

HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 6 MAY 2014 AT 7.30 PM

At Heathfield Community Centre

PRESENT: Mr Baker, Mr Bowdler, Ms Bowdler, Mr Coffey, Mr Hough and Mr Woodhouse. Mr Ridley and District Councillor Cade were also present.

The Clerk was in attendance.

11/14 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies of absence had been received from Mr Hart, Mr Landreth and Mr Taylor.

12/14 **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

There were none.

13/14 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2014, having been previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

14/14 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were none. It was noted that the Council's website currently did not show information about the BD Committee and the Clerk explained that the new site was in the process of being populated.

15/14 **LEGAL ADVICE**

Following the legal advice meeting held on 16 April 2014, the Chairman reported that it had been confirmed that there was no need for a company to be formed straightaway as much could be achieved without.

16/14 **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

Members of the Committee were encouraged to put forward ideas for discussion. Discussion ensued on such topics as devolved powers, affordable housing and housing for the homeless, renewable energy, natural resources, provision of health and social care services and provision of shared services such as admin, dog/traffic warden.

In terms of capital funding, it was noted that PWLB funds were only available to the Parish Council. However, alternative funding opportunities might be available through the Heathfield Partnership as a registered Charity.

The importance of working in partnership with other tiers of local government and other agencies and organisations was acknowledged, also the need to engage with the community at an early stage to demonstrate support for initiatives.

The Clerk advised that with regard to use of the office building and/or review of staffing resources, this was a matter for the FGP Committee.

17/14 **NEXT STEPS**

It was agreed that Mr Leggo from SALC be asked to a meeting to give details about existing uses of the GPC elsewhere, possible shared services with other parishes and affordable housing. Note for Members: The process for obtaining PWLB borrowing is fairly straightforward and the relevant guidance/forms have been downloaded for use when required.

It was agreed that the next meeting (30th June 2014) should include an Open Forum to which representatives of the Heathfield Partnership and Chamber of Trade would be invited to enable a full exchange of ideas and information.

It was agreed that District Councillor Cade be invited to become a non-voting member of the Committee at the next meeting.

18/14 **CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 SECTION 27 – TO CONSIDER EFFECTS (IF ANY) ARISING FROM ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were none at this time.

19/14 **MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED**

None received.

20/14 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

There were no risk management implications arising from matters discussed at the meeting.

21/14 **DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held in the Parish Council Offices at 7.30 pm on the 30 June 2014.

The Meeting closed at 9.18 p.m.

Signed:

Chairman

Dated: