



POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee, held in the Council Chamber at the Council Offices, Radstock Lane, Earley, Reading, on Wednesday 7th June 2023 which commenced at 7pm.

Present

Chair – Councillor D Hare

Councillors: A Bassett, J Eastwell, T Holton, N Jorgensen, G Littler, A Long, T Maher, S Matthews and C Smith

In attendance: J Friend (Town Clerk), E Carroll (Deputy Town Clerk) and Y Crocker (Committee Officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs M De Jong and S Newton.

2. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

2.1 Committee Chair

One nomination was received. After being duly proposed and seconded it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr D Hare be appointed to the position of committee chair.

2.2 Vice Chair

One nomination was received. After being duly proposed and seconded it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr T Maher be appointed to the position of committee vice chair.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 15th March 2023 were confirmed as a true record and **RESOLVED** for signature by the Chair (Minutes 100 - 118).

6. BANK RECONCILIATIONS

Councillors noted that the Bank Reconciliations for February and March 2023 had been made available to the Chair of the Policy & Resources Committee for information.



7. INTERNAL AUDIT

The internal auditor’s report was received on 7th June 2023 and copies made available to the committee. Members were pleased to note that it was a positive report and no matters of concern were raised. The chair thanked the Town Clerk and her team for their work in achieving another clean internal audit.

8. TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS

8.1 Sports Sponsorship Funding

Councillors considered the request from the Wokingham Sports Sponsorship committee that the Town Council match fund two young Earley athletes.

It was **RESOLVED** that both individuals be awarded £300 in match funding from the Town Council’s grants fund.

8.2 Letters of Thanks

Following the awarding of grant funds to local charities and organisations in May 2023, Earley Town Council has received letters of thanks from the following organisations:

Reading Male Voice Choir	Link Visiting Scheme	Readibus
First Days Childrens Charity	Wokingham Volunteer Centre	Chemogiftbags
Earley Environmental Group	Parenting Special Children	EASI
Cianna’s Smile	Wokingham Waterside Centre	Cruse Bereavement
ARC	Berkshire County Blind Society	Earley Day Centre
Home Start – Wokingham	Earleybus	CAB – Reading
Keep Mobile		

9. BALC MEMBERSHIP

Members discussed the level of service delivered by BALC over the past year following its assurances that there would be significant improvements. Cllr C Smith reported that she had attended a meeting with the BALC executive, alongside the chairs of other large Berkshire councils, to discuss the service provided to larger councils. It was noted that the training opportunities provided by BALC remain very limited in terms of topics, venues and timings and that the Town Council’s concerns over value for money have been discussed for some time now.

Two motions were proposed, seconded and voted on:

Motion 1 – ETC to subscribe for a further year; to provide BALC with details of the improvements it would like to see; Cllr C Smith to offer to join the BALC executive.

Votes for: 4 Votes against: 5 The motion failed.

Motion 2 – ETC to decline to renew its subscription to BALC for 2023/24.

Votes for: 5 Votes against: 4 The motion succeeded.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that Earley Town Council would not renew its 2023/24 subscription to BALC.



10. TOWN COUNCIL POLICIES

Councillors considered the Social Media Policy document and agreed that a few small amendments would be made by way of clarification of certain points.

It was **RESOLVED** that the committee would recommend to Council that the Social Media Policy be adopted at its meeting on 21st June 2023.

11. CENTREPOINT COMMUNITY CENTRE

Members **RESOLVED** that this item be moved to the confidential part of the meeting.

12. PARTNERSHIP WORKING – WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

The committee received the WBC summary of the outputs from the sessions held to explore a new vision for the borough of Wokingham. Cllr T Maher expressed an interest in being further involved in this work.

13. ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

Councillors received details of Orders for Payment made since the last meeting of the Town Council (Vouchers 5800 – 5824) and Imprest Account (Vouchers 788 – 825).

14. PUBLICATIONS

It was noted that the following communications had been received and were available for perusal from the Council Offices:

Hardship Alliance Action Group	E-newsletter May 2023
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15. PRESS RELEASES

It was requested that the annual grant awards be the subject of a press release.

16. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

There were no members of the public or press present. It was agreed that the remaining items on the Agenda be taken under Part II.

PART II

17. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

18. CENTREPOINT COMMUNITY CENTRE

19. ADVISOR TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE



20. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting was declared closed by the Chair at 8.15pm.

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Chair, Policy & Resources Committee