

Worth Parish Council

Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee Meeting February 11th 2019 commencing at 19.30 hrs

Present: Cllr Scott (Chairman) Cllr Hollands (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Anscomb Cllr Coote
Cllr Dorey Cllr Gibson
Cllr Hitchcock Cllr Phillips
Cllr Webb
Mrs J. Nagy (Clerk) One member of the public

80 Election of Vice Chairman

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting, then highlighted the housekeeping rules.

He advised that due to the resignation of Cllr Lord as Vice Chairman of this Committee, it was necessary to elect a new Vice Chairman.

Cllr Coote proposed Cllr Hollands; this was seconded by Cllr Dorey and agreed by all.

Cllr Hollands was duly elected as Vice Chairman of the General Purposes & Finance Committee

81 Public Question Time

Mr John Plank was present at the meeting to speak in support of the Crawley Down Camera Club grant application. The Club started in 2012, and he has been on the Committee since the beginning. It is a friendly club open to all; the youngest member is a child, accompanied by a parent to meetings. The Club does not judge on the quality of members' camera equipment. A recent judge visiting the Club commented on the quality of the work. He asked the Committee to agree the grant request for £500 as a contribution towards a new projector, which would assist the Club to progress.

The Chairman thanked Mr Plank, and said that the grant application would be discussed later in the meeting.

82 Apologies

Apologies were received and noted from Cllr Lord

83 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hitchcock declared an interest in the Camera Club grant application as he is a member of the Club. He did not intend to take part in discussions.

84 Minutes of General Purposes & Finance Committee held on January 14th 2019

Cllr Gibson said that he was disappointed that his comments in relation to his view that there should not be a large increase in the precept were not Minuted; he had suggested a precept of £265,000, an increase of 6%.

It was agreed that this information would be added to the Minutes, and they would be re-presented to the next meeting.

85 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman advised that the Election promotion exhibition could not now be held at the Haven Centre on Saturday, 2nd March as there was a bookings clash. The Clerk was trying to book this for the following week, 9th March, although this would mean two consecutive exhibitions, as there was one at the Hub in Copthorne on 16th March.

86 Correspondence

The Correspondence List was NOTED

87 Account & Financial Matters

The Chairman referred Councillors to details of expenditure against budget, payments, bank balances and earmarked reserves up to end of January 2019.

The Clerk reported that:

Total receipts for January 2019 of £905.30 excl. VAT
Total payments for January 2019 of £26,296.85 excl. VAT,
Bank Balances as at 31st January 2019 £297,665.43 of which
Earmarked reserves of £113,663

Councillors NOTED and APPROVED the financial information supplied to 31st January 2019 as a true and correct record of the Council's financial affairs.

The Chairman referred to the Q3 Income and Expenditure Analysis up to the end of December 2018 and noted that there is likely to be a £27,250 underspend, should the anticipated scheduled payments take place.

Councillors thanked the Chairman for this report, which was NOTED.

Cllr Coote reminded Councillors of his view that it was prudent to keep a reasonable level of reserves, and that Councillors could be individually liable for financial mismanagement.

Provision of new photocopier

The lease on the current photocopier expires in March 2019. Councillors may recall that the Council investigated breaking the lease early in 2018 but this was cost prohibitive.

The Clerk referred to the comparison spreadsheet issued with the meeting pack and circulated a revised comparison due to last minute pricing changes by one supplier.

This showed a potential cost saving over the four-year contract of over £500 based on current copying usage.

It was proposed by Cllr Scott, seconded by Cllr Coote and agreed by all present that the new copier would be leased from KCS Professional Services, at an anticipated cost of a total of £3185 based on current copying usage over a four-year lease term.

Grant Application

Cllr Hitchcock declared a personal interest in this matter, as he is a member of the Camera Club. He took no part in discussion.

Crawley Down Camera Club has applied for a grant of £500 to go towards the purchase of a new projector, with a total cost of £1500.

A grant of £500 was AGREED by all present, with the exception of Cllr Hitchcock, who had declared an interest.

Training

The Clerk advised that the Council had previously authorised her to attend the SLCC Practitioners Conference on 14th/15th February at a cost of £299 + VAT, this covering conference cost, plus accommodation for the night of 14th February. However, there was an option to book an additional night's accommodation on 13th February at a cost of £125.

It was AGREED by all present that the additional expenditure of £125 was authorised.

Replacement Lamp Column

The replacement column has been erected and will be connected to the power supply 26th/27th February.

The insurance claim is with the insurance company, seeking recompense from the driver of the car which knocked down the column.

Councillors NOTED this information

88 Council Premises and Land

Crawley Down Cricket Field

The Clerk has made contact with the Chairman of the Cricket Club and is trying to arrange a site visit, together with Cllr Hitchcock.

A resident has reported that the gate onto the field is damaged; the Clerk has asked a groundsman to investigate.

Councillors NOTED this information

Allotment site

There has been a report of another break in on the site, and a hole has apparently been cut in the fencing.

The Allotment Sub Committee is meeting on 19th February; the meeting will be preceded by a site visit, to assist with the debate.

Councillors NOTED this information.

Cllr Coote asked if the provision of portable CCTV cameras could be investigated.

Cllr Webb thought that there had been more incidents at the allotment site since the gates were installed, as the restricted access was seen as a challenge. Cllr Anscomb disagreed with this view.

After discussion, it was generally felt that the Council should investigate additional security for the site, such as portable CCTV cameras. The Allotment Sub Committee would discuss potential solutions at its meeting and would provide a recommendation to this Committee.

The Clerk was asked to place a post on Facebook advising that the Council was aware of the problem and investigating the best way of providing extra security for allotment holders.

Air Conditioning

The Clerk advised that the air conditioning would be installed in the South Room next week, this being half term.

Councillors NOTED this information

89 Items for Future Inclusion on the Agenda

It was agreed that Allotments would be specific agenda item for the next meeting, to deal with any recommendation for an increase in security at the site.

90 Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Monday, 11th March 2019

Meeting closed at 8.10pm

Chairman: _____

Date: _____