept for 2016/17 and to recommend to the Town Council accordingly.

The level of Precept given within the Town Clerk's Working Paper would represent an increase in the Town Council's 'share' of the Council Tax from £64.04 to £67.20 for the year on a Band D property, assuming the confirmation of the revised provisional tax base of £11,704 by Wokingham Borough Council. In the light of the recommendations of the Budget Working Party, the proposal was to reduce the increase to £66.54 and consequently it was

**RECOMMENDED** that

the Town Council Precept for 2016/17 be set at £778,784.00, as per attached Precept Working Paper.

43.3 **Loans & Investments**

The Committee noted a report on current loans and investments, a copy of which is appended to these Minutes.

The Town Clerk drew Members attention to the large amount of money which had been repaid during the year on the GBS Public Works Loan Board loan taken out for Sol Joel Pavilion.

**44. SUB-COMMITTEES & WORKING PARTIES**

44.1 **Youth & Community Sub-Committee**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Youth & Community Sub-Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016, a copy of which is appended to these Minutes.

With regard to Minute 6., Future of the Sub Committee, the Member in the Chair at the meeting advised that attendance at meetings from outside organisations had declined and requested the future of the Sub Committee be considered. It was

**RESOLVED** that

The Sub Committee be requested to review the Terms of Reference and to investigate the constitution of the Sub Committee to examine whether there is still a requirement for the meeting and any recommendation taken to the next Policy & Resources Meeting.

**45. COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRES**

45.1 **Radstock Lane Community Centre**

The Town Clerk referred to the report detailing current and future use of the Radstock Lane Community Centre, previously circulated with the Amenities & Leisure Agenda for the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016, which had been prepared following the request at Minute 64 of the Town Council meeting.

The Town Clerk advised that the Borough's recent reports on the provision of primary school places which included Earley, proposed the expansion of Loddon Primary School by an additional 30 places per year group over the next few years by utilising the building previously used as Loddon Infant School and currently used by Wokingham Borough and also to increase the intake at Aldryngton Primary School by 15 per year group. It was considered that the use of Radstock Lane Community Centre by Radstock School was not an option currently.

The Town Clerk reported that he would disseminate this information to users of the Community Centre, some of whom were concerned about their future following consideration of this matter by the Executive Council Meeting at Wokingham Borough Council.

**46. LICENCE APPLICATION**

Councillors considered the details of an application to vary the Premises Licence at Dol Che Vita situated at University of Reading and it was

**RESOLVED** that the Council had no objection to the application.

**47. ORDERS FOR PAYMENT**

The Committee noted details of Orders for Payment paid since the last meeting of the Town Council (Vouchers 475 - 564) and Imprest (Vouchers 123-167) a copy of which, is attached to these Minutes.

**48. PUBLICATIONS**

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

Maiden Erleigh Residents' Association:	Minutes of the meeting held on 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2015
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**49. PRESS RELEASES**

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

**RESOLVED** that there be no press releases issued.

**50. TERMINATION OF MEETING**

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 8.58pm.