

MINUTES OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2015

PRESENT: Cllr. Goodchild (in the Chair), Cllrs. Bunyan, Clifford,  
Holmes, Rook, Swann and Veitch

Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying:  
Members are required to declare any interests, dispensations, predetermination or lobbying on items on this agenda. Members are reminded that changes to the Register of Interests should be notified to the Clerk.

**13/15:** Cllr. Swann and Goodchild confirmed that they had carried out the internal check of the accounts for May and everything was in order.

**14/15:** A list of payments made after the June meeting, is filed with these minutes.

Cllr. Bunyan informed Members that the payment made to DHA Planning Ltd would be refunded. We had met with David Bedford from DHA and although they would be happy to help us with the Gladman Appeal it became apparent during the discussion that there was a conflict of interest in that they are acting for an appellant in an appeal at Hawkhurst and also were submitting an application for land adj Cobnut Close in Sissinghurst. Mr. Bedford was very helpful and was going to recommend other companies who might be able to act for us. Cllr. Smith had also attended the meeting.

In response to Cllr. Clifford, she confirmed that there is no immediate deadline as Gladman have submitted a second application and it is likely the Inspector would wait until a decision had been made and if refused, whether Gladman make a second appeal. She confirmed that the application for the land adj. Cobnut Close was likely to be small market housing.

**15/15:** Cheques for July were signed for payment as per the list filed with these minutes. It was proposed by Cllr. Rook, seconded by Cllr. Bunyan and agreed to authorise payment of the cheques as presented.

These included:

Policy and Resources	7,291.16
Burial and Properties	6,132.48
Environmental Management	899.00
Total	£14,322.64

**16/15:** Section 137:

a) An application had been received from the Cranbrook Primary School PTA for a grant of £200 for prizes and a water station for the Cranbrook 5K and 10K race on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Goodchild, seconded by Cllr. Rook and agreed to award £200 to the PTA for this community event.

b) A letter had been received from Victim Support to request support in this financial year 2015/2016 towards their work with victims of crime in the community and witnesses in court. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Goodchild, seconded by Cllr. Veitch and agreed not to award funds but to wish them well with their fundraising.

**17/15: Welfare Centre – Emergency Planning:**

The Clerk informed Members that we had received a request from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to use the Vestry Hall as a Welfare Centre Venue which is a venue set up to provide temporary shelter for small to medium numbers of displaced people at short notice. It may include overnight facilities and can provide basic care for up to 48 hours. In the event of the facility being used in the response to an emergency all reasonable costs will be fully met by the local authority, therefore the owners of the venue will not be left out of pocket. After a full discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Rook, seconded by Cllr. Veitch and agreed that the Vestry Hall could be used as a Welfare Centre Venue in an emergency.

**18/15: Restructure of Committees:**

Cllr. Holmes informed the Committee that he was in the process of collating information on the details of each individual committee. He had not yet met the Clerk as agreed at the last meeting. Responding to Cllr. Veitch, he confirmed that he had looked at the various structures of other parishes but they were usually smaller parishes and therefore not particularly relevant. A general discussion took place which included looking at a list of the actual responsibilities of the Council, marketing and promotion of the Parish Council, publicising our achievements, expanding the list of email contacts, putting a “be in the know” sign up in the next Newsletter, inviting all other parish councillors to come forward with ideas for restructuring the committees, looking at our roles and issues which perhaps were not part of our statutory duties. It was agreed that a useful list of “what can local councils do” was contained in “the good councillor’s guide” which had been part of the pack handed out to all councillors at the first meeting in May.

**19/15: Items for Information:**

a) Cllr. Holmes reminded Members that the Parish Council had been invited to the Museum on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 7 p m.

b) Cllr. Veitch informed Members that she was still trying to find a VAT specialist who has knowledge of parish councils with regard to the community centre.

c) The Clerk tabled a plan of a proposed cycle route being put forward by the Borough Council as part of their strategy. Bartholomew Wren is the key officer and he would like to come to meet the Committee to discuss. She would invite him to present his proposal to the next Policy & Resources Committee.

