

**MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY**  
**21 OCTOBER 2015**

**Present:** Councillor Mrs Wilson (Chairman), and  
Councillors Mrs Blackmore, Brice, Cox, Garland,  
Mrs Joy, McKay, D Mortimer, Munford, Naghi,  
Mrs Ring, Ross, Round, Sargeant and  
Mrs Stockell

72. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Chittenden and McLoughlin.

73. NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was noted that Councillor D Mortimer was substituting for Councillor Chittenden. Councillor Mrs Ring was substituting for Councillor McLoughlin.

74. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

75. NOTIFICATION OF VISITING MEMBERS

There were no Visiting Members.

76. DISCLOSURES BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no disclosures from Members and Officers.

77. DISCLOSURES OF LOBBYING

There were no disclosures of lobbying.

78. EXEMPT ITEMS

**RESOLVED:** That the items on Part II of the agenda be taken in private as proposed.

79. MINUTES OF THE MEETING (PART I) HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2015

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes (Part I) of the meeting held on 23 September 2015 be approved as a correct record subject to the following:-

In relation to Item 56 - Urgent Decision Referral from Strategic Planning,

Sustainability and Transportation Committee 8/9/15: Landscapes of Local Value

Paragraph 7 should read:-

Members were reminded that in the Maidstone Borough Wide Local Plan 2000 only a proportion of the Low Weald was actually designated, largely centred on the east of the Borough, including Headcorn but not stretching as far as Staplehurst or **Marden** (with the exception of a small area immediately east of Staplehurst unconnected to any other part of the Low Weald SLA).

80. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were no petitions.

81. QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (IF ANY)

It was noted that no questions had been received from members of the public.

82. REFERENCE FROM HERITAGE, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE - DESTINATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Committee considered the Reference from Heritage, Culture and Leisure Committee which requested that the nominations already received from Policy and Resources Committee be confirmed.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) That the following Members be nominated as representatives for the specific Destination Management Plan (DMP) Task and Finish Groups:-

Group One: River – Councillors Naghi and Paine

Group Two: Town – Councillors Mrs Joy and Paine

Group Three: Events – Councillors Naghi and Round

Group Four: Countryside – Councillor Perry

- 2) That Officers report back to the next meeting of this Committee more details on the methodology to be used for selection on the Task and Finish Groups.

Voting: For: 15 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

83. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF MID KENT REVENUES AND BENEFITS - COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2016/2017

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Mid Kent Revenues and Benefits which related to the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme to be applied during 2016/17.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) That having noted the potential impact on claimants including those with disabilities, carers and other working age groups, **the Committee recommends to Council** that the Council Tax Reduction Scheme be maintained from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 at its current level;
- 2) That the Director of Environment and Shared Services be given delegated authority to make such technical changes as are necessary to maintain the effective operation of the scheme; and
- 3) That the Council contributes towards the planned county wide review of the scheme and alternative schemes to be implemented for 2017/18 and request a further report on progress of the review in March 2016.

Voting: For: 15 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

84. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF FINANCE AND RESOURCES - DISPOSAL OF LAND AT PARKWOOD PARADE

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Finance and Resources which related to an approach by Golding Homes to purchase areas of open space land at Parkwood Parade in order to facilitate Phase 3 of the redevelopment of social housing in Parkwood.

Members expressed concern about whether the Council would be getting value for money and requested that some provision be put into the agreement to safeguard the Council's position.

**RESOLVED:** That the disposal of the open space land hatched on the plan attached to the report of the Head of Finance and Resources be agreed subject to delegated powers being given to the Officer to negotiate with Golding Homes on the agreement in the terms requested by Members.

Voting: For: 15 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

85. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND SHARED SERVICES - MAIDSTONE LEISURE CENTRE SOLAR MICROGENERATION

Councillor Mrs Wilson left the meeting temporarily and Councillor Mrs Blackmore took the chair for this item.

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Environment and Shared Services which related to the installation of a solar microgeneration system at Maidstone Leisure Centre.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) That the installation of a solar microgeneration system (solar panels) at Maidstone Leisure Centre be approved;
- 2) That a budget of up to £270,000 is made available for the delivery of the project;
- 3) That Officers be instructed to obtain the necessary permissions and licences to implement the recommendations, including registration for Feed in Tariff; sale or export of electricity; and appropriate agreements with the District Network Operator; and to assign those permissions and licences as appropriate; and
- 4) That delegated authority be given to the Head of Commercial and Economic Development, in consultation with the Head of Legal Partnership, to enter into and conclude negotiations with Maidstone Leisure Trust and Serco regarding their purpose of the electricity generated.

Voting: 14 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

**PART II**

86. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING

**RESOLVED:** That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business because of the likely disclosure of exempt information for the reason specified having applied the Public Interest Test:

**Head of Schedule 12A and Brief Description**

Minutes (Part II) of the meeting held on 23 September 2015	Paragraph 3 – Info re financial/business affairs
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87. MINUTES OF THE MEETING (PART II) HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2015

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes (Part II) of the meeting held on 23 September 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed.

88. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND SHARED SERVICES - PLANNING SUPPORT SHARED SERVICE

The Committee considered the exempt report of the Director of Environment and Shared Services which related to the factors that would form the basis of the decision making at the co-located meeting on

5 November and the background information.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) That the factors as set out in the exempt report of the Director of Environment and Shared Services that will form the basis of the decision making at the co-located meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> November be agreed; and
- 2) That bullet point 2 of paragraph 3.1 of the available options be identified as the preferred option.

Voting: For: 15 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

89. DURATION OF MEETING

6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.