

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
HELD AT CHASE TERRACE FIRE STATION, RUGELEY ROAD, CHASE TERRACE
ON THURSDAY 22 JANUARY 2015 COMMENCING AT 7.00 P.M.**

PRESENT

Councillor Campbell (in the Chair)
Councillors Ms Brettell, Mrs Evans, Isaacs, James, Mrs Rigby and Mrs Woodward

In attendance

Mrs M Danby, Town Clerk
S Lightfoot, BTS Implementation Officer

29. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None – all Members were present.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None declared.

31. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of a Meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 18 December 2014 (Minute Nos. 25 - 28) be received and approved as a correct record.

32. 2014/15 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE TO DATE AND DRAFT 2015/16 BUDGET (Minute No. 28 refers)

The Committee reviewed each line of the budget report and generally found the forecast end of year income and expenditure to be in line with the 2014/15 budget.

Members were advised that the Council Tax Base had increased slightly on the previous year. Members considered that a 0% increase on the Band D Council Tax should be levied, which in turn would see a decrease in the amount taken from the General Reserve to meet the shortfall on the budgeted expenditure for 2015/16.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL COUNCIL That the 2015/16 Precept be revised to £223,972 be declared on Lichfield District Council at the January 2015 meeting of the Full Council (amended pages 1 and 13 of the draft 2015/16 budget papers will be submitted to the Full Council at the January 2015 meeting).

33. TRIBUTES TO STEPHEN SUTTON MBE

Members were reminded that the Policy & Resources Committee had previously agreed to progress the following tributes to Stephen Sutton MBE during the 2014/15 financial year (Minute No. 24 refers):

- That the Town Council offer a bursary to a young person from Burntwood in the sum of £2,000 (definition/formal arrangements to be agreed, though it was hoped that a member of Stephen's family could be on the Panel).
- That the Young Person of the Year award be renamed the Stephen Sutton Young Person of the Year Award
- That the 4 No. trees (one in each of the town's parks) be planted and that a simple plaque be installed at each site, e.g. "Planted by Burntwood Town Council so that we can see the tree grow in Stephen Sutton's memory".

Bursary

A draft Bursary Scheme and application form was presented for Members consideration and approval.

RESOLVED That the draft Bursary Scheme, with the amendments agreed at the meeting, be approved. **IT WAS FURTHER AGREED** that the inaugural Scheme would be launched in the near future with a closing date of end September 2015, judging to take place during October and the Award(s) presented on, or close to, Stephen's birthday in December 2015.

Young Person of the Year Award

RESOLVED That the change in title of the Award be considered to be implemented with immediate effect at no additional cost to the Town Council.

Trees

See Confidential Minute No. 36.

34. COMMUNITY DIAL A RIDE SERVICE: REVIEW

Members were advised that the Public Transport Access and Traffic Management Working Group (BTS Action Area 3) had met on 16 December 2014 to discuss the Community Dial a Ride service which had been in operation since September 2014 in partnership with Lichfield District Council's (LDC) Community Transport Scheme.

It was noted that to date the service had not been taken up by the people it was aimed at. Passenger trips had been limited, although a reasonable number of people had registered as members of the Scheme.

There had been a discussion on the reasons why the Scheme had not been used by greater numbers of passengers and the group concluded:

- People already have reliable and tested methods of getting to places in Burntwood through the support of friends and family and may register with the Scheme as a back-up.
- The Scheme offers trips exclusively to destinations within the Town and some Scheme members have requested trips further afield.

It had been noted that the Scheme had been enthusiastically promoted using social media, posters and Press Releases as well as by word of mouth and leaflet hand-outs and that discussions had been held with LDC Officers who have been helpful and supportive of the Scheme.

It was also noted that Hammerwich Parish Council had agreed to enter into a trial arrangement to enable residents of that Parish to access the Scheme on the same terms as Burntwood Residents.

Members were advised that income totalling £70 had been received against expenditure of £4,810 to end December 2014.

Members were reminded that the Pilot Scheme had been entered into on a six month trial, i.e. to end February 2015.

RESOLVED THAT:

- a) The Town Council terminate the Scheme at the end of February 2015 as there is no future for the Scheme.
- b) The BTS Action Group 3 (Public Transport Access and Traffic Management) meet to discuss whether an alternative, viable Scheme can be identified for possible implementation in the future.

The Policy & Resources Committee asked that thanks be recorded to the members of the Action Group for all their work in trying to make the Pilot Scheme work.

35. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED That under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meeting) Act 1960 (Section 2) (and as expended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.

36. TRIBUTES TO STEPHEN SUTTON MBE: TREES

Members received an update on the proposed trees to be planted as a tribute to Stephen Sutton MBE.

37. OLD MINING COLLEGE CENTRE

Members received an update on a report being presented at the Full Council meeting on 28 January 2015.

(The Meeting closed at 8.17 p.m.)

Signed

Date