

TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of a meeting of the **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held on **Monday 18th January 2010** in Telscombe Civic Centre at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT

Councillors: Mr J Page (**Chairman**)
Mr P Howson Mr J Livings
Mr T Armour, Mr B Sawyers
Ms L Hallett, Mr J Harris
Mr R Maskell Mr A Smith

APOLOGIES

Councillors: Mr B Page. Mr T Banning
Mr D Neighbour

The meeting was adjourned at 7.30 pm to take questions from members of the public.

A member of the public advised that he had some photos of a recent incident on the Tye available for a possible article on the website or Town Crier. A question was raised in respect of professional advice in respect of grazing on the Tye. The Clerk was asked to contact the firm of valuers previously used by the Council for a recommendation

The meeting was re-convened at 7.39 pm.

376. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Armour declared a personal interest in agenda items 18 and 19 and took no part in the discussions.

377. **TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2009**

The minutes of the above meeting were approved by the Committee and signed as correct by the Chairman

378. **TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 4th DECEMBER 2009**

The minutes of the above meeting were approved by the Committee and signed as correct by the Chairman.

379. **TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES OF THE TELSCOMBE VILLAGE CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 29th JULY 2009**

The minutes of the above meeting were approved for signature by the Chairman of the Committee at the next meeting.

380. **TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES OF THE TELSCOMBE VILLAGE CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 30th SEPTEMBER 2009**

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The minutes of the above meeting were approved for signature by the Chairman of the Committee at the next meeting.

381. **TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES OF THE TELSCOMBE VILLAGE CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2009**

The minutes of the above meeting were approved for signature by the Chairman of the Committee at the next meeting.

382. **TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES OF THE GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON SATURDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2009**

The minutes of the above meeting were approved by the Committee and signed as correct by the Chairman.

383. **TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES OF THE AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON SATURDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2009**

The minutes of the above meeting were approved by the Committee and signed as correct by the Chairman.

384. **MATTERS ARISING**

The issue of the cutting back of foliage obstructing the junction of the C7 and Gorham Lane was raised. A check would be made with the County Council to establish the status of the work.

385. **TO NOTE THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE COMMITTEE TO 30th NOVEMBER 2009**

The committee noted the Income and Expenditure accounts to 30th November.

386. **UP DATE ON REMOVAL OF AIR HANDLING UNIT**

The Clerk advised that Lewes Environmental Health Officers had verbally committed to the removal of the unit within four weeks. The most recent delay had been due to agreeing a suitable site and rent with Southern Water. The Committee noted that previous promised deadlines had not been met. The Clerk was requested to use the 4D contact at Southern Water dealing with the new treatment works to establish if he could facilitate the negotiations if the delay in removal continued.

387. **TO NOTE RESPONSE FROM STRUTT AND PARKER RE REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR VILLAGE NOTICEBOARD**

The Clerk advised that a letter from Strutt and Parker, the managing agents for the Gorham Trust, indicated that the trust would not pay the £361 difference between the Council's proposed Aluminium Board and the Oak board insisted on by the Trust. The Committee agreed that the Village Club should be approached to establish if they were prepared to pay the difference from their funds.

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388. TO CONFIRM NOMINATION FOR EAST SUSSEX SEAT ON NEW NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

The Clerk advised that following the exclusion of the Council's initial nomination, the Council's proposed substitute candidate Cllr Andy Smith had also been ruled out by the Returning Officer's decision not to allow substitutes. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Returning Officer expressing the Council's dissatisfaction with the electoral process, and in particular being excluded from the nomination process.

389. TO CONSIDER FURTHER COST CUTTING INITIATIVES INCLUDING BOILER REFRESH AND SOLAR POWER

The Chairman gave a detailed powerpoint presentation on environmental improvement options for the Civic Centre. The proposals in the scheme were based on anticipated energy costs over a twenty year period. The Chairman emphasised that all the figures were draft and subject to finalisation. The Chairman advised that the options in the presentation were driven by the Council's commitment to primarily reduce costs and to maximise the use of renewable energy in the Civic Centre, in addition a reduction in the Council's carbon footprint would also be achieved by the proposals. The proposals in the scheme were based on anticipated energy costs over a twenty year period.

The proposals in the scheme were based on anticipated energy costs over a twenty year period. The Town Council's current energy costs are approximately £4,000 per year with the addition of inflation the total cost over twenty years is likely to be approximately £135,000, (gas £60,000 and electricity £75,000). The Chairman advised new boilers for the building would achieve an anticipated 15% efficiency saving. Solar panels would produce a likely 42% saving in electricity costs in addition a "Feed in Tariff" is payable by central government for each Kwh of renewable electricity generated. Based on a 31p per Kwh and with 42% of the electricity generated by solar panels, this would mean an additional income of approximately £2,500 per annum. The Chairman said that the addition of "zone sensors" across the building to automatically turn lights on and off as rooms were occupied or empty was also a feature of the overall proposals. It was estimated that these would save a further 5% in electricity costs. The breakdown of costs of the scheme was estimated as follows:- solar panels £43,000, boiler replacement £4,000, installation of zone sensors £1,000. Further estimates were awaited and it was anticipated the total project would cost £45,000. The savings over twenty years represented circa £30,000, giving a 30% cost avoidance with a CO2 saving of an estimated 112 Tonnes.

The Chairman advised that funding for these environmental improvements could be obtained by a low interest loan from the Public Works Loan Board, a typical loan of £44,000 over five years at a fixed rate of 2.03% would equate to £9,298.72 repayments per year. This amount was likely to be reduced by up to £2,500 from a feed in tariff grant. The cost to the Council would be approximately 7,500 per annum which could be absorbed in the existing precept levels. It was anticipated that the project would be less than £44,000 as detailed quotations were still awaited. A vote of thanks to the Mayor and Chairman of the Committee was proposed for all their hard work in collating the data and preparing the presentation and proposal, this was unanimously endorsed by the meeting and it was :-

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RESOLVED that the Clerk be instructed to prepare the necessary documentation in respect of a Public Works Board Loan to progress the project and establish the amount payable under the “Feed in Tariff” scheme which was due for finalisation.

Signed
CHAIRMAN - Cllr J Page

NB The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday **1st March 2010 at 7.30 pm**

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CONFIDENTIAL

390. **RESOLVED THE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS OF BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PUBLIC BODIES ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS ACT 1960 SECTION 1**

391. **CONFIDENTIAL**

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There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.47 pm.

Signed
CHAIRMAN - Cllr J Page

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