

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD
ON TUESDAY 11th DECEMBER 2018 AT 7.30PM IN THE TOWN HALL.**

PRESENT:

Cllr J Smithers (Chairman)
Cllr R J Gell
Cllr Mrs P Whiting
Cllr C O'Rourke
Cllr B Prigmore
Cllr Mrs C Reavey (substitute for Cllr Mrs A Sauntson)
Mrs S J Mitcham (Town Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr B Behagg – Higham Ferrers Cricket Club
Mr D Gilbert – Higham Ferrers Bowls Club

1. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr D C Lawson MBE and Cllr Mrs A Sauntson.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

OTHER INTERESTS

Cllr Mrs P Whiting - Item 5.2. as her son in law and grandson are members of Rushden Cricket Club.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 16th October 2018 be signed by the Chairman as being a true and correct record.

4. **PUBLIC FORUM (15 minutes)**

Mr D Gilbert spoke about the club and the how important the grant from the Council was to the club. Points raised: -

- Club was open to all ages. There was over 50 members, but they struggle to attract new members, particularly young people.
- They have played 60 matches and 2 members had reached the final of the men's pairs county competition.
- Recently held a coffee morning which raised £400.
- Holding the 'Presentation Evening' at the club rather than an outside venue had proved popular and more cost effective.
- They were attempting to hire out the pavilion to raise funds.
- An electrical survey had highlighted works that were required which would cost the club in region of £4000.

Mr Behagg spoke about the merger of Rushden and Higham Ferrers Cricket Club. The 3rd teams would play at Higham Ferrers. The clubs were in the process of merging constitutions and finances. Higham Ferrers has several members on the newly formed joint committee. The grant from the Council was invaluable in funding the maintenance of the wicket.

5. **GRANT APPLICATIONS 2019/20**
To consider the following grant requests for 2019/20: -
 - 5.1. **Higham Ferrers Bowls Club.**
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:
That the Council approve a grant of £3500 to Higham Ferrers Bowls Club for 2019/20 towards the cost of maintenance of the green.
 - 5.2. **Higham Ferrers Cricket Club.**
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:
That the approval of the grant be deferred pending the merger of the clubs and submission of the new constitution and financial documents.
 - 5.3. **Higham Ferrers Tourism**
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:
That the Council agree a grant of up to £1000 towards the cost of putting on outside concerts at Chichele College and entertainment at Santas Grotto.

6. **RUSHDEN-HIGHAM LINK**
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:
That the Council continue the subsidy of the Rushden-Higham bus link for 2019/20 within a budget of £5832.

7. **BUSINESS/FORWARD PLAN**
RESOLVED:
That the circulated report be received and noted. (copy attached)

8. **BUDGETS**
 - 8.1 **To review budgets 2018/19.**
RESOLVED;
That the amendments to the budget for 2018/19 as detailed on the report circulated to Councillors be approved.
 - 8.2. **To consider draft budgets circulated for 2019/2020**
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:
That with the addition of a budget of £2180 to the Verge Cutting income from Northamptonshire County Council, the draft budgets as circulated be approved. (copy attached to the Minutes).

9. **PRECEPT**
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:
That the precept for 2019/20 be £420,000.

10. **TOWN MANAGERS' REPORT**
 - 10.1 **To receive and note the Town Managers' Report.**
RESOLVED
That the Town Mangers' report be received and noted.
 - 10.2 **To agree a local cause for the proceeds of the 'Your Town' run.**
That the proceeds of the entry fees for the 'Your Town' Run be donated to the Higham Ferrers Community Library group.

11. **TRACKER FOR THE VAN**
RESOVED:
That the Council purchase a tracker for the van at a cost of £89.99

12. **CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC AND PRESS
RESOLVED:**
That in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the following items of business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the meeting.
13. **SALE OF 5 & 5A COLLEGE STREET
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**
That the Council incur expenditure on an up-to date valuation on 5 & 5a College Street.
14. **RE-OPEN THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS
RESOLVED:**
That the confidential business having been concluded, the Press and Public be re-admitted to the meeting.
15. **ITEMS TO REPORT**
None.
16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**
12th February 2019

Chairman

Date