

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES
COMMITTEE HELD 15 NOVEMBER 2022**

Councillors Present: Cllr Ian Corben, Cllr Jim Mitchell, Cllr Cliff Morris, Cllr Derek Pretty (Chair), Cllr Jane Welsh

P1146 Apologies: Cllr Maggie Allingham, Cllr Keith House, Cllr John Shepherd

P1147 To consider the Minutes of the meeting held 4 October 2022.

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2022 be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

Matters Arising

None arising.

P1148 Correspondence

Zurich Municipal had written suggesting that the insured sum should be increased by 20% which will most likely increase the premium.

A letter has been received from NHS Hampshire & IOW ICB regarding the proposed merger of Living Well & West End Surgery.

P1149 Berrywood Fields

The Chair provided an update on the works schedule and costs received from Eastleigh Borough Council to maintain the new sports pitches at Berrywood Fields. The maintenance figure that has been quoted is over £30k with an indicated income of £7.5k. The Borough have been asked if they would consider a 25 year lease with a 10 year break clause. Cllr discussed that it was difficult for the Borough to invoice for this when the Council have not accepted to take it on at this stage and wanted to be assured that this would not take place in this financial year. Cllr Corben asked roughly how much it would be for the Council to manage the maintenance themselves. The Clerk estimated that 1FTE Grounds Person would be approx £24k. There was a willingness to further understand how the arrangement with HE Rangers is working and the availability of pitches outside of their usage. Cllr Pretty proposed that we write to EBC to ask for clarity on some of these issues so the committee can have a further discussion at its December meeting.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to write to Sarah King of EBC to seek clarity on the status of HE Rangers and any arrangement that has been made, to understand the income stream and how that is operating and to look at the potential for a shorter lease so Cllrs can consider the proposal in full. The Clerk to make sure that Sarah has the history to this so an informed proposal can be worked up.

P1150 Taplin Pavilion

Councillors had previously received a report on the status of Taplin Pavilion

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and were asked to consider the demolition of the pavilion given there was no immediate need for another community building in the area and costs are being incurred regardless of use. Cllrs discussed the situation and agreed that the current provider should be asked to provide a business plan by the 31 January 2023 or use of the building will be removed from the 31 March 2023. Cllrs requested an update at the December meeting. **RESOLVED: That the Clerk would write to the current provider giving them the options.**

P1151 2023/24 Budget Considerations

Councillors had previously received a report on the budget considerations for 2023/24 and an initial draft budget. Cllrs discussed that 7% increase seemed reasonable in light of the current situation. Cllrs felt that Berrywood Fields would need to be included in the figures. The grants for Tadic and Berry were added back in. Cllrs agreed that we should look to increase fees and charges by 7% and the figures reworked for the December meeting. The increase in income would then offset some of the increase in energy bills. Cllrs also asked that we model the energy figures for the December meeting. Cllrs were keen to see a reduction in energy usage in our buildings in light of the recent electricity invoices and felt that the council should be taking measures to ensure that we can keep the costs low including taking measures such as turning the air conditioning units off during winter, ensuring all thermostats can only be controlled by officers and set at 19 degrees, changing lights to PIR sensors so they are only on during use. Cllr Corben asked that we provide information signs to let users know that we are trying to reduce our energy usage and ask that they help by turning off lights etc when they leave. Cllrs felt that the 2021/22 underspend should be used as per the recommendation to increase the reserves to a more realistic figure. Cllr Corben asked how flexible the increasing of reserves is and the clerk confirmed that the council should be looking to hold between 3 months and a years' worth of expenditure. Cllrs felt that the remaining underspend should be allocated to the paddling pool wetpour repairs. **RESOLVED: That the clerk revises the figures for the December meeting based on these changes. That the clerk provides a breakdown of the energy costs.**

P1152 Market Update

The clerk provided an update on winter trading for the Market as the traders had been asked what their preferences were with most wanting to finish on the 21 December and resume sometime in March/April. **RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that the Market should take a break during Winter and resume in March or April.**

P1153 Clerks Update

The clerk provided an update on the NJC cost of living that has now been agreed at £1,925 per post and will be applied to all NJC staff and backdated

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to April 2022, this equates to back pay of circa £16k.

The Clerk updated Cllrs on the play area at Norman Rodaway which is progressing with the surfacing starting this week.

The Clerk updated Cllrs on the fencing at Drummond being installed.

The Clerk updated Councillors that HE Medical Centre are still looking for land to build a new medical centre. Cllrs discussed that these sites may still be available, however it needs to be put in writing. **RESOLVED: That the Clerk goes back to the Local Area Committee Manager asking for any proposal to be put in writing.**

**P1154 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 this item.

P1155 Leases

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 20:27 hours.