

TWYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held at the Loddon Hall, Twyford on Tuesday 20th September 2016 at 7.45pm.

Present: - Mr D Fergusson (Chairman), Mr J Bowley, Mrs B Ditcham, Mr R Mantel & Mr T Winchester.

In attendance: 3 members of the public.

1. Public Questions

Malcolm Bray asked the function of the Finance Committee. Mr Fergusson responded that the committee manage the finances and confirm if there are sufficient funds for the committees to carry out their recommendations for expenditure.

Malcolm Bray asked what is the current bank balance. This will be reported later on in the meeting.

Mike Yeates asked what the purpose of twinning with Cuincy would be as he said they have no relevance to Twyford. The committee are considering this having received a letter of invitation to twin from Cuincy.

Mick Yeates asked that when the clerk has her allotment hat on please could she ask for budget to improve the security of the allotments. He queried the £400 allotment salary listed on the budgets. The question of security/fencing the allotments has previously been raised and will be dealt with by the Parish Lands committee.

Graham Starkie asked if the Councillors could introduce themselves.

2. Apologies – none.

3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda – none.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 19th July 2016. Proposed Mrs B Ditcham, seconded Mr T Winchester, carried unanimously.

5. Matters Arising:

5.1 (9) Twinning Project - Cuincy. Agreed that the clerk should write saying that the Council are looking to see if they can facilitate a visit in September. Mr Mantel will confirm if he is able to visit.

5.2 Twyford citizen of the year – agreed to purchase a 13cm crescent clock at a cost of £59 plus engraving and delivery. Agreed Mr Bowley will attend and make the presentation. Completed. Mr Bowley confirmed that the presentation went well.

5.3 WDALC – to consider a response to Richard Rampton, WDALC Chair After some discussion it was felt that the future of WDALC should be properly discussed at the AGM or EGM. Agreed that the clerk should respond to this effect. Completed.

5.4 Photocopier / contract – clerk to look into A2 & A3 printer. Carried forward.

6. Clerk's Report

- Bank balances as at the end of July 2016. Current account £24,136.91, deposit account £75,138.29, income bonds £37,000, national savings account £1,527.67 and Twycombe Lodge tenants deposit account £3,007.39.
- VAT return for July 2016 £417.04.
- Bank balances as at the end of August 2016. Current account £31,542.70, deposit account £61,177.56, income bonds £37,000, national savings account £1,527.67 and Twycombe Lodge tenants deposit account £3,007.39.
- VAT return for August 2016 £1,587.28.
- BT dividend - £99.84. Noted.
- Henderson Investment Statement. Noted.
- Business rates – register for direct rateable value. The clerk has registered.
- Nat West business account terms. Noted.
- Risk Assessments – none to report.

7. Correspondence:

7.1 Christmas tree festival (30th November – 5th December) – to consider whether to take part by displaying a tree – correspondence circulated by email. Agreed to ask for volunteers at the Full Council meeting.

7.2 Healthwatch – Community cash funds – circulated by email. Noted.

7.3 BALC – e newsletter - circulated by email. Noted.

7.4 Polehampton Charity accounts. Noted

7.5 The Pensions Regulator. Noted.

7.6 WBC – Annual Sports Awards 25.11.16 – Invitation & contenders – circulated by email. Noted.

7.7 Moving ahead – Crossrail – circulated by email. Noted.

7.8 Action for All E Bulletin – circulated by email. Noted.

7.9 Resident correspondence – Freedom of Information request – response made.

8. CIL

8.1 Service Heads monthly report – circulated by email. Noted.

8.2 WBC draft regulation CIL consultation (closing date 13th October) – circulated by email. No comments to make.

8.3 CIL Traded Services Workshop (17th October) and request for 2 planned / potential infrastructure projects in the Parish – email circulated. Agreed for Mr R Mantel to attend the workshop. Mrs B Ditcham will attend if able. Infrastructure projects put forward were the Community hub and extension to Stanlake Pavilion.

9. Twinning Project - Cuincy. Mr Mantel will be unable to visit Cuincy as hoped. Agreed for Mr Mantel and Mr Bowley to talk to Sonning Parish Council about the advantages and disadvantages of a twinning relationship. Agreed for the clerk to contact the Sonning clerk to also discuss.

10. Grant requests

10.1 Age Concern – after some discussion and examination of the accounts the committee felt that Age Concern Twyford are in a strong financial position. Proposed Mr J Bowley to **RECOMMEND to Full Council** to make no grant to Age Concern, seconded Mr T Winchester, motion carried 4 in favour, 1 against.

10.2 Keep Mobile – proposed Mr J Bowley to **RECOMMEND to Full Council** to make a grant of £250 , seconded Mr T Winchester, carried unanimously.

10.3 Citizens Advice Reading - proposed Mr J Bowley to **RECOMMEND to Full Council** to make a grant of £180 , seconded Mrs B Ditcham, carried unanimously.

10.4 ARC Youth Counselling - proposed Mr R Mantel to **RECOMMEND to Full Council** to make a grant of £200 , seconded Mr T Winchester.

Mr J Bowley made a counter proposal to **RECOMMEND to Full Council** to make a grant of £250 , seconded Mrs B Ditcham, carried unanimously.

11. Council staffing – to consider increasing the Clerks hours or to recruit.

Discussion took place given that the Clerk's workload is increasing. General agreement Was that recruiting would have the benefit of holiday cover for the meetings. It was agreed that the councillors will give thought to this. The clerk will canvas other clerks who have an assistant to find out the pay scale difference, how the role is split, views, job descriptions and advantages/disadvantages. Item to be discussed further next month.

12. Items to be considered from other Committees

12.1 Planning and Amenities 06.09.16 – no items.

12.2 Parish Lands 13.09.16

Recommendation: To budget £5,000 to replace the rocking horse with a Multi-Pondo. Agreed this can be financed from capital reserves with no capital payback.

13. Date of next meeting - Tuesday 18th October 2016.

The meeting closed at 8:52 pm.

