

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 22 April 2010 in the Uniform Groups' Headquarters, Fiddlers Lane, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor DF Holman (in the Chair)  
Councillor RK Shukla  
Councillor RA Storrar  
Councillor A Warrington  
Councillor Mrs JM Young

Invited Member: Councillor Mrs JE Storrar

13 APOLOGIES FOR AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Apologies for authorised absence were received from:

Councillor Mrs J Johnson

14 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

15 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 25 February 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

16 POLICING ARRANGEMENTS IN SAUGHALL

PCSO Mike Butler was still in post. Members did not know when he was leaving to take up his new post as a police constable.

RESOLVED:

That Policing in Saughall continue to be monitored at meetings of this Committee.

17 ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCE REVIEW

The Committee received a copy of its current insurance cover which it was told had been transferred from Allianz Insurance plc to the Local Council Team within Aon. The policy was due for renewal on 1 June 2010 at a cost of £2,208.85.

RESOLVED:

That the details of the Parish Council's insurance cover and the cost for a further year be noted.

## 18 RURAL PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCE SCHEME

The Clerk had requested a quotation from Zurich Insurance plc for the same insurance cover currently provided for the Council by Allianz Insurance plc. This had been received and was in the sum of £1,820.69.

RESOLVED:

That as Zurich Insurance plc's quotation is less than the cost of insuring with Allianz Insurance plc, the Council be **RECOMMENDED** to take up Zurich Insurance plc's insurance cover.

## 19 PROACTIVE APPROACH TO GRANT AID AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Committee gave consideration to possible initiatives/projects it would like to embark upon, if funding was to become available in the short and longer terms. Once a list was drawn up it could assist the Council in attracting grant aid from external sources.

The following priorities were agreed:

- Affordable Housing Scheme(s)
- Sporting pavilion/multi-purpose community centre – separately or in one building
- Refurbishing the war memorial
- Electrification of the VI Clock
- Cenotaph
- Bowling green
- Tennis courts
- Second goal-end
- Boules court
- Flag pole and flags
- Appropriate and tasteful street art

RESOLVED:

That the Council be **RECOMMENDED** to approve the above list of proposed initiatives/projects to be taken forward if external funding can be secured to provide them.

## 20 NEWSLETTER ADVERTS – CHARGING POLICY

The Committee agreed to draw up a proposed charging policy in respect of advertisements for local businesses being included in the Parish Newsletter.

It was noted that one A4 side of a 20 sided Newsletter would cost, in total (taking account of printing and delivery charges) approximately £20 to produce.

RESOLVED:

That the Council be **RECOMMENDED** to adopt the following charging policy:

	£
• 1 full side of A4	40.00
• ½ side of A4	25.00
• ¼ side of A4	15.00

21 LOCAL COUNCIL ADVISORY SERVICE – ANNUAL SEMINARS 2010

RESOLVED:

That the details of Annual Seminars be noted.

22 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK

(a) Fiddlers Lane Car Park – Drainage

RESOLVED:

That the contractor, Paul Edwards, who undertook the recent drainage work be requested to attend the next meeting of the Field Committee to assess the effectiveness of the drainage system put in place.

(b) Car Park

PCSO Mike Butler had received complaints about vehicles being parked on the road and not in the car park when football matches were on. It was reported that the culprits were from the opposing teams.

RESOLVED:

That the Field Committee be requested to consider this problem at its next meeting.

(c) Outer Field

The outer field was currently in good condition.

RESOLVED:

That the state of the outer field be noted.

(d) Ponds

It was reported that the ponds were full of rubbish. It was hoped that they could be cleaned during the Spring Clean scheduled for Saturday, 24 and Sunday, 25 April 2010. Councillor RA Storrar offered the use of his boat for this purpose.

RESOLVED:

That the state of the ponds be noted.

(e) Infestations

(i) Moles

There were no problems to report in respect of moles at the present time.

(ii) Rabbits

Rabbits were becoming a problem and a course of action proposed by Councillor Mrs K Ford was discussed.

RESOLVED:

That the Council be **RECOMMENDED** to proceed with the course of action proposed by Councillor Mrs K Ford.

(f) Quotations Received

(i) Gates and Posts

The Field Committee would consider further various options for replacing the gates and posts to the Park and then request quotations.

(ii) Replacement Multi-Play Unit/Slide Chute

The Council had provided the Committee with delegated authority to award a contract to replace the multi-play unit/slide chute so long as it did not exceed £10,000.

The Committee had obtained a number of quotations and brochures which it considered. It needed to provide a piece of play equipment suitable for children up to 11 years of age.

After detailed deliberations it was agreed that it was important to obtain the right piece of equipment to compliment what was already in the Park. There was no need to rush the process time should be taken to explore all possible options.

RESOLVED: That

(1) further quotations be requested;

(2) Councillor A Warrington be requested to lead on this project and to ask Councillor Mrs K Ford if she would like to assist him; and

(3) a report be brought to the next meeting of the Committee scheduled for Thursday, 20 May 2010 in the hope that a decision can be taken

so that a new piece of play equipment is installed in the Park before the school holidays commence.

(g) Annual Playground Inspection

It was reported that Morral Play Solutions had undertaken the Annual Playground Inspection but the written report had not yet been received.

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Playground Inspection Report be considered at the next meeting of the Committee scheduled for Thursday, 20 May 2010.

(h) 2010 Spring Clean – Saturday, 24 and Sunday, 25 April 2010

Members of the football team and Cricket Club had been informed of the dates and times for this proposed clean up operation.

(i) Community Pay Back Scheme

Councillor Mrs JM Young informed that a meeting was arranged for the following week to identify work required by the Council and in the village generally.

RESOLVED:

That the Community Pay Back Scheme be requested to work on the perimeter path in the Golden Jubilee Park and advise if volunteers were able to dig out a boules court.

23 ITEMS REFERRED FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 12 APRIL 2010

(a) All Saints Church – Heating System

The Church Warden, John Hallas, had written to the Chairman inviting the Council to make a contribution towards the cost of repairs to the heating system, which cost £7,000 in total. The Council had considered this and referred it to the Committee for a recommendation.

The Committee was aware that earlier in the Municipal Year the Council had provided the Church with a grant of £2,000 to assist the cost of the new Memorial Garden.

RESOLVED:

That the Council be **RECOMMENDED** to inform Mr Hallas that as the Council has already provided All Saints Church with a grant of £2,000 towards the new Memorial Garden in the current Municipal Year, it was unable to help on this occasion.

(b) Bank Charges

At the last meeting of the Council, Members had been concerned at the amount of bank charges accrued in the last financial year and had referred the matter to the Committee for consideration and its recommendations.

The Clerk reported that as the 2009/10 Accounts were with the Internal Auditor prior to them being sent to the External Auditor by the middle of May 2010, the bank statements were not available for the Committee to scrutinise. She informed that the majority of the charges would relate to the costs of transferring funds from the 14 Day Interest Account to the Community Account without providing the 14 days notice. She also informed that the interest paid on the 14 Day Interest Account was currently 0.02%.

RESOLVED:

That the Council be **RECOMMENDED** to:

- (1) move all of its funds into the Community Account; and
- (2) if there is a cost to keeping the 14 Day Interest Account open, then it be closed.

(c) S137 Monies/Power of Wellbeing

The Clerk reported that last year and this year the Council could spend £6.15 per elector on initiatives/projects for the benefit of the community if the funds were available. Roughly in Saughall and Shotwick Park this equated to £15,000.

When considering expenditure under S137 councils must make sure that the benefit was commensurate with the expenditure. For example, if a council had an electorate of 1,000 then its total S137 expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2011 must not exceed £6,150 (1,000 x £6.15) so if it was considering a proposal to spend say £3,000 under S137 then that should demonstrably benefit approximately 50% of the electorate. It was up to the Council to decide what the benefits were and whether they were commensurate with the expenditure.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.