



**Minutes of the Full Council meeting
held on Monday 16 April 2018 at 7.30 pm
at 2 Knowle Park Lane, Fair Oak**

Councillors Present: Mr P Barrett, Mrs H Douglas (Chairman), Mr H McGuinness, Mr J Noel, Mr D Scott, Mrs M Shephard, Mr J Sorley, Mr P Spearey (Vice-Chairman).

Apologies: Cllrs Mr C Bird, Mr J Goss, Mrs D Lusmore & Mr T Mignot

Officers in attendance: Ms M Stephens, Clerk, Mrs L Greenslade, Deputy Clerk, Mrs J Cahill, Responsible Finance Officer, Mrs C Giles, Admin Assistant & Ms C Gosling.

Mrs Douglas led a tribute to former Councillor Andrew Cossey.

PUBLIC SESSION

PC Reason introduced himself as the full time Police Officer and member of the Neighbourhood team covering Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath. He spoke of his experience within the Police and how it would help with his role within the community.

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATION REQUESTS

None received.

2 MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 19 February 2018, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3 MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 4 March 2018, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4 MINUTES OF POLICY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held on 19 March 2018, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted correspondence as circulated. The Clerk highlighted the following: -

- a) A local landowner had approached the Council regarding the maintenance of the boundary fence adjacent to Knowle Hill. This matter would be discussed at the Leisure Committee on 14 May 2018.

- b) The Rev Kat Mephram, St Thomas' Church had advised that the Church would be holding an event in celebration of the Royal Wedding and Pentecost in the Village Square. Members supported this event; and
- c) The National Joint Council and the Trade Unions had reached a national agreement for the pay award 2018 of 2%, effective 1 April 2018.

6 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Cllr Scott reported that Eastleigh Borough Council at their Cabinet meeting, held on 12 April 2018, had approved the purchase of land at Mortimers Lane for future housing development.

In response to a query regarding progress on the Local Plan, Cllr Scott informed members that a working plan would be put out for consultation in June.

7 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

None received.

8 OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Spearey, as the Outside Body representative, reported on the activities of the Twynams Trust. He said the Trust were committed to maintaining the five cottages in the Square. In the last year, £70,000 had been spent on improvements to the cottages, which included new conservatories, windows, doors and boilers. The rent charged had been set in-line with other social housing. Mr Cossey, who had been Chairman of Tywnams, would be missed by the Trustees.

9 DRAFT ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL REPORT

Members considered the report of the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) which included the year end accounts for 2018, the balance sheet accounts for March 2018, cheque signing and BACS payments.

The RFO responded to members' questions. Members were informed that the Auditor would complete the internal audit on Wednesday 18 May 2018.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the draft accounts for the year ending March 2018 be approved, for submission for the internal audit inspection; and
- b) That the balance sheet accounts for March 2018, cheque signing and BACS payments be noted.

10 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETHICAL STANDARDS

Members considered the Committee on Standards in Public Life review of Local Government Standards. The National Association for Local Council (NALC) was seeking views from Town and Parish Council's on the review, by 27 April 2018.

Members queried the seven 'Nolan' Principles which set out the standards expected of elected members. The Clerk would circulate these to members as a reminder of their responsibilities. The Council's Code of Conduct would also be published on the Council's website.

Following discussion on a suggested response, it was: -

RESOLVED:

That the following comments be submitted to NALC: -

“The previous Model Code of Conduct provided more detailed definition and guidance as opposed to the simplified Code adopted in 2012. The Parish Council supports robust mechanisms in standards of conduct, to safeguard local democracy for Parish residents.

The Parish Council adopted a Code of Conduct in-line with the former national code. It supports the use of the Seven Principles of Public Life and agrees that the code covers an appropriate range of behaviours. All Parish Councillors elected in May 2015 received Code of Conduct training. Codes of Conduct should be standardised across all tiers of government, to provide consistency. This is especially important given that increasingly elected representatives are often ‘dual hatted’.

It could be argued that the scope and range of the sanctions for dealing with more serious breaches has been watered down compared to the previous regime. The investigation process followed by EBC is thorough, ensuring that decisions are evidenced base. To ensure a fair and proportionate decision is made, investigations can sometimes be lengthy, but rather that, than a rushed decision.”

11 WOODLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE – REPLACEMENT FENCE

The Clerk outlined Rainbows Preschool’s request to replace the fencing around the outside space at the Woodland Community Centre, to meet Ofsted requirements. They had offered to contribute £1000 towards this project.

Following discussion regarding the quote received for the replacement fence and the contribution from Rainbows Preschool; it was: -

RESOVLED:

That the works for the replacement of the fence be agreed in principle, subject to additional quotes being received and discussed for final agreement at the Leisure Committee on 14 May 2018.

12 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (LGPS)

RESOLVED:

- a) That the transfer of pension rights of the Clerk, as an existing member of the LGPS scheme, be noted;
- b) That the Responsible Finance Officer and the Administration Assistant be admitted to the Hampshire Pensions Fund; and
- c) That the Hampshire Pensions Fund employer rate (for a Parish Council) of 16.9% of the employee(s) pensionable pay be noted.

13 THE WOODLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Members noted the documentation for the transfer of the Woodland Community Centre from Bloor Homes (the developer) to the Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that the bike store had been repeatedly vandalised and had become dangerous, therefore, the Ranger had laid it down. Eastleigh Borough Council had been informed and the Planning Officer had agreed to the alteration of the relevant planning condition, to allow the bike store to be converted to a bike rack.

14 CLERK'S NOTE

The Clerk advised that no applications had been received for the Co-option of a councillor. As such, applications would be invited after the closing date of the current vacancy.

This was all the business and the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed Chairman