

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD 1 DECEMBER 2020

Councillors Present: Cllr Maggie Allingham, Cllr Sheila Baynes, Cllr Ian Corben, Cllr Keith House, Cllr Pat Jenkins, Cllr Jim Mitchell, Cllr Cliff Morris, Cllr Derek Pretty (Chair), Cllr John Shepherd, Cllr Jane Welsh

P994 Apologies: None received.

P995 To consider the Minutes of the meeting held 3 November 2020

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2020 be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

Matters Arising

Cllr Welsh asked about progress of the conversations with EBC on the Unauthorised Encampments. The Town Clerk to send a copy of the email to Cllr House.

P996 Correspondence

There was no correspondence received.

P997 Youth Provision

Cllrs had previously received a report from the Youth Team Leader.

RESOLVED: Cllrs noted the report and asked if there was any further support required.

P998 Review of Marketing & Communications Strategy

Cllr Pretty outlined the previously circulated report. Cllr Corben thanked officers for the report and asked if the work with HCC and business community if there is anything Cllrs can help to move this along. Cllr House talked about the rationale to give more publicity & promotion to businesses in Hedge End. Evidence suggests that more promotion encourages people to use local business. The idea of a business directory and local trades people. Providing sign up e-mail updates. Cllr Shepherd added an element of caution about not being seen to endorse a business. Cllr Welsh talked about the previous Botley & Hedge End chamber of commerce and if we could establish a forum for this to take place. Cllr Pretty noted that the business breakfast meetings could be a forum to revitalise this. **RESOLVED: To include a business directory in the key priorities for 2021. To recreate a chamber of commerce type meeting. Cllr House asked if an email could go to all the businesses that EBC hold information on and push them back to HETC.**

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P999 Budget Implications

A letter has been received from the leader of Eastleigh Borough Council detailing the support grant available to HETC as a result of Covid-19 losses.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed that we should send a thank you to the leader of EBC.

P1000 Projected Outturns

Cllrs had previously received the report on projected outturns until March 2021. The Chair outlined the current position and some of the expenditure that has been incurred as well as the potential loss of income. Cllr Corben asked how we were dealing with monies that come in for projects. The Clerk confirmed that these funds are held separately and shown as earmarked reserves.

P1001 External Auditor Report

Cllrs had previously received the external audit report which found no exceptions. This has since been published in accordance with the guidance.

P1002 Telephone System

Cllrs had previously received the report on moving from a traditional telephone system to an internet-based system. Cllr Morris noted that they are using this system at work and it worked well on older operating systems and phones. Cllr Shepherd asked if there were any issues with the broadband. This was confirmed by the clerk to not be an issue. **RESOLVED: To proceed with a move to VOIP.**

P1003 Budget Setting 2021/22

Cllrs had previously received the draft budget and report on budget adjustments required for 2021/22. Cllr Welsh noted that when it was discussed at R&A that they would have liked to ask for more given that there was no budget available last year. Cllr Pretty noted that these figures were not in the draft budget and to include these in the expenditure there would either need to be increases in income or decreases in expenditure. Cllr Morris felt that we should look to increase the precept to meet the shortfall. Cllr Welsh agreed there should be a precept increase but 10% along with the increases in the other authorities this would seem high. Cllr House noted that there will a lot of people who will find this cumulative effect a struggle in the current economic climate. Cllr Corben asked if there are other areas that we can look at to reduce costs. Cllr Shepherd asked if we had built in any contingencies for the result of Covid-19 impacting on the income levels in 2021/22. There was concern that we wouldn't be able to say we have a hole in our budget

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come April when this was predicted and this should form part of the budget considerations. Cllr Pretty also noted that we had previously said we would review our hall hire fees and this should be investigated further. **RESOLVED: The Town Clerk to provide some additional figures on lost income on a sliding scale. The Town Clerk to revise the precept figures to include 4%.**

**P1004 All members of the public and press are requested to leave the meeting
Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960**

P1005 Staffing

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 20:21 hours.