

**A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD
WAS HELD ON 26 JUNE 2013**

The Mayor (Councillor Beavis) (P) (ex-officio) (P), Burgess (P), Chegwyn (P), Carter CR (P), Hook (Chairman) (P), Lane (P), Langdon (P), Philpott (P), Ronayne (P) and Wright (P).

6. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies received.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Chegwyn declared a pecuniary interest in item 9 on the agenda (Gosfest Gosport Community Festival).

8. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE BOARD HELD ON 13 MARCH AND 16 MAY 2013

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings of the Policy and Organisation Board held on 13 March and 16 May 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as true and correct records.

9. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

10. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions

PART I

11. CIVIC AND COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS

Consideration was given to a report by the Community and Customer Services Manager which advised the Board of the proposals for Civic and Commemorative events for the next 18 months.

Members were advised of the following updates to the report:

- World War II to be commemorated at St Ann's Hill on the date closest to the 6th June
- The Flag Hoisting ceremony for Armed Forces week took place on Monday 24th June.
- 33 Field Hospital Parade is due to take place in Gosport High Street on Wednesday 30th October at 10.45am

It was suggested that an event be organised at Hardway slipway to mark the 70th Anniversary of D Day.

It was agreed that page 8/3 of the report regarding the 100th Anniversary of the Commencement of World War 1 be amended to read "commemorated" not "celebrated".

A Member asked for clarification as to whether people would be advised as to the reasons that the planting of poppies at Alver Valley had occurred.

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It was suggested that the commemoration at Alver Valley be changed from Monday 4th August to possibly the Sunday 3rd August to enable more participation and Members were advised that discussions were ongoing with the Armed Forces champion (Councillor Kimber).

RESOLVED: that

- a) the proposed Civic and Commemorative event programme be noted; and
- b) a recommendation be made to an extraordinary meeting of Full Council that Mr Alex Thomson be given the Freedom of the Borough.

PART II

12. GOSPORT VOLUNTARY ACTION

Consideration was given to a presentation by David Miles, Chief Executive of Gosport Voluntary Action (GVA) updating the Board on the Business Plan for 2013-16. (A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes as Appendix A).

Members acknowledged the contribution that GVA made and the work that has been involved to assist the Voluntary Sector and residents of Gosport.

Further to a question from a Member, it was confirmed that the figures for the number of volunteers placed in the volunteer centre (167) to the number of unemployed volunteers (68) were separate accounts.

Members were advised that the GVA newsletter was distributed to 300 organisations and that an alternative method to communicate the newsletter, perhaps using email was being investigated however, it was acknowledged that some groups do not have the benefit of IT access and that some people have less understanding of computers.

Mr Miles was thanked for his comprehensive presentation.

13. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND CAPITAL STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report by the Borough Treasurer which asked Members to consider the updated Medium Term Financial and Capital Strategies.

Members were advised that the spending review had been announced today although the exact expenditure plans for 2015/16 were currently unknown and that more amendments to the strategy may be necessary as the finalised figures become clearer.

RESOLVED: That the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Capital Strategy, as contained in the report of the Borough Treasurer, be approved.

14. GOSFEST (GOSPORT COMMUNITY FESTIVAL)

Councillor Chegwyn declared a pecuniary interest in this item and left the meeting room and took no part in discussion or the voting thereon.

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Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive which advised Members of a request for assistance from Gosport Festivals Limited who were organising a music event for the period 23rd August – 26th August 2013.

Members were advised that Mr Cobb, Director of Gosport Festivals Limited had approached Gosport Borough Council to ask for the hiring fee and the reinstatement deposit at Walpole Park be waived.

Members were advised that Gosport Festivals Limited had indicated that any reinstatement works that were required after the event would be carried out and that a contract agreement would be in place detailing the responsibility of the reinstatement works.

It was further advised that Gosport Festival Limited were a new company formed to continue the annual event and believes that the event will attract a large footfall. It was also confirmed that Gosport Festival Limited, hoped that they would not seek support funding at next years annual event.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the waiving of the hiring fee and requirement for a reinstatement deposit for Walpole Park for the period Monday 19th August 2013 to Wednesday 26th August inclusive be approved; and
- b) the Council enter into a licence agreement with Gosport Festivals Limited on terms agreed by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Borough Solicitor.

15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

STAFF REMUNERATION

Consideration was given to a report proposing the Board to grant a 1% increase to staff salaries from 1st April 2013.

Members were advised that due to National negotiations Council staff had not received a pay rise in the last three years.

It was further advised that although staffing at the Town Hall had been reduced considerably, services had been maintained and capital projects delivered.

Members supported the report unanimously and praised the efforts of staff and commented on how everyone was continuing to work so hard.

RESOLVED: That an increase of 1% to all staff salaries from 1st April 2013 be approved.

The meeting ended at 7.07pm

CHAIRMAN