



## MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2014** at 7.00PM

### PF/01 PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor Holcombe

Councillors: Cobleby; Draper; Gill; Ginger; Lyle; Parry; Sheward; Smithers

Officers: Gina Wilding, Town Clerk  
Lucy Jones, Finance Secretary

### PF/02 HEALTH & SAFETY

The Chairman informed Councillors and members of the public of the fire exits, fire assembly point and asked that everyone sign the attendance log.

### PF/03 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kemp.

### PF/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests  
None declared.

#### Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
P. Draper	Annual Core Grant Application	Homestart is the Mayor's Charity

Councillor Ginger pointed out that as the interest was not pecuniary it did not prevent Councillor Draper from taking part in the debate regarding Homestart or from voting on the matter.

Declarations of Personal Interest

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
G. Ginger	Annual Core Grant Application	Contact with Homestart
C. Sheward	Annual Core Grant Application	Contact with Homestart

**PF/05 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)**

There were no members of the public or press present.

**PF/06 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION**

Unitary Councillor Parry, Ludlow South, stated that due to some comments reportedly made by Town Councillors she would only be making statements on Unitary matters to Council in the future. When questioned she agreed that she would still answer direct questions raised at Committee meetings.

**PF/07 MINUTES****RESOLVED (Unanimous) PD/JS**

That the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**PF/08 ITEMS TO ACTION****RESOLVED (Unanimous) NH/PD**

That the Items to Action table be noted.

**PF/09 FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Queries were raised by Members at the meeting and satisfactory answers were received from the Town Clerk.

**RESOLVED (Unanimous) GG/PD**

That the Payments and Income Reports, Barclaycard Statement and Bank Reconciliation for April 2014 be noted.

**PF/10 POLICIES & LEGISLATION**

**RESOLVED (Unanimous) GG/PD**

That legislation and advice from NALC be noted and the Council work towards achieving the recommendations set out in the Local Government Transparency Code.

**PF/11 ALLOTMENTS LEASE**

Councillor Parry asked if the Council could secure further land for allotments as she understood there was now 37 people on the waiting list and other were sharing plots. The Town Clerk stated that this would need to be resolved by Council before she could make investigations.

**RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) GG/VP**

That the terms of the new lease be accepted and the lease be completed.

Councillor Draper left the meeting at 7.25pm

**PF/12 ANNUAL CORE GRANT FUNDING APPLICATION**

Councillor Ginger stated that this was a difficult situation created by Shropshire Council's withdrawal of funding. He agreed that Homestart was a very worthwhile cause but that Ludlow Town Council did not have the means to support the organisation to this extent. He pointed out that it was Homestart Southern Shropshire not just Ludlow and that Bridgnorth Town Council, who are a similar size to Ludlow, had only contributed £500.00.

Councillor Lyle drew Members attention to the fact that this grant had been requested to cover running costs not a specific project and therefore this sum would be required year on year. She suggested that Homestart look further at reducing their costs. Councillor Ginger added that the organisation had already secure £50k of grant funding which put them in a better position than many local organisations.

Councillor Parry stated that Homestart was the Mayor's Charity and would therefore receive additional funding as a result.

**RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) VP/GG**

That Homestart Shropshire South be awarded an Annual Core Budget Grant of £1,000.

Councillor Draper rejoined the meeting at 7.35pm

**PF/13**     **LUDLOW NORTH POLLING STATION**

Councillor Parry stated that as the building at Smithfield car park had now been sold they were not a polling station option for future elections. She understood that Shropshire Council's Returning Officer, Claire Porter was investigating alternative options and had asked for suggestions from Unitary Councillors. Councillor Parry stated that she would pass on any comments from Town Councillors relating to this matter.

**RESOLVED (Unanimous) JS/AC**

That the information be noted.

**PF/14**     **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC: PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960**

The Chairman moved that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business pursuant to section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

**RESOLVED (Unanimous) NH/VP**

That the public be excluded and the meeting continue in closed session.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

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Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

N.B. Closed Session Minutes will be issued.