



**Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting
held on Monday 17 September 2018 at 7.00 pm
at 2 Knowle Park Lane, Fair Oak**

Committee Councillors Present: C Bird, Mrs M Shephard, J Sorley & P Spearey (Vice-Chairman).

Apologies: Cllr Mrs Douglas, Couldrey & Goss

Other Councillors Present: Cllr Noel

Officers in attendance: Ms M Stephens, Clerk, Mrs L Greenslade, Deputy Clerk, and part of the meeting, C Burchett, Parish Ranger & Mrs J Cahill, Responsible Finance Officer.

PUBLIC SESSION

None present.

40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATION REQUESTS

None received.

41 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2018, be noted (previously approved by Full Council on 16 July 2018).

42 ROOM BOOKING POLICY FOR LOCAL CHARITIES

Members considered whether booking fee discounts should be awarded to local charities requesting use of the Roger Smith Conference Room.

The Clerk informed members of the various practices and policies of other local councils and public bodies, with differing discounts offered across the board.

Some members expressed the view that the policy of the Parish Council should be fair and transparent, and that all charitable organisations should be treated the same, rather than have different arrangements for different organisations. Members also felt that it would be too complicated and onerous to judge each request on its own merits. As such, it was

RECOMMENDED:

- a) *That registered charities whose work directly benefits residents of Fair Oak & Horton Heath, receive a discount of 20% on booking fees for the Roger Smith Conference Room, for a maximum of 5 occurrences per year; and*
- b) *That this policy be reviewed in 18 months' time.*

43 BURIAL FEES FOR UNDER 18'S

Members considered the burial fees for under 18's.

Members were aware of the Government's commitment to establish a Funeral Fund for grieving parents who have lost their child. Under the proposed scheme, parents would no longer have to meet the cost of burials, with fees being waived by local authorities and instead met by government funding.

At present, it was unclear on the timescales of the implementation of this fund, however, members felt that the Parish Council should seek to waive its own internment fees for under 18's in the Parish, to show its support for grieving families and that the fees should be waived with immediate effect.

RESOLVED

That the internment fees for residents under the age of 18, be waived with immediate effect.

44 PEMBERS HILL DRIVE

Members considered whether the Parish Council should accept the public open space and play area (with developers' contributions) for this development.

Eastleigh Borough Council had recently approached the Parish Council regarding the Section 106 agreement relating to this development and a view to transferring the public open space and associated funds to the Parish Council. The Parish Council had not been previously made aware of this, and had assumed, as no dialogue had taken place with the Borough, that the public open space would be the responsibility of a management committee.

In discussing this issue members raised a number of concerns including: -

- The lack of strategic approach to planning in the Borough and in particularly Fair Oak. And the increasing number of large scale 'pepper potted' developments appearing in the Parish;
- The lack of dialogue between the Borough Council with the Parish Council when drafting section 106 agreements, particularly where the Borough had a view to transfer responsibility of the public open space to the Parish;
- The impact on current staff resources and the need to train current staff to enable them to maintain open space adjacent to a public highway;
- The number of other developments nearby, with public open space, which could be transferred to the Parish Council and the impact on budgets and staff resources.

In considering all of the above issues, and the fact that the Parish was under no legal obligation to accept the transfer of land, it was

RECOMMENDED:

That the Parish Council decline the offer of the transfer of the public open space on this development at this time.

45 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

Members considered the draft community investment programme as set out in Appendix 1, Report A to the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the investment programme be noted.

46 WORK PROGRAMME

Members considered the draft work programme as set out in Report B to the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the work programme be noted.

47. REPORT OF THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER

RESOLVED

- a) That the report of the Responsible Finance Officer, be approved; and
- b) That cheque signing, and BACS payments be noted.

This was all the business and the meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Signed Chairman