

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD 3 JANUARY 2023

Councillors Present: Cllr Ian Corben, Cllr Keith House, Cllr Cliff Morris, Cllr Derek Pretty (Chair), Cllr John Shepherd

P1167 Apologies: Cllr Maggie Allingham, Cllr Jim Mitchell, Cllr Jane Welsh

P1168 To consider the Minutes of the meeting held 6 December 2023.

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2023 be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

Matters Arising

None arising.

P1169 Correspondence

None on the agenda.

P1170 Berrywood Fields

A copy of the lease from HCC to EBC was provided to Councillors. Cllr Cliff Morris was still unclear about the rationale for a lease of 125 years. Cllr Keith House outlined the background to the item including the devolution of assets to Town & Parish Councils. The cost to the taxpayer whether that is to HETC or EBC would be the same but the delivery costs of HETC are generally lower. The freehold is not available as its tied up in schools legislation. Cllr Cliff Morris was concerned that if we have an under lease from EBC then it would be likely that the transfer would come to HETC and surely it would make more sense to go for a shorter-term lease. Cllr Morris asked how long the lead time would be for any changes to be announced. Cllr House confirmed that it would normally be 18 months and if there was a underlease in place this would secure the site under local management. The 125-year lease also comes with a commuted sum which could be lost if a shorter lease is taken. Cllr Cliff Morris asked how much of the asset would be for community use. Cllr Derek Pretty confirmed that this year HE Rangers have exclusive use of the site as there was uncertainty regarding suitability of the pitches for play. If HETC take this on they would be responsible for booking pitches and it would be back to Council for decisions. Cllr Cliff Morris felt that he wouldn't want HE Rangers having exclusive use in future years. Cllr Ian Corben noted that HE Rangers do keep a lot of young people off the street that might otherwise be engaged in ASB. Cllr Keith House noted that we have increased capacity in sport and recreation. The challenge for Councillors should be about ensuring that one sport is not prioritised over another and should not be a financial drain on the taxpayer. **RESOLVED: Councillors agreed that we would want to see the agreement with HE Rangers bought back to committee. On vote 4 were in favour of the 125-year lease and one against. Councillors were keen to start the discussion with EBC about when the potential transfer could take place. It was**

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proposed that this should be after the end of season despite not fitting in with the financial year end.

P1171 Vehicle Tracking System

Councillors discussed the previously circulated report on installing a vehicle tracking system. Cllr John Shepherd asked what the HR issues were for this. The Clerk confirmed that all staff would be informed prior to the installation. Cllr Cliff Morris asked about the implications of monitoring staff and any issues this may cause. The clerk outlined that it was not the intention to complete time motion study for each task and then use the tracking system to address it, however it is much more about setting parameters and being notified when they are breached. For instance, it can be set that the vehicles cannot be taken outside Hedge End and officers would receive a notification if this happens. The preferred supplier also has an app for the driver so the driver can log in and check their own history as regards speeding etc. Cllrs felt this was an assurance for staff so they can see the same information about their driving as the managers. **RESOLVED: Councillors voted 4 for and one abstain to proceed with installing trackers with the preferred supplier.**

P1172 Market Update

Councillors discussed the previously circulated report on the future of the market. Cllrs discussed that the market is windy in one place and there is little that the council can do about this so it must be reiterated that it is at trader discretion if they trade on that site. Cllrs discussed that Cllr Pretty would respond to the complaint from the previous month on behalf of the committee. Cllrs discussed the proposal for a car boot sale and whilst thinking it was a good idea there might be residents' issues that need exploring further. **RESOLVED: Councillors agreed that the Market terms and conditions should be revisited. Cllrs asked for further work on the car boot option.**

P1173 2023/24 Budget Considerations

Councillors discussed the revised budget making the following comments, that we should hold some money in special expenses for Berrywood Fields since we are unsure when the council would be taking this on, that a 7% increase should be applied across all fees and charges, that the money for the paddling pool project would be drawn from general reserves. **RESOLVED: Councillors to recommend that Full Council sets a precept figure of £836,246.**

P1174 Clerks Update

Councillors agreed that flowers should be sent to Cllr Jane Welsh.

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**P1175 All members of the public and press are requested to leave the meeting -
Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960**

P1176 Youth Provision

P1177 Councillor Long Service Award

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 20:12 hours.