

## **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting of the reconvened **Policy & Resources Committee**, held on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2017** at 6.00 pm, at the Sambrook Centre, Stirchley.

**Present:** Councillors: ARH England (Chair) R Fagan, Mrs J Loveridge (ex-officio), J Loveridge, S Parr, M Randle, Miss S Roberts, C Turley and A Watkin.

**Also Present:** Mrs G Bailey - Parish Clerk, Mrs S Middleton – Deputy Clerk and Mr C Corbett - Committee & Finance Secretary (taking Minutes)  
Cllr G Sinclair  
Residents of Beckbury Drive, Stirchley.  
Matt Growcott - Shropshire Star.

### **Public Open Session**

There were several residents of Beckbury Drive, Stirchley present at the meeting. They were opposed to the Borough Council's proposal to close the children's play area at Beckbury Drive and were keen to assist in its maintenance and wellbeing. They stated that it was a "safe area for young children to play" in close proximity to their homes. Within the group were two young children who spoke passionately about the merit of the play area and were commended by the Chair for addressing the committee.

### **PR/17/19 APOLOGIES**

It was also noted that R Breeze (Vice-Chair) was not present at the meeting.

There were no declarations of interest in non-pecuniary matters.

### **PR/17/20 BECKBURY DRIVE PLAY AREA**

The Committee considered the proposal by Telford & Wrekin Council to close a number of play areas in the Borough including the facility at Beckbury Drive, Stirchley.

The Parish Clerk stated that the Parish Council did have responsibility for other play areas in the Parish and tabled a short report that outlined the costs associated with the upkeep of the play area. She reminded the Committee that Members had previously received information regarding the removal of some of the smaller (Telford & Wrekin) play areas in the parish due to costs.

Residents have asked that the decision of the Borough Council be reconsidered and indicated that they would be willing to help with keeping the area clean and tidy. The associated costs to Telford & Wrekin council were explained and

Telford and Wrekin Council have suggested a partnership arrangement (similar to the library and community centre) and had offered a payment of £1,390pa for up to 3 years to cover those costs.

The Parish Council's PET team would be able to undertake a weekly inspection and litter picking if required, and the senior staff member was ROSPA trained to undertake the inspections. The annual inspections and insurance would need to be also arranged.

The Chair of the Committee encouraged the local residents to form a "Friends of Beckbury Drive Play Area" Group that could assist in the maintenance of the site and possibly apply for grant aid to safeguard its future.

It was proposed by Cllr A Watkin and seconded by Cllr Mrs J Loveridge and **RESOLVED – that the plan be adopted as outlined, for the Parish Council to take responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the Beckbury Drive Play area and that the local residents be assisted in establishing a “Friends of the Play Area Group”**

**PR/17/21 MINUTES**

It was proposed by Cllr J Loveridge and seconded by Cllr S Parr and **RESOLVED - that minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.**

**PR/17/22 MATTERS ARISING**

The Committee considered any matters arising from the minutes since the last meeting and commented upon the Landlord Licensing proposal of T&W and fallen trees at Madebrook Pool.

**PR/17/23 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk presented a report that highlighted a number of current matters including staffing at Brookside Central, security at the Sambrook Centre, VAT matters, MELD/WELD Groups, enterprising communities, the Lease for Brookside Central, Parish boundary signs and rubbish/recycling/flytipping.

**RESOLVED – that the Clerks report be approved**

**PR/17/24 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

The Committee received reports for Month 6 on the following :-

- Receipts and Payments
- Cashflow and account management
- Payroll.

It was proposed by Cllr J Loveridge and seconded by Cllr S Parr and **RESOLVED - that the Receipts & Payments Report, the Cashflow & Account Management Report, and the Payroll report, as presented, be approved.**

**PR/17/25 SAMBROOK CENTRE**

The Clerk reported upon the current position of the refurbishment works currently being undertaken at the Sambrook Centre.

The heating and ventilation systems were nearly complete, with the new boiler and radiators being in place and to be commissioned later in the week.

New ceiling tiles were in place in the lobby area and work was nearly complete to allow the external rendering in an off white / cream colour.

Heating/ventilation and glazing and heating tasks were yet to be completed.

The Clerk explained that the project was being completed within budget and there had been some cost savings from the original contract price. Consequently the Clerk suggested that the available funds be used to undertake additional works including Internal metal security screen to the boiler room £697, Replacement of the electrical distribution board: £5,416 and Internal Automatic Doors £3,599.

Furthermore the Clerk stated that security cameras could be installed at a cost of £475 but location of said cameras was an important matter.

Cllr Parr suggested the installation of a “hearing loop” and the Chair asked the Clerk to investigate prices and options and to report to a future meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Loveridge and seconded by Cllr J Loveridge and **RESOLVED – that the additional refurbishment works outlined above be approved.**

Cllr C Turley left the meeting at 7.12 pm

**PR/17/26 MEDIA POLICY**

The Committee considered a Media Policy document

It was proposed by Cllr A R H England and seconded by Cllr J Loveridge and **RESOLVED – that the Media Policy be approved.**

**PR/17/27 TRANS INCLUSION POLICY**

Consideration was given to a new policy that provided a broad overview of the pragmatic issues relating to Gender Assignment matters. However, Members thought that the subject was addressed within existing Equality & Diversity Policies and the suggested policy did not add any value.

It was proposed by Cllr S Parr and seconded by Cllr J Loveridge and **RESOLVED – that the Trans Inclusion Policy not be supported.**

**PR/17/28 SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

Consideration was given to a new policy that gave guidance and policy regarding the use of social media.

It was proposed by Cllr J Loveridge and seconded by Cllr S Roberts and **RESOLVED – that the Social Media Policy be approved.**

**PR/17/29 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

Members received, for information, the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017.

**PR/17/30 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Committee received correspondence relating to the road improvements at Rampart Way, Town Centre and the proposed Parish Employer course by SALC

**PR/17/31 COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

The Committee received reports on matters relating to the Committee:-

- a. Cllr M Randle – success of the Community Fridge at Brookside
- b. Cllr A Watkin – use of quad bikes etc at Stirchley Road and Church plus need for a barrier at Ludlow Drive – Clerk to meet AW on site to investigate.

**PR/17/32 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Cllr S Parr and seconded by Cllr J Loveridge and **RESOLVED – that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information in relation to information relating to any consultations or negotiations, contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority, as defined in paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.**

**PR/17/33 PERSONNEL MATTERS**

The Committee considered the minutes of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and discussed the nature and implications of the actions taken.

Cllr Mrs J Loveridge stated that at the Personnel Sub-Cttee she declared her non-prejudicial interest in the matter under consideration but that was not noted in the minutes.

Meeting finished at 7.36 p.m.

Chair .....

Date.....