

# TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of a meeting of the **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017** at Telscombe Civic Centre, 7.30 pm.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs T Armour, J Harris, G Maskell *Mayor*, R Maskell, B Page *Vice-Chairman*, A Smith, D Wright *Chairman* & J Wilkins *Deputy Mayor*

**Also Present:** Nancy Astley, Town Clerk  
Stella Newman, Deputy Town Clerk & RFO (*minutes*)

## **1072. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Peter Seed asked who has legal access to drive on the Tye. Cllr Wilkins advised that the farmer drives to tend livestock and the two property owners on the Tye to access their property. Mr Seed advised he does not believe anything has been formally regularised. Cllr Smith advised that driving on the Tye is forbidden under Section 34 of the Road Traffic Act. However, some do need access, the farmer to look after the sheep for instance. He advised that if Mr Seed knows of anyone else that is driving on the Tye, could he let us know so that action can be taken.

*7.40pm Cllr Armour arrived and joined the meeting.*

Mr Seed then asked what the Council is going to do to prevent degradation of the Cross Dyke on the Tye. Cllr Armour advised that the South Downs Joint Committee had planned to cut back the scrub and surely it is now down to the South Downs National Park. Mr Seed advised it needs to be grazed to prevent degradation. Cllr Smith advised it needs a business case as to whether it should be done and how much it will cost.

## **1073. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

There were no apologies for absence.

## **1074. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **1075. TO DISCUSS & APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2017**

Min 1069, p2592, Tye Fencing Replacement for Neighbouring Landowners – A question was raised why this had not been placed on the agenda for this meeting as it had been deferred from the last meeting. The Deputy Clerk advised she had requested further information to enable it to be discussed, but had received nothing. Cllr Armour advised that neighbouring landowners should fence the land out and he had written information from the NFU. He was asked to provide this written information to the Town Clerk to enable investigations to be carried out and legal advice sought.

The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting and it was proposed by Cllr J Harris, seconded by Cllr R Maskell and unanimously **RESOLVED** that they were a true record of the proceedings and were signed as correct by the Chairman of the meeting, Cllr D Wright.



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## **1076. TO DISCUSS & APPROVE MINUTES OF THE AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2017**

Cllr J Wilkins requested that the minutes of the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March be accepted and the recommendations contained therein be adopted, seconded by Cllr D Wright and **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted and recommendations adopted. The minutes were signed by the Chairman of the sub-committee, Cllr R Maskell.

## **1077. TO NOTE ACTION LIST**

Min 1059, p2573 Tye Management Plan - A query was raised why a meeting had not yet taken place with Natural England. The Town Clerk advised that despite phoning, emailing and writing, she hadn't received a response from Natural England. She had also submitted the latest claim for the HLS and with that asked Natural England to contact her, but to no avail. There was discussion regarding the next move regarding the Tye Management Plan and it was agreed to make a decision under agenda item number 9, the Business Plan Review, which includes the Tye Management Plan.

## **1078. TO RECEIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE TO 31st MARCH 2017**

Regarding budget head 4073, Village Club running costs, Cllr Wilkins asked when this will be removed. The RFO advised that it is not in the 2017/18 budget, but an allowance of £2,000 has been made for decorating which is still an outstanding item from the expired lease. Cllr Page asked when the Mayor's allowance has to be used by and the RFO advised him it was by the end of the Mayor's term of office in May. Regarding budget head 4053, Community Flock, Cllr Page also asked if the figure was for all payments and the RFO advised him all invoices she had received had been paid. The higher expenditure was due to the purchase of 30 ewes to top up the flock to 100, but this would not arise in the future as any shortfalls would be made up annually in accordance with the Business Plan. Cllr Smith requested a copy of figures for the community flock

The year's income and expenditure figures of £157,072 expenditure and £255,789 income were unanimously **agreed**.

## **1079. TO AGREE BANK RECONCILIATION JANUARY TO MARCH 2017**

The Deputy Town Clerk/RFO confirmed that the final quarter's bank reconciliations up to 31<sup>st</sup> March had been checked by Cllr R Maskell on 25<sup>th</sup> April. Cllr Maskell had found the reconciliations to be in order showing total bank and cash balances of £372,475.65 and had signed the bank reconciliation, corresponding bank statements and supporting documentation as correct. The Committee noted this action and **agreed** the bank reconciliation.

## **1080. BUSINESS PLAN REVIEW**

Cllr Smith advised that parts 1 and 3 of the Business Plan are not relevant to this committee, only part 2. Items were discussed as follows:-

1. Tye Management Plan – It was unanimously **RECOMMENDED** that we write to Natural England and request that the 'E' Piece be withdrawn from the HLS Agreement and that subsequently the Management Plan be based on the HLS Agreement.
6. School Farm Visits – the visits had been budgeted for and recently took place.

## **1080. Contd. Business Plan Review**

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7. Tye Anti-Social Behaviour – Cllr Smith advised that there was new legislation in 2014 which allows for a Public Place Protection Order. Chris Bibb of LewesDC had recently dealt with one in Newick and it was suggested that we explore the possibility of an order for the Tye. A query was raised as to who would police it if an order was granted and it was noted that it might possibly be done by a District Council employee. Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr J Wilkins, seconded by Cllr J Harris and **RECOMMENDED** that LewesDC explore the possibility of an Order for the Tye.

## **1081. TYE LOOKERERS UPDATE**

Despite further advertising, it was noted that no-one else had come forward regarding being a volunteer Lookerer. There was discussion regarding this and Cllr Armour confirmed that he received regular phone calls from the public anyway if there were any issues with sheep on the Tye. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Armour, seconded by Cllr J Harris and **RECOMMENDED** not to take this project forward. Cllr Smith requested that the person who had expressed an interest be thanked.

## **1082. NEWSLETTER DELIVERY**

It was noted that there are several areas of Telscombe and East Saltdean that do not appear to be receiving the Council's newsletter. Following discussion regarding delivery and consideration of the quotations received, it was agreed that the newsletter should continue to be delivered to households within the Council's remit. It was therefore proposed by Cllr J Wilkins, seconded by Cllr A Smith and **RECOMMENDED** that the RFO negotiate the best deal possible for delivery of the newsletter.

## **1083. TO APPROVE WORK EXPERIENCE FOR PCS STUDENT**

The Report from the Deputy Town Clerk was considered and it was unanimously **RECOMMENDED** that the Council agree the request for a student from Peacehaven Community School to have a week's work placement at the Council from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

## **1084. URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING AND/OR INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA**

The Town Clerk advised she had been approached by someone living on the Promenade enquiring if it would be possible to set up a bushcraft centre on the 'E' piece to include bird watching as well as crafts, etc. Following discussion it was agreed that the Town Clerk obtain more information and bring it to a future meeting for consideration.

The Chairman of the Committee, Cllr Wright, thanked Councillors for their assistance over the last year and they in turn thanked Cllr Wright for being an excellent Chairman.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed .....  
Chairman

*Next meeting of the Committee – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017*