

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 13th November 2008 AT THE SPORTS PAVILION

PRESENT: Cllr. Kiverstein (Chairman), Cllrs. Mrs Black. Mrs Barnett, Mrs Botting (from 7.46pm), Ellis and Jolliffe.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Clarke and Lesley Hoff (Clerk)

The meeting opened at 7.45pm

42. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Quested and Mrs Roberts. Cllr Mrs Botting sent an apology, advising she would be late.

43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

44. MINUTES

The Committee then **RESOLVED** to agree and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th October 2008 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and the Chairman signed them.

45. THE CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk had nothing to report.

46. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no members of the public who had given notice of wishing to speak.

47. PARISH COUNCIL DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

The applications for grants had previously been perused by Cllrs Ellis and Jolliffe and recommendations were made to the Committee, based on the organisations being applicable to the village.

It was AGREED the list of applications should be recommended to full Council at the meeting on 27th November 2008.

48. EARMARKING FUNDS

Cllr Kiverstein, as Responsible Finance Officer, proposed ring fencing £2500 for the resurfacing of the Multi Sports Facility. This was done every year. He also recommended £10,000 was earmarked for the new pavilion and £2500 for the new allotment site. Cllr Mrs Black seconded the proposal and it was AGREED this should be recommended to full Council.

49. BUDGET 2008/2009

The members have previously received a draft copy of the proposed budget for 2009/2010.

Following a lengthy discussion and a couple of minor alterations, it was AGREED to recommend ratification of the budget to full Council.

50. PRECEPT

The Committee received notification of the tax base (Band D equivalent) for 2009/10 from HDC as being 2325.2.

As there were slight alterations to be made to the forecast budget figure, the precept amount could not be set accurately until the meeting of full Council on 27th November 2008.

51. ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS

The Chairman advised members that the present accounting system was developed for the Parish Council and worked well. However, the developer of the software had died and so the system was unsupported and there was a great fear of what would happen, should it crash.

It was AGREED the Clerk should contact local parishes to arrange a demonstration of two other recommended systems and report back to the next meeting of the Committee in January 2009.

52. LETTER FROM COUNCILLOR ELLIS

Members discussed the suggestions of Cllr Ellis in great depth.

It was AGREED that the Parish Council should hold monthly surgeries, to listen to the concerns of local residents and a rota should be put in place, so that every Councillor would have an opportunity to attend. The District Councillors would also be invited to be present. The calendar of monthly surgeries should then be advertised in the newsletter.

The Chairman reminded members that they should contact the Clerk for any issue they wished to raise to be included on the agenda.

53. STREET LIGHTING CONTRACT

The Committee received a brief update on the WSCC street lighting contract and this raised a few questions.

The Clerk was instructed to contact Richard Bird, WSCC Street Lighting department to see whether he would meet the Chairman and the Clerk to discuss the questions raised.

54. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

The members received two quotations for the erection of the Christmas lighting. It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation from DJ Flynn Services.

55. VEXATIOUS COMPLAINANTS

After a brief discussion, it was AGREED that the procedure for handling complaints set out in the Standing Orders was sufficient.

56. WATER CHARGES

The Committee received a report showing the water charges for the Allotment site, the Bowling Club and the Sports and Social Club for the last five years. The information was noted.

57. MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

There were no matters raised by Councillors.

58. CORRESPONDENCE

The Correspondence is attached to these minutes as Appendix 1.

59. PAYMENTS

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

K Watson	£29.20
Burgess & Randall	£30.29
Rabbit	£176.25
ABA (Construction)	£142.18
Royal British Legion	£60.00

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

.....CHAIRMAN

.....DATE

CORRESPONDENCE

13 November 2008

1. Cllr Quested

Members received a report from Cllr Quested on his training weekend at Dunford House and noted this would be an item on the next agenda. Copied to Committee.

2. Volunteer Visiting Scheme

The Committee noted that Mrs Jill Westlake was now the co-ordinator and her contact details would be held in the Parish Office.

3. Communities And Local Government – Codes Of Conduct For Local Authority Members And Employees – A Consultation

Members received details of the consultation document and noted a copy was held in the Parish Office.

4. Village Hall

Members received notification of room rental increases. Copied to Committee.