

14 APRIL 2014

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 14 April 2014.

p Cllr G C Beck (Chairman)
ap Cllr W H Dow (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

p Mrs S V Beeton
p S J Clarke
p J D Heron
p A N G Kilgour
p Mrs A E McEvoy
p Mrs M McLean
ap J Penwarden

Councillors:

p L R Puttock
p R F Scrivens
p S S Wade
p Mrs C V Ward
p P R Woods
p Mrs P A Wyeth

Councillors:

Cllrs E Heron and B Rickman

Officers Attending:

Miss G O'Rourke, Mrs M Sandhu and Ms M Stephens.

Also in attendance:

Mr A Pope and Mrs D Wyatt

36. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2014 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No declarations of interest were made by members in connection with an agenda item.

38. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Mrs Wyatt addressed the Committee on the review of polling districts and polling places in the District, and presented the Chairman with two related petitions, which supported the retention of polling stations in the District, including the station at Calshot. She asked that these be discussed at full Council. The number of sigatories on each of the petitions totalled 37 and 60 respectively.

Mrs Wyatt also made reference to the Electoral Review which had been discussed by the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Panel and the Cabinet, and spoke in support of the recommendation to the Council not to proceed with a review.

39. STAFF PAY AWARD FOR 2014 (REPORT A).

Mr Pope addressed the Committee and asked the Council to consider paying all council employees the living wage.

The Committee considered a proposal in relation to the employee pay award (cost of living rise) for 2014.

It was noted that the Council had moved to national pay negotiations from 1 April 2008, after an employee side ballot. The national pay negotiations in 2010, 2011 and 2012 resulted in no cost of living rise. In 2013, the Council made a decision to award 1% on all pay points from 1 April 2013, ahead of the national pay award which was later agreed at 1%.

The national pay negotiations commenced on 5 November 2013, where the Trade Union Side formally tabled their detailed pay claim for 2014 for "a minimum increase of £1 an hour on scale point 5 to achieve the living wage and the same flat rate increase on all other scale points".

On 20 March 2014, the national employers offered a 1% pay increase plus lump sum increases at the bottom of the national pay scale. Trade Unions were currently consulting their members on this offer. The national pay negotiations would therefore continue for some time.

Within the context of the national negotiations and the continuing pressure on individuals' disposable incomes, it was proposed that a pay award of 1% across all of the Council's spines be implemented from 1 April 2014. As the Council was on a local pay scale any lump sum increase might distort the Council's pay structure.

Should the national settlement be more than 1%, any additional award would be paid to bring the increase in line with the national settlement.

The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan had provision for a 1% increase to all pay points, the total cost of which was estimated to be £260,000.

RECOMMENDED:

That a 1% pay award across all pay points be agreed and implemented from 1 April 2014 in advance of the national pay negotiations.

CHAIRMAN