

At a meeting of the Policy and Establishment Committee held at the Town Hall, Higham Ferrers on Tuesday 02 December 2008.

Present: The Mayor (Councillor G L Moore)
 The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs. A M Sauntson)
 Councillor D E Drage Councillor Mrs. M Knott
 Councillor D C Lawson MBE Councillor Mrs. G M Murdin BEM
 Councillor Mrs. M E Tuffnail Councillor. Mrs. P H Whiting

08/436 **APOLOGIES**

The Town Clerk reported that there would be full attendance subject to Councillor D C Lawson arriving slightly late.

08/437 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

08/438 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Establishment Committee held on 14 October 2008 (copies of which being Folios 3739 – 3744 had previously been circulated) were approved as a correct record subject to Minute 08/366 being amended to read ‘three replacement seats’ and signed by the Chairman .

08/439 **FOOTBALL CLUBS**

In response to a question from a Member the Town Clerk advised that there had been a response from one football club declining the offer of the use of the facilities whilst the other club had not responded at all. Following a brief discussion it was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the facilities be re-advertised in the Hecham Chronicle and Nene Valley News early in the New Year.

08/440 **COUNCIL PROJECTS LIST**

The report of the Town Clerk updating the List of Council Projects (copies of which had been previously circulated) and showing the current position with respect to each project was considered. A discussion took place and the following actions were agreed:

Castle Fields: The Town Clerk advised that quotations for the new path through the inner moat area were now to hand and were as follows:

Contractor A: £15742.27

Contractor B: £16292.00

Contractor C: £18860.00

All quoted figures are exclusive of VAT

The Town Clerk further advised that Contractors A and B had previously carried out work for the Council and that Contractor C had carried out work for numerous local authorities in the area. A discussion took place at the conclusion of which it was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the contract to install a new path through the inner moat area be awarded to Contractor A, Phoenix Paving Ltd., in the sum of £15742.27 exclusive of VAT.

New Play Equipment: The Town Clerk advised that Wicksteed Leisure Ltd had indicated an install date for the equipment of 26 January 2009, and in answer to a question from a Member advised that part of the area would need to be closed for about a week to allow the safe installation of the equipment and the safety surface,

Cemetery: The Town Clerk advised that Turney Landscapes Ltd. had still not commenced turfing over the whole of the remaining old paths in the Old Cemetery, as reported in Minute 08/295, this was now more likely to take place early in the New Year.

Town Signs and Market Square Improvements: The Town Clerk advised that the three new seats were on order with a lead time of 10 to 12 weeks.

CCTV Scheme: A Member advised that a Section 106 agreement was in place covering the new development in Westfields Terrace which covered the installation of a CCTV camera at that location to a maximum cost contribution of £10,000.

Sports Pavilion Interior Changes: A brief discussion took place regarding proposed changes to the Sports Pavilion and it was agreed that a site visit should take place early in the New Year which would be open to all Council Members.

Exchange Land in Stanwick Road: The Town Clerk advised that advice from the National Association of Local Councils Legal Advisor was still awaited, with the Legal Advisor requesting a letter authorising an approach to Northamptonshire County Council to obtain information on the common land status.

Quality Council Status: In answer to as question from a Member the Town Clerk advised that the next edition of the Hecham Chronicle would appear at the end of December

Kingsmeadow Lane/Riverside Park Link: The Town Clerk advised that matters were now at a fairly advanced stage and that an application was being prepared by Councillor R J Gell to the Cory Landfill Trust with a view to obtaining a grant from the cost of installing the link from Kings Meadow Lane to Riverside Park and the associated infrastructure.

08/441

COMMUNITY FACILITY

The Town Clerk advised that there had again been relatively few enquiries of prospective hirers for the tennis courts. An discussion took place and it was agreed

that Members be further encouraged to join the key rota for the New Year.

08/442 **REVIEW OF CEMETERY REGULATIONS**

An extended discussion took place regarding a review of Cemetery Regulations and the documentation currently issued at the conclusion of which it was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the current Cemetery Regulations remain unaltered and that a new explanatory document for the advice of users be produced to be issued to the person on whose behalf a funeral is arranged and when a Grave Deed is issued.

08/443 **ANNUAL ESTIMATES**

The Town Treasurer presented a Report (copies of which had been previously circulated) showing current levels of spending and projected levels of spending for the Financial Year ending 31 March 2010. An extended discussion took place to establish the spending priorities for the new Financial Year which included:

- Further Work on the Castle Fields Renovation Scheme
- Installation of new Play Equipment at Saffron Road Recreation Ground
- Improvements to the Market Square
- A website and newsletter for the Council
- New information signs at the entrances to the Town
- Extra work to be carried out at Higham Ferrers Cemetery

and it was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the Annual Estimates for the Financial Year ending 31 March 2010 be contained in the following schedule set on Folios 3764– 3767.

07/444 **RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO PRECEPT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2010**

The Committee bearing in mind the Annual Estimates

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the Town Council do precept upon East Northamptonshire Council for the sum of £191,500 (one hundred and ninety-one thousand five hundred pounds) payable half yearly in advance in two equal payments during the year ending 31 March 2010

08/445 **BEDE HOUSE**

A Member advised that following the renovations to the Bede House it had been noted that the curtains near the entrance were in need of renewal. A discussion ensued and it was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the Council make a donation of £500 to be matched by a similar donation from Councillor D C Lawson MBE's Community Empowerment Fund to the Bede House for the purchase of new curtains and alterations to the entrance area.

Councillor Mrs. Tuffnail declared an Interest in this item.

08/446 **ADDITIONAL MEMBER FOR PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE**

Following the decision to increase the membership of the Personnel Sub-Committee to 5 members under Minute 08/368 it was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that Mrs. M E Tuffnail be appointed to serve on the Personnel Sub-Committee.

08/447 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

03 February 2009 at 7.30 p.m.

Mayor
23 December 2008

Chairman
03 February 2009