

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD 7 NOVEMBER 2023

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

**In attendance:** David Heffer - Scouts, Doug Miller - Scouts, Keith Venn - Skyline

**P1243 Apologies:** Cllr Jane Welsh

**P1244 To consider the Minutes of the meeting held 3 October 2023.**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2023 be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

### Matters Arising

Skyline thanked the Clerk and Operations Manager in assisting the move from the Old School House and gave the reason for moving out.

**P1245 Correspondence**

- Request from Deer Park School to use Woodhouse Lane parking. Cllrs discussed the logistics of parking and already limited capacity for the users of the facilities. **RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that whilst they appreciate the concerns and difficulties the School are facing they could not sanction this as it would be in conflict with other hirers of the on-site facilities.**

**P1246 Scouts**

Councillors heard from a representative of the Scouts regarding the lease renewal. David Heffer spoke about the initial requirement was for storage as equipment was being kept in garages etc and the conversation was to pay for the build of premises. David has asked for clarity on the status of their occupancy at the premises. The Scouts would be happy to accept all the charges proposed although there are concerns about the common area recharges, subject to there being access to a toilet. Cllr Pretty asked about the original intentions to build an extension on the building. David confirmed that the planning permission was to enclose the space between the building and the container. Cllr Pretty asked if it was feasible to incorporate a toilet into the current footprint. The Scouts confirmed this was not possible as they need the space for a breakout area.

**P1247 TADIC**

Councillors discussed the previously circulated update on TADIC. Councillors felt this was a valuable service that would be lost to the community and asked if there were other possibilities for funding it. There was a feeling that this should be supported across HEWEB. **RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that the Clerk should discuss options with the Local Area Manager.**

**POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF 7 NOVEMBER 2023 – Cont'd Page 2**

**P1248 Berrywood Fields**

Councillors discussed the previously circulated report. Cllr Pretty outlined the meeting that was held with Paul Naylor to discuss some operational aspects. Cllrs asked for clarity on the available use during the week and if this is limited to Sat/Sun 9.30 – 4.30pm. Cllrs agreed that if it does turn out to be exclusively, HE Rangers then we should be looking to charge what it costs to operate. It wouldn't be appropriate to subsidise one group. There was a discussion about adding Berrywood Meadows into a transfer to HETC.

**RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to progress the assignment of the lease and to refer the operational management of the site to Recreation & Amenities. The Clerk to ask EBC for transfer of Berrywood Meadows to HETC.**

**P1249 Woodland & Play Area at Lattitude**

Councillors discussed the previously circulated report. Cllrs noted that it was not clear which areas were under discussion and it should go on the next agenda. **RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that in principle they would want to take the land.**

**P1250 2022/2023 Conclusion of Audit**

Councillors had been provided with a copy of the AGAR and the exceptions. **RESOLVED: Cllrs noted the exceptions on the audit and agreed to double check for future years.**

**P1251 Capital Programme**

Councillors discussed the previously circulated report, the draft Capital Strategy and the draft capital programme. There was a general discussion about the strategies that form the basis of the programme and prioritisation. The clerk outlined that these are longer term strategies that can be developed and costed to provide a better prioritisation of capital expenditure.

**RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that the Chairs of each of the committees would look at the strategies that apply to that committee and then combine these into the capital programme.**

**P1252 2024/25 Budget Setting**

Councillors discussed the previously circulated report including the draft budget. The Clerk outlined that Hall Hire fees had probably reached their optimum point as some hirers had recently moved elsewhere to cheaper premises. Councillors discussed this and felt that a smaller increase would be appropriate in the circumstances. It was agreed that a 3% increase would apply to Hall Hire fees only. Cllrs felt that Tadic and Berry Theatre should go back in just in case it was required. Community Grants were considered to be an important part of the Councils support to small groups and would remain in

**POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF 7 NOVEMBER 2023 – Cont'd Page 3**

the budget at £2,000. Councillors asked for some more options on the precept figures including at 9.5%. **RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to look at the revised figures next month.**

**P1253 Community Grants**

Councillors discussed the previously circulated report to have a further round of community grants using the underspend in the budget line. **RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that at this time it would be prudent to keep the money in reserves.**

**P1254 Clerks Update**

The Clerk updated the Councillors on the pay rises which will be paid in November salaries. The Clerk also spoke about the issues with the 2000 Centre roof.

**P1255 All members of the public and press are requested to leave the meeting - Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960**

**Cllr Cliff Morris declared an interest in the following 3 agenda items.**

**P1256 Scouts Lease**

**P1257 Bowling Club Lease**

**P1258 Skyline Lease**

---

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 20:40 hours.