

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD AT LYNDHURST COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2012 AT 7.15 PM

Present: Mr M Rollé (Chairman), Mr M Abbott, Mr G Bisson, Mr P Boyes, Mr J Charlesworth, Mr L Cornell, Mr K Kaljura, Mrs H Klaassen, Mrs A Trend, the Revd Dr C Wilkins and Mrs P Wyeth.

In Attendance: Mrs M Weston (Clerk to the Council)

1. Apologies for Absence: None.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 15 November 2011 be approved as a true and accurate record

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Accounts

Copies of accounts to today's date had been circulated to all Councillors.

6. Budget Estimates 2013/2014

Estimates for the financial year 1st April 2013 to 31 March 2014 were presented.

Allotments Committee	£4,500.00
Amenities Committee	£7,110.00
Cemetery Committee	£6,000.00
Planning Committee	£200.00
Recreation Committee	£20,400.00
Administration	£28,359.00
Total	£66,569.00

RESOLVED: That these estimates be accepted.

7. Clerk's Salary

The Clerk withdrew from the meeting and discussion took place.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's salary be increased by £1,000 per annum from 1 April 2013 in recognition of work undertaken over and above hours paid.

8. Any Other Items Requiring Budget Consideration

(a) Section 137 Allocation

Discussion took place regarding possible Section 137 allocation for the financial year 2013/14.

RESOLVED: That no specific allocation will be made for Section 137 for the financial year April 2013 to March 2014 but if any grant applications were forthcoming they would be considered on their merits at that time.

(b) Reserve/Contingency Fund

The Clerk reported that the reserve fund was in a healthy condition and Councillors were likely, in this financial year, to spend in line with their budgets by 31 March 2013. The non-specific contingency sum set aside for the first time in the current financial year had proved successful.

RESOLVED: That the sum of £3,000 be allocated for the financial year April 2013 to March 2014 to allow for any items that might occur that were not already in the budget.

9. Other Items For Discussion

(a) Possible Provision of Speed Indication Equipment

Traffic speeding through the village was considered to be an important topic that needed to be tackled. The Chairman highlighted the possibility of the Parish Council funding speed indication equipment and three sites were discussed, namely Chapel Lane, Gosport Lane and Swan Green. It was noted that HCC would not be in a position to fund equipment at this stage.

RESOLVED: To explore the possibility of providing the equipment, together with maintenance costs.

(b) Community Amenities (Staging)

The Community Centre will shortly be purchasing new staging, which will be easier to erect and move around. However, it would not be suitable for outdoor use. The existing staging could be kept for community use if funding could be found.

RESOLVED: That, subject to a written request from the Community Association, the Parish Council allocate a grant of £2,000 to be used to retain the old stage for use as a community facility. The Community Association will store the old staging and will be asked to provide an undertaking that, should they decide that the old staging is no longer of any use or becomes unserviceable, they will consult with the Parish Council on the best way forward. This community facility will be advertised in Clerk's Corner to try to gain more usage.

(c) Bolton's Bench Cricket Pavilion

The Parish Council had been approached by the Cricket Club who is seeking a grant for essential and unforeseen work to the electricity supply at the cricket pavilion. It was noted that an amount of £529 remains in last year's Precept for Section 137 payments. Mr Cornell said he would be prepared to meet with a representative from the Cricket Club to ascertain what work would be necessary.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the Cricket Club and ask that they fill in a grant application form and meet Mr Cornell on site. Subject to the form being returned in order and the necessary confirmation being forthcoming from Mr Cornell, a sum of £500 would be given in grant aid to the Cricket Club, but a stipulation would be made that this money should only be used for the work already specified.

(d) Donations regarding Remembrance Day Parade

It was noted that various organisations in Copythorne had given a great deal of support in Lyndhurst during the Remembrance Day Parade, including the provision of two bands.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £100 is donated and that the Clerk liaise with Mr Farmers regarding the recipient. An iTunes voucher to the value of £25 will be purchased and given to the trumpet player, Alec Roberts.

(e) iPads

The possible purchase of a further four iPads was discussed. It was noted that the existing four iPads were proving successful.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to purchase a four more iPads and protective covers.

10. Precept Resolution

It was noted that the total anticipated precept for April 2013 to March 2014 had increased by £7288. However, this amount could be drawn from the reserve funds held by the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: To recommend that a Precept of £62,281 be requested from NFDC for the financial year 2013/2014.

11. Parish Champion

The Clerk reported that there had been three nominations for the award of Parish Champion, namely John Charlesworth, Michael Grant and Vicky Hamilton-Vey. Discussion took place regarding the merits of all three candidates.

RESOLVED: That Michael Grant should be awarded the title of Lyndhurst Parish Council Parish Champion, mainly in recognition of the tremendous amount of unstinting and meticulous effort he has put into the updating of the Cemetery records and his ongoing work which would be of great benefit both now and in the future.

In the absence of any other business the Chairman thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting.

_____ Chairman

_____ Date