

**A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD
WAS HELD ON 19 MARCH 2014**

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

26. APOLOGIES

An apology for inability to attend the meeting was received from The Mayor.

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hook declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 6, High Street Improvements.

Councillor C R Carter declared a non pecuniary interest in agenda item 8. He advised he was a representative on the Gosport Community Association board of trustees, a non-voting position.

Councillor Lane declared a non pecuniary interest in agenda item 8. He advised he and his family had been involved with Gosport Community Association for 32 years.

28. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2013

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Organisation Board held on 25 September 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

29. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

30. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART II

31. HIGH STREET IMPROVEMENTS

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

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Executive requesting the Policy and Organisation Board agree a financial contribution that would enable delivery of a comprehensive scheme of High Street improvements in Gosport Town Centre.

The Head of Economic Prosperity Tourism and Culture clarified that the number of seats in the proposal would be similar to existing levels.

RESOLVED: That approval be given to a supplementary capital estimate of £60,540 to enable the delivery of the scheme of works detailed at Section 2 of the report of the Chief Executive.

32. ERNST YOUNG - ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2012/13

Consideration was given the report of the Borough Treasurer seeking approval of the Annual Audit Letter for 2012/13.

Members expressed their gratitude for the level of work all Council Officers had undertaken that had resulted in such a positive report.

RESOLVED: That approval be given to the Annual Audit Letter for 2012/13.

33. GOSPORT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Councillor C R Carter declared a non pecuniary interest in this item. He advised he was a representative on the Gosport Community Association board of trustees, a non-voting position. He remained in the room and took part in the discussions and voting thereon.

Councillor Lane declared a non pecuniary interest in this item. He advised that he and his family had been involved with Gosport Community Association for 32 years. He remained in the room and took part in the discussions and voting thereon.

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive requesting approval for a financial contribution of £5,500 to Gosport Community Association (the 'Association').

Further to a Member's question, it was clarified that the funding requested was for a one off contribution to Gosport Community Association by Gosport Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That approval be given to a financial contribution of £5,500 to Gosport Community Association to assist with the restructuring of the Association.

34. COCKLE PONDS, WALPOLE PARK

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive advising the Board of works required to the Cockle Ponds in Walpole Park and requesting that funding be made available to finance the works.

The Chief Executive advised the Board that sediment in the Cockle Ponds had been an ongoing problem resulting in many complaints from members of the public. He advised that there had been several attempts to resolve the issues and it was hoped that, subject to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) licence, a drain down of the water and reinstatement of the water level could be undertaken in readiness for the Gosport Model Yacht Club's Summer Regatta.

Further to a Member's question the Chief Executive confirmed that it was believed that the main cause of the foul smelling sediment was due to feeding bread to the resident swans. In addition, the Chief Executive advised that further to discussions

Policy and Organisation Board
19 March 2014

with Natural England, the belief was that signage would be erected to encourage visitors to feed the swans their natural diet of corn.

The Board was provided with a further explanation of future maintenance planned, reducing sediment build up by cleaning the pipes joining the ponds twice annually, erecting signage to encourage appropriate feeding and the installation of an island for breeding swans.

The Chief Executive advised that engineers would monitor the footpath repairs and a report of their findings would be brought to the Board at a future date.

RESOLVED: That the Board:

- a) note the proposed works as outlined in the report of the Chief Executive that need to be undertaken; and that
- b) approve a supplementary estimate to the Capital Programme of £87,000 to provide the total sum of £136,900 to execute the works as outlined in Section 3 of the report of the Chief Executive.

35. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no other items.

36. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That in relation to the following item the public be excluded from the meeting, as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during these items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the report.

37. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SHARED PARTNERSHIP

Consideration was given to an exempt report of the Chief Executive in respect of the Environmental Health Shared Partnership.

RESOLVED: That approval be given to the recommendations in the exempt report of the Chief Executive.

The meeting ended at 19:07

CHAIRMAN