

PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee was held at the Sports Pavillion on Thursday, 15th June 2006 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Mr I Kiverstein (Chairman)
Mrs H Black
Mrs C Barnett
Mrs J Botting

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Mrs H Black declared her interest as Chairman of the Village Hall Trustees should any issue arise relating to this building.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th April 2006 be received and signed.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Appointment of Parish Clerk

The Chairman reported that Mrs Lesley Hoff had been appointed as the new Parish Clerk and would take up the post on Monday, 10th July 2006. The Committee agreed a vote of thanks to Mrs Jean Radley for stepping in as locum parish clerk.

4.2 Rental Records

The Chairman referred to Minute 4(b) regarding rents from the nine organisations who use the Sports & Social Club and, reported that a comprehensive record had now been adopted. However, there was still the issue of the Bowling Club lease to be completed.

4.3 Street Cleansing/Sweeping

The Clerk was asked to pursue with Horsham District Council their programme of street cleansing and sweeping in the parish.

4.4 Litter Pickers

The Clerk reported that no action had been taken regarding advertising for two Litter Pickers and was asked to prepare and place adverts in the local shops, the Village Hall Office and on the noticeboards.

5. Public Speaking

There were no public speakers.

6. EDF Energy – Street Lighting Works

The Committee considered the recommendation of the Planning & Services Committee and accepted that the schemes for London Road-Sopers Hill, The Twitten and Monkey Hill/Rectory Lane should be

approved. However, in order that the remaining three schemes listed by EDF Energy should not be overlooked in the future, it was agreed that they should be include on the 'Wish List' as upgrade schemes and two new schemes added for new lamps on the footpath off Link Drive (near No. 11 The Moat) and off New Place Road. The Chairman suggested that the new schemes might be considered for Section 106 funding.

RESOLVED: that EDF Energy be instructed to proceed with the three upgrading schemes mentioned above at a total cost of approximately £875.65p + VAT.

7. Sports and Social Club – Insurance

The Committee considered the recommendation of the Recreation & Open Spaces Committee that insurance cover should be combined to cover the whole of the Sports & Social Club & Pavillion building and the Bowling Club's buildings and the cost of cover apportioned to the different users. However, as there was some question as to whether the Parish Council was responsible for the Bowling Club's buildings and, because there were a number of other issues relating to grounds maintenance and water charges that needed to be clarified in order to proceed with drawing up the lease renewal, it was felt that inviting a valuation for the insurance should be deferred.

RESOLVED: that the position be noted and that this item be included on the agenda of the Committee for the next meeting.

8. Multi-Sports Facility (MSF)

The Committee noted that the Recreation & Open Spaces Committee had agreed that a charge of £2 for children should be advertised in the Newsletter for the summer months of July and August. Also, the Committee was being asked to approve the purchase of disclaimer notices for the MSF similar to those displayed at the Sports & Social Club.

Members agreed that the disclaimer notices should be purchased and advised the Clerk to approach Storrington Signs.

RESOLVED: that the purchase of 4 Disclaimer Signs be approved.

9. Playground Equipment Inspection Report

The Committee accepted the recommendation of the Recreation & Open Spaces that Priority 1 work should be carried out but noted that costings had not been provided.

Reference was made to the damaged litter bin identified in the report and the Clerk agreed to report this and the damaged litter bin at the top of Potts Lane to Horsham District Council.

RESOLVED: that the Priority 1 work at the children's play area at Rectory Close be accepted, in principle, subject to costs being obtained and approved by the Chairman.

10. Purchase of Goal Posts

The Committee agreed that there was funding set aside for the purchase of the goal posts, for which the Chairman of the Council, Mrs Jan Botting had agreed to take delivery, as she was already in possession of two sets of nets.

It was reported also that the nets were clipped with plastic ties and that some of these had been cut on the goal posts at the recreation ground. The Clerk agreed to supply the Groundsman with replacements.

RESOLVED: that the purchase of one set of goal posts for the Stane Street Play Area at an approximate cost of £390, be approved.

11. Provision of Seating in the Parish

The Committee noted that the purchase of three benches for the parish was being recommended by the Recreation & Open Spaces Committee as the fourth was to be provided by Bloor Homes as a condition of the planning permission for the Swan Corner Development.

The Clerk reported, at the suggestion of the Recreation & Open Spaces Committee that the fourth bench should be sited at the car park by Swan Bridge in Coldwaltham Parish. An application had been made to Coldwaltham Parish and they had responded that consideration would be given to the suggestion on 20th July 2006. However they were in receipt of another request from Pulborough Partnership to tidy the site.

RESOLVED: that the purchase of three black metal benches at an approximate cost of £499 + VAT each, be approved.

12. Land Adjacent to the Sports & Social Club Car Park

The Committee noted that the tree on the land adjacent had been tidied by Rupert Cleaver and that Mr David Boulton had offered to clear the site to enable additional parking to take place during the summer.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council meet the cost of providing a skip for the disposal of the rubbish from the site to be carried out by Mr D Boulton.

13. Horsham District Community Partnership (HDCP)

The Committee received and noted the priority projects of the HDCP.

14. Wish List 2006/07

The Committee considered the amended Wish List identifying projects the Parish Council would like to see progressed.

The Chairman was of the view that the list should identify those schemes to be reported to Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council to be included in their Blue Books for potential Section 106 funding and those that the Parish Council will undertake.

It was agreed that the acquisition of benches and hanging baskets should be removed from the Wish List and priority be given to obtaining quotes for the replacement of outside doors at the Sports Pavillion and a street light on the corner of the Sports & Social Club car park.

Mrs C Barnett reported an incident of a driver entering the car park too fast and, as there were two public rights of way across the entrance onto the car park, suggested that hatching should be put in place. The Clerk agreed to include this in the Wish List for the County Council.

Reference was made to the Masons Way play area and the need to provide equipment for the slightly older children. Perhaps install a larger swing and climbing frame. Mrs Barnett felt this could be achieved by resiting the bench, removing the row of conifers and clearing the small extension to the play area.

The Committee noted that a response had been received from the Charity Commission stating that the Nutbourne Recreation land was registered in 1978 and that it had been endowed to the parish.

Members also noted that notification had been received from Horsham District Council about a big Lottery Fund called Launch of Breathing Places and it was felt that the Nutbourne Recreation Ground might be eligible. However, an estimate of the work would have to be obtained to clear the area and it was suggested that the Clerk obtained quotations from Mr Jeff Budd and Storrington Sawmills.

RESOLVED: that the Wish List be amended in accordance with the above and;

1. a report be obtained from Ash Reid Design Limited for the upgrading of Masons Way Play Area; and
2. Nutbourne Recreation Ground improvements be included on the Wish List and included in list of schemes to be reported to Horsham District Council.

15. PAYMENTS

RESOLVED: that the following payments be authorised and cheques drawn:

Mr H Barrett	£78.73
Viking Direct	£164.27
J Randall	£450.03
Harwoods	£34.33
Cleaver Tree Surgery	£141.00
EDF Energy	£189.54

16. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

There were no District or County Councillors present.

17. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

17.1 Bowling Green Maintenance

The Chairman reported his meeting with Mr J Randall, the contractor for the maintenance of the bowling green and that he had been provided with a breakdown of the annual costs. Of which, more than half was for the provision of chemicals and fertiliser.

The Committee felt the Parish Council was heavily subsidising the Bowling Club by meeting this cost and the water rates. Members agreed, therefore, that a meeting should be arranged with representatives of the Bowling Club to discuss these issues.

17.2 Candela Consulting

The Committee received and noted that the Parish Council's Accountant, Mrs Maria Hearn had currently been charging a reduced rate of £10.00 per hour for her services and that these would increase to £12.50p per hour on 1st July and her normal rate of £15.00p per hour on 1st October.

Members felt that she did an excellent job and accepted the revised charges.

18. URGENT MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

Mrs J. Botting asked that the County Highways be informed of holes in the road at Pickhurst Lane and near Keepers Cottage.

The Meeting closed at 9. 20 pm

..... Chairman

..... Date