

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE HELD 17 DECEMBER 2019**

**Councillors Present:** Cllr Maggie Allingham, Cllr Ian Corben, Cllr Jim Mitchell, Cllr Cliff Morris, Cllr Derek Pretty (Chairman), Cllr Jane Welsh

**In attendance:** Representatives of the Bowling Club, Representatives of the Girlguiding Association, Representatives of Pavilion Pirates.

**P916 Apologies:** Cllr Keith House, Cllr Patricia Jenkins

**P917 To consider the Minutes of the meeting held 5 November 2019**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2019 be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

**P918 Correspondence**

The Clerk noted that there were three pieces of correspondence from the Baden Powell Hall Management Committee, Pavilion Pirates and the Bowling Club all of which will be dealt with under agenda item 7.

**P919 Budget Setting 2020/21**

Cllr Pretty introduced the report that was previously circulated outlining the proposed budget for 2020/21. Cllr Pretty outlined that it has always been the policy of the council to keep the precept costs at the lower end of the scale nearer the rate of inflation.

Cllr Mitchell raised that previous meetings have discussed the lack of projected incomes that have not met their targets and if this is due to occupancy. The Town Clerk confirmed this is not the case and the centre in question is operating at 80% of the 92 hours available at the most commercial rate.

The committee felt that an increase in the region of 3% would be more appropriate with addressing hire fees and charges to be more commercially viable. Cllr Mitchell noted that any price increase should also reflect the occupancy rates otherwise this is counter productive. On further discussion Cllr Corben proposed that the precept should be 0.5% below RPI. This was seconded by Cllr Pretty with full support of the committee. Based on the past year RPI: Dec 2018 – 2.7%, March 2019 – 2.4%, June 2019 – 2.9%, Sept 2019 – 2.4%, Nov 2019 – 2.2% this would equate to 2.47% increase which has been rounded to 2.5% minus the 0.5% below RPI agreed.

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**RESOLVED: That a draft budget be prepared with 2% increase in precept for the January meeting.**

**P920 Asset Schedule**

Cllr Pretty introduced the report that was previously circulated outlining the proposed changes to the asset schedule. It was noted that this does not unduly affect the recorded assets on the accounts. The clerk also asked for approval to dispose of obsolete and unwanted office equipment and furniture.

**RESOLVED: That the assets for disposal will be offered to the staff and councillors before being offered to the community.**

**P921 Matters for Resolution**

- a) Proposed Parking Enforcement – The Bowling Club asked for clarification on the proposal. The Chair outlined the proposal being considered is to install an ANPR system with a time limit suggested of 4 hours free. The system is operated by an external provider. The Bowling Club have 3 spaces dedicated to them as part of their lease arrangements. Baden Powell Lodge doesn't have any parking arrangements as part of their lease.

Pavilion Pirates asked how this would work for them as they have 11 or more staff and this wouldn't work for them as they are there for 7 hours. They outlined that they do have arrangements with Baden Powell Lodge and are providing considerable benefit to the community.

The vice chair of the Bowling Club put forward a proposal to use the green space as overflow for parking for the Bowling Club.

**RESOLVED: To refer to Recreation and Amenities Committee.**

The secretary of the Bowling Club noted that this was a continuous problem on a Monday. There was appreciation that this is how we have ended up looking at the systems HETC are reviewing but raises concerns that the systems are inaccurate and fine people that have been parked legitimately. He asked if the Town Council would consider removing the option of parking enforcement completely and the Bowling Club would manage the consequences.

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Ross Blair outlined that he was unaware of the rental that took place that jeopardised the position and that the recent incident with SGN which compromised the parking. Ross apologised to the Committee outlining that checks have now been implemented to ensure that the lodge is now only rented for educational purposes as per the clause of the lease.

Cllr Welsh outlined that she had asked the clerk to explore alternatives for parking meters whereby there could be a limited time period and then parking charges per hour after that. The clerk confirmed that this is an option with the provider.

Cllr Corben spoke about his disappointment in that we are now on our third meeting discussing this as it is difficult to find a solution that meets everyone's needs. Parking really is an issue for everyone, and car park owners need to find a solution that works for everyone. Whilst the Town Council sympathises with the users, we are in a position that we need to do something.

Cllr Welsh also reminded the group that the care home in pavilion road that doesn't have sufficient spaces and this needs to be a future consideration.

Cllr Mitchell was uncomfortable with the proposal.

Cllr Morris would like to see the agreement between Baden Powell Lodge and Pavilion Pirates. He felt it was a stretch to describe the SGN hire as an educational hire.

Cllr Pretty summed up the proposals and suggested a way forward might be to meet in the new year with the users of the area.

**RESOLVED: To defer the decision with a view to contact the users of the Woodhouse Lane Car Park to arrange a site meeting in the new year.**

Cllr Morris declared his profession as a lawyer and the reason HETC have taken the length of time to discuss and consider these proposals is to ensure that the concerns that have been raised are being addressed.

- b) Lease arrangements for Baden Powell Lodge – Ross Blair noted that he had not had an opportunity to look at the lease to date as it was not made available to him. Cllr Morris outlined that as a Council we could not allow for a tenant underneath the lease to have a sub lease.

Cllr Corben asked about money changing hands between the pre-school and Baden Powell Lodge. Ross confirmed the he is unaware of what arrangement this is by, but they do pay for use of the hall.

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Cllr Corben asked if we had been collecting the rent. The Town Clerk confirmed that no rent had been collected. Cllr Corben was concerned that we hadn't truly represented the council taxpayer in collecting the rent since the lease was in put in place.

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There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:41 hours.