

ROTHERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Working for the Community

in Rotherfield, Town Row, Mark Cross, Eridge Green, Boarshead and surrounding areas

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 28TH APRIL 2015 IN THE PARISH COUNCIL ROOM, ROTHERFIELD VILLAGE HALL

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Cllr. L. Pike (Chair)
Cllr. D. Thomas
Cllr. R. Harris

Cllr. C. Clibbens
Cllr. N. Wickenden
Cllr. J. Kitchenham

ABSENT

None

ALSO PRESENT. The Parish Clerk, Trevor Thorpe.

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LGA 1972 s 85).

An apology for absence was tendered by Cllr. P. Dixon.

2. TO RECEIVED DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

None.

3. TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 14TH JANUARY 2015 & MATTERS ARISING.

The Draft minutes have been circulated and it was RESOLVED that they were confirmed as a true record of the meeting. The Chairman signed the minutes.

4. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS:-

a) Approval of draft accounts for Financial Year 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015.

Circulated prior to meeting. It was RESOLVED that these accounts be approved subject to final audit.

b) Any adjustments required to the 2014/15 Budget.

RESOLVED CLERK to investigate following and report if adjustments recommended.

- Training budget – may require an increase from current £400 to allow for New Councillor training.
- Election budget – investigate and report cost to Council of the 2010 Election against figure currently budgeted of £5K.
- Actual cost of work recently undertaken by Sports/Bowls Club to repair the netting around the Bowls Green is to established. Council have £1500 earmarked toward cost, breakdown and invoices to be requested the from Clubs to establish sum spent to enable grant cheque issue at May meeting.

c) Review of Council cash balances and allocation of reserves.

RESOLVED to make no change to current sums held in the 50% Precept Contingency Reserve fund or the Earmarked Reserve funds.

d) Review of Asset Register and any changes required to insurance policy cover.

RESOLVED that CLERK add the Jubilee Beacon to the asset register with insurable value of £750, also investigate insurance cover position regarding the Recreation Ground playing surfaces and report.

e) Review of Financial Regulations.

This will be dealt with as part of the review of all policies and other governing documents.

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f) Review of banking arrangements and information regarding interest rates available. Information regarding use of electronic banking for making payments.

Santander does not appear to offer an effective electronic payment system for our use – the one they offer has no additional security levels for authorisation. Many PC's use and recommend Unity Trust Bank although credit interest rates are far lower, Santander's currently 0.5%. RESOLVED CLERK to investigate products, services and costs associated with Unity Trust and add item to agenda of June monthly meeting to make decision regarding transferring our banking business to them. It is considered that the loss in interest earned may be more than offset by time saved in cheque issue and postage costs to dispatch.

g) Smith & Fermor charity annual accounts and report.

The accounts were circulated, it was recommended that a reminder be sent to schools within the area served by the Charity that funding/part funding of pupils participating in school residential trips is a regular source of applications.

5. URGENT ISSUES FOR NOTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA.

- St Chéron signs for the "twitten" – Clerk to liaise with Tony Moaby to arrange installation of posts ready for attachment of the signs in time for the unveiling on the 15th May.
- It has been suggested that the Parish Crest designed for the above signs could be used on "T" shirts and other wares to publicise the area. Cllr. Clibbens is to investigate likely costs of this exercise.
- Seymour's Yard Town Row – Clerk has been in touch with site owner who is based in Suffolk. He in turn has put Clerk in touch with his architect, who is a fairly regular visitor to this area to arrange a site visit. This will enable discussion of the Council's concerns regarding this untidy and possibly hazardous site and learn of the owner's plans for it use.
- CLERK to contact ESCC to raise concerns and request action regarding the grilles to rear of the brick pavements in the Village centre that are choked with debris and weeds; This will inhibit their drainage function.
- CLERK to request quote from Tony Moaby for raking out weeds and debris, and weed killing at the back of the length of pavement in Station Road from the School Steps to the Hornshurst Road steps.
- ESCC Highways advise that on 22nd June it is intended for their Lead Member for Transport and Environment to consider a report regarding the petition highlighting concerns with large vehicles using the B2100 between Mark Cross and the Village. Cllr. Clibbens has offered to attend on behalf of the Council and address the Lead Member regarding this issue. CLERK to advise ESCC.
- CLERK to contact Church to see if they are able to assist in providing refreshments at the Annual Parish Meeting.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Tuesday December 1st in the Parish Council Room, Rotherfield Village Hall, at 19:30.

The Chairman declared the business of the meeting closed at 20:45.

7. PUBLIC FORUM.

None.

Confirmed as a true record at the 1st December 2015 meeting of the Committee

.....Chairman's Signature.....Date

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F and GP Meeting minutes 28th April 2015.doc

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