

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE OF
EASTWOOD TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 8 JUNE 2009
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, EASTWOOD,
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

Present: Cllr C Robb, Cllr Mrs G Robb, Cllr R Charlesworth, Cllr Hazel Charlesworth, Cllr Mrs J Forrest, Cllr D Bagshaw, Cllr Mrs S Bagshaw, Cllr J Zalewski (substitute for Cllr P Butler),

Also present: Cllr B Griffin, Cllr R Dodge, Cllr J Kenny (attending under paragraph 52 of the Town Council's

#Standing Orders) and three members of the public.

P01/10 ELECTION OF CHAIR

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr C Robb be elected as Chair of the Committee for the ensuing year.

P02/10 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr D Bagshaw be elected Vice Chair of the Committee for the ensuing year.

P03/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr P Butler (holiday) and Cllr K Longdon (on County Council business).

P04/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs R Charlesworth and Mrs J Forrest declared personal interests in agenda item 10 - appointments to Age Concern – in view of their appointment as Trustees to this body. Prior to the commencement of discussion on agenda item number 10, Cllr C Robb also declared a personal interest in this matter in the light of his appointment as a representative of the Town Council to Age Concern.

Cllrs D Bagshaw, Mrs S Bagshaw, B Griffin and J Zalewski all declared a personal interest in agenda item number 7 – Eastwood Town Twinning Association – in view of their previous links and work with the Association.

Prior to consideration of agenda item number 13 – provision of photocopiers – Cllr D Bagshaw declared a prejudicial interest due to his knowledge of the IT Contractor referred to in the report.

P05/10 NOTIFICATIONS OF LOBBYING

No notifications of lobbying were given.

P06/10 RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT 2008/9

The Town Clerk reported that the production of the risk assessment report was an annual requirement of Financial Regulations and he guided Members through the report which contained only marginal amendments to the previous year's report as most known risks had been previously noted.

Members commented that the level of risk on maintenance of buildings could be reduced to low in view of a recent inspection undertaken. With this amendment the report was **NOTED**.

P07/10 EASTWOOD TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION WITH SZOLNOK – FUTURE POLICY

The Town Clerk reported on the background to the establishment of the Association, its previous work and the fact that activity had been somewhat dormant in recent times due to what appeared to be a lack of volunteers in the wider Eastwood community to take the initiative forward. In the circumstances, it was felt appropriate to place this matter before Members for a review of the Town Council's policy.

From her involvement, Cllr Mrs Bagshaw confirmed the past lack of community support for development and reported on efforts that had been made to develop the twinning link with local schools.

Following discussion of the options available, it was: -

RESOLVED

1. That the wish of the Town Council to see the Twinning Association initiative continue and be rejuvenated be **NOTED** and that the Town Council will continue to support the Twinning Association in this respect.
2. That Cllr Mrs S Bagshaw be thanked for her offer to reconvene the Twinning Association (with the help of Cllr R Dodge) and report back to the Council in due course.

P08/10 DRAFT GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

The Town Clerk reported that the Strategy had been produced by Broxtowe Borough Council and circulated to Town and Parish Councils for observations. In terms of local considerations, it was relevant to note that of the site improvement priorities in the Strategy, Eastwood had three sites, Brinsley two with a further three in the mid Broxtowe area. There was an argument, therefore, that the northern half of Broxtowe had more need for development in the context of this Strategy, particularly also bearing in mind the level of deprivation suffered in the Eastwood South Ward. In addition, the Town Council had long viewed Coronation Park as an area in urgent need of capital investment either through direct funding from the Borough Council, through Lottery grants or, if

this was not possible, through more creative schemes such as selling areas of land in order to raise the capital needed.

Members debated their response to the Green Space Strategy bearing in mind the above issues and also the potential for using receipts raised through Section 106 agreements for the benefit of the Eastwood community. Following detailed discussion, it was: -

RESOLVED

1. That Broxtowe Borough Council be urged to rank Coronation Park as the top priority for extensive capital renovation as part of the Green Space Strategy either through direct investment or by other means as referred to above.
2. That, in support of the above, Broxtowe Borough Council be requested to provide information on how Section 106 funds raised from the sale of land at Sunnycroft have been used, clarification be also requested on the number of other development applications lodged in the Eastwood area where Section 106 agreements were involved and also to be advised of any future planning consents granted involving Section 106 agreements.

P09/10 TOWN MAYOR'S AWARDS - CRITERIA

Following discussion on the awards made at the 2009 Annual Meeting, it was felt appropriate to review criteria for granting any future awards. Following discussion, it was: -

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk draft revised criteria for approval at a future meeting, to include: -

- Voluntary work carried out by individual organisations for an agreed period of time specified by the Council which benefits the local community, either by helping people in need or by improving or developing a community group
- Someone in employment who, through extra effort and hard work, has developed an organisation or local activity which provides community benefit and
- A person who has created a respected and successful venture which has brought credit to the Town.

P10/10 APPOINTMENTS TO AGE CONCERN

The Town Clerk reported that Age Concern had asked the Council to reduce its representatives from four to two. In the circumstances, it was **RESOLVED** that Cllrs C Robb and Mrs J Forrest be appointed as the Council representatives on Age Concern.

P11/10 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 68 of the Town Council's Standing Orders it was **RESOLVED** that, in view of the commercially confidential nature of the business to be transacted in the remaining items of business on the agenda, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and that they be instructed to withdraw.

Members of the public present left the chamber.

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

P12/10 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Town Clerk Designate reported on the letter from the Council's bank circulated with the agenda. The bank had now accepted the status of the Council as a non profit making organisation and had agreed therefore to refund bank charges from July 2008. He added that the reduction in interest rates meant that income interest from the bank had also reduced dramatically particularly in the last quarter of 2008/9 and that this situation would inevitably impact on the Council's budget. The report was **NOTED**.

The Town Clerk reported on the significant aspects arising from the Town Council's interim audit of the accounts to 31 March 2009, a copy of which he circulated at the meeting. The detailed report related to balances, the precept, total other receipts, staff costs, other payments and fixed assets and included a full explanation for the variation in figures from the previous year's accounts.

The report was **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** and the Town Council was **RECOMMENDED** to formally adopt the accounts and to authorise the Town Mayor to sign, subject to certification from the Internal Auditor, Mr Barry Woodcock.

P13/10 PROVISION OF PHOTOCOPIERS

At this stage in the Committee's proceedings, Cllr D Bagshaw declared a prejudicial interest for the reasons set out in P04/10 above and, in accordance with this declaration, left the meeting whilst this item of business was conducted.

The Town Clerk Designate reported that the current rental arrangement with Danwood was due to expire towards the end of September 2009. He reported further on the costs of this contract. In the circumstances, two quotes had been sought for the future provision of photocopiers, one involving a rental agreement and the other an outright purchase of equipment from an IT contractor. He reported on the associated costs.

Following discussion of the options, it was **RESOLVED** that a decision on awarding a future contract for the provision of photocopiers be deferred pending the receipt of a third quote.

Cllr D Bagshaw returned to the meeting.

P14/10 PROPOSED COUNCIL OFFICES – TENDERS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION, BUILDING REGULATIONS AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The Town Clerk Designate referred to discussions on this matter at the meeting of the Town Council in April 2009 and referred to the two quotes obtained, the details of which had been circulated to Members with the agenda for the meeting.

Following discussion and careful consideration of the merits of the two quotes it was, on a motion by Cllr R Charlesworth and seconded by Cllr D Bagshaw, and after a show of hands: -

RESOLVED

That the contract be awarded to T E Clegg Building Design Ltd in the sum set out in the letter to the Town Clerk dated 26 May 2009.

Members asked that further discussions be held with the company concerning the holding back of part of the payment pending the final completion of any “snag list” and also that the estate agent acting for the vendors of the former doctors’ surgery be contacted about the state of the drains at the front of the property.

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There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 9.05 pm.