

POLICY COMMITTEE

18 March 2014

Present: Councillors Draper (Chairman), Campbell, McIntyre, Nicholson, Swift, Upton & Westmorland.

Apologies: Councillors Jones & Pickin.

No members of the public were in attendance.

355 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors should disclose pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest/s in any item/s on this agenda.

The Chairman read out the following statement. Members are referred to, and shall observe, the provisions of the Hemsworth Town Council's Code of Conduct. If a Councillor has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest he/she must, unless a dispensation has been granted, withdraw from the meeting room and take no part in the discussion or vote. If any interest (Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary) has not been entered in the Town Council's register then you must disclose it at the meeting and inform the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the date of initial disclosure. Failure to abide by the provisions of the Code in regard to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests now amounts to a criminal offence.

No disclosures were made.

356 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 2014, as detailed in Minute Book No. 5, 2013/2014, pages 239 - 240 and as adopted by the Town Council on 11th February 2014, be received and approved.

357 REVIEW OF TOWN COUNCIL POLICY AS EMBODIED IN MINUTE BOOK No. 6 (2013/2014)

Members reviewed Minute Book No. 6 which had been circulated with the agenda and no matters were raised and the minutes were moved.

358 CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk reported on the following;

a. Information Commissioner Office – Decision Notice

Further to Minute No. 255, the Clerk informed members that she was in receipt of the Commissioners decision which states that Hemsworth Town Council was correct to refuse the requests and full details of this decision will be published on the ICO website. The Town Clerk suggested that the details could also be published on the Town Council's website.

It was agreed that the information be noted and the Clerk publishes the document on the Town Council's website.

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358 CORRESPONDENCE - continued

b. WMDC – Working group

The Clerk gave details of correspondence received from the Chief Executive at WMDC in relation to the District Council working with Town & Parish Councils to consider ways for Wakefield Council to save money and protect frontline services.

Members discussed issues surrounding this request which were mainly focussed on the District Council withholding the grant money.

It was proposed by Councillor Upson that the Clerk be instructed to respond to the correspondence as follows; That Hemsworth Town Council do not wish to enter into any working group with the District Council until all sanction are removed from the two Labour Councillors (Councillors Tulley & Hodson) and in addition to this the Town Council wish it to be known that they are unhappy at the way the District Council has recently treated Town & Parishes Councils in relation to the grant funding as can be seen by the views we submitted in a recent press statement (attach Statement). This was seconded by Councillor Draper.

RESOLVED: That by a unanimous vote the proposal was carried.

c. Swimming Pool Competition – Minsthorpe Pool Action Group

The Clerk gave details of a request from MPAG for support in the “Design Our new Swimming Pool Competition”.

The Clerk informed members that a further letter from Councillor David Dagger (WMDC) had been received in relation to the new swimming facility in the south east.

Members discussed issues surrounding the correspondence received.

It was proposed by Councillor Westmorland and seconded by Councillor Swift that an offer of £100 for book tokens (competition prize) be approved along with offering some space at the Community Centre to display the designs. In addition to this Councillor Upson would provide information in relation to “legacy pools from the Olympic Games”

Councillor Upson proposed that in relation to Councillor Dagger’s letter that the Clerk writes back to all recipients of the letter confirming that this Town Council supports the new facility being at Minsthorpe but unfortunately has no funding or resources to fund/manage the facility. This was seconded by Councillor Campbell.

RESOLVED: That by a unanimous vote both proposals was carried.

359 HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

It was agreed that the details relating to the quarterly inspection undertaken in February be noted.

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360 EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That in view of the confidential nature of business to be transacted, it is advisable, in the public interest, that the public and press be excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

361 CORRESPONDENCE

Members considered additional items of correspondence received re: Town Council procedures (repetitious and or vexatious).

The Clerk gave details of the two items of correspondence received, one relating to a request to raise questions at the next Town Council meeting and the second being a detrimental statement aimed at the Clerk.

It was proposed by Councillor Upson that the Clerk acknowledges receipt of the letters and informs the correspondent that due to the nature of vexatious & repetitious questions being submitted along with the defamatory comments made against the Town Clerk that this Town Council will no longer respond to future correspondence from this member of the public. This was seconded by Councillor Draper.

RESOLVED That by a unanimous vote the proposal was carried.

362 HEMSWORTH COMMUNITY – STRATEGIC PLANNING STRATEGY

The Town Clerk informed members that she was still awaiting information from the District Council on the following two matters and therefore had nothing further to report.

- a. Contractual matters (including update re: S106 Sport Contribution) re: Planning Application at Kirkby Road, Hemsworth
- b. Community Asset Transfer – Cemetery Road Playing Fields

It was agreed that the information be noted.

Meeting closed @ 7.45 p.m.