

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 21 May 2009 in the Uniform Groups' Headquarters, Fiddlers Lane, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor DF Holman
Councillor RK Shukla
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor Mrs HL Thorniley-Jones
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs JM Young

Also in attendance: Councillor Mrs JE Storrar

19 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Councillor DF Holman be elected Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year; and
- (2) Councillor Mrs JM Young be elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

20 APOLOGIES FOR AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Apologies for authorised absence were received from Councillor Mrs J Johnson.

21 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

22 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 16 April 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

23 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S INSURANCE COVER

The Clerk had written to the insurance company on 20 April 2009 (Minute No 16/2009 refers). On 21 May 2009 John Payne of Allianz Insurance had responded informing that because of the values of the Property Damage items currently insured, an excess of £500 would effectively mean that items would be either uninsured or only insured for a fairly small proportion of their value and it would seem better to discuss the potential for discount and/or excess variation at a level which would leave the Council in the best position. The Clerk had tried to contact Mr Payne earlier in the day but discovered that he was away from the office.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and a further progress report be provided at the next meeting of the Committee scheduled for 7:30pm on Thursday, 30 July 2009.

24 ANNUAL AUDIT – RISK MANAGEMENT

The Clerk had undertaken a Risk Management evaluation using the software recently purchased by the Council and it was available at the meeting. Some further work on this was required before the Committee could deliberate the findings.

RESOLVED:

That this item be deferred for further work and considered in detail at the next meeting of the Committee.

25 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK

Members considered the Annual Play Equipment Inspection Report and tried to compare it with the issues raised in the last Quarterly report produced in March 2009. There seemed to be some mixed messages in them.

Members left the meeting room to visit the site to try to get a better understanding of the issues raised in the Annual Inspection Report. There were particular concerns about the entrance gate and the multi-play slide shute.

A quote had been received to repair the slide shute but it did not explain exactly what would be done to repair it.

Consideration was given to the removal of the “in” and “out” gates to the Park but it was agreed that such action would mean the Council would run the risk of attracting an illegal encampment.

Members received a report on ongoing work being carried out behind the Uniform Groups’ Headquarters by Mr Wilkinson and noted he required more infill material.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Clerk be requested to inform MR Alan Dymond of Morral Play Solutions that when he carries out his next quarterly play equipment inspection in June 2009 he must send her prior notice of when it will take place so that Members can be in attendance to ask questions and obtain a better understanding of what work needs to be done/changes need to be made in respect of the play equipment; and

(2) the Clerk be requested to ask All Seasons (North West) Ltd exactly what the remedial repairs to the slide entail.

26 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the item of business listed below on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act. The public interest test has been applied and favours exclusion of the information from the press and public:

Item	Paragraph(s)
Policing Arrangements in Saughall	1 Information relating to any individual

MATTERS CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

27 POLICING ARRANGEMENTS IN SAUGHALL

Members considered the current arrangements, raised issues of concern and reported on conversations they had recently had with police officers.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee will continue to monitor the situation so that the Council is able to make an informed decision in due course on whether to enter into a new contract from 1 April 2010 with the Cheshire Constabulary to part fund a PCSO primarily for Saughall and Shotwick Park.