

LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk : Mrs M L Addis B.A. (Hons)
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Long Ashton
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Attn. Mr A Thornell
B&NES, Pensions Section
P O Box 9, Floor 3 South
Riverside, Temple Street
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22nd May 1998

Dear Sirs,

PENSION POLICY

I am able to confirm that at a Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting the Committee considered pension policy and took the following resolutions and then Appendix A to H were approved by the Council on 18th May.

Extract from F&GP minutes - 27.4.98

It was RESOLVED nem con: that the following recommendations should be made, on the discretion's notified, to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Discretion A

Regulation 15 - To reduce or waive employee contributions for those with 40 or more years' local government membership.

It was RESOLVED:-

the Council is not prepared to waive an employee's pension contributions when he/she has achieved 40 years local government membership of the local government pension scheme and is unable to accrue additional pensionable service, however should the employee continue in employment beyond the age of 60, contributions would be reinstated where further service could be accrued to a maximum of 45 years at age 65.

Discretion B

Regulation 31 - Permitting the early release of pension benefits of members who leave voluntarily between the ages of 50 - 59.

It is RESOLVED that:

applications for early release of benefits from employees between the ages of 50 to 59 inclusive will be accepted in cases where it can be demonstrated as being in the Council's best interests.

The Council has no intention to make general use of the discretionary power to grant early release of benefits on compassionate grounds but may wish to consider its use in exceptional cases in the future.

In either cases where the early release of pension benefits is approved, actuarial abatement will be applied to the pension benefits if the sum of the employee's age and pensionable service is less than 85 years.

*Ray Addis
26/5/98
agreed that
cost per month
is reduced
if they will
abandon formally*

Discretion C

Regulation 52 - The ability to grant additional service to members leaving local government employment at or after age 50.

It was RESOLVED that:

the Council notes the new discretion to augment an employee's pension benefits on retirement but has no intention to make general use of this discretionary power but may wish to consider its use in exceptional cases in the future.

Discretion D

Regulation 53 - The ability to grant additional service to members within 6 months of joining the Scheme.

It was RESOLVED that:

the Council has no intention to make general use of the discretionary power to augment an employee's service within 6 months of joining the scheme but may wish to consider its use in exceptional cases in the future.

Discretion E

Regulation 67 - A shared cost additional voluntary contribution (SCAVC) arrangement.

It was RESOLVED that:

the Council does not intend to set up a Shared Cost AVC scheme in the foreseeable future.

Discretion F

Regulation 9 – Provision of widowers' pensions in respect of service between 1972 – 1988.

It was RESOLVED that:

for the purposes of Paragraph 9 of the above Regulations the service of married female members from 1 April 1972 to 5 April 1988 which is covered by an election will be treated as service to be used in determining the amount of a widower's pension. The Council also agrees to accept late elections from any eligible female member. It will be assumed that such female employees will wish to elect unless they notify the Council to the contrary.

Discretion G

Regulation 21 of Schedule 3 - To no longer withhold spouse's pensions on remarriage or cohabitation

It was noted that a resolution to no longer withhold spouse's pensions has been passed by Bath & North East Somerset Council as the Administering Authority.

Discretion H

Regulation 109 - Abatement of earnings for local government pensioners re-employed in local government or related service.

It was RESOLVED:- that this Administering Authority discretion, already taken by Bath & North East Somerset Council, be noted.

Yours sincerely,



M L Addis