

TWYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held at The Loddon Hall, Twyford on Tuesday 14th October 2003, at 7.45pm.

Present: - Mr R Mantel (Chairman) Messrs, D Hymers, M Stillman, N Crush and Dr M Garrard

In attendance-Clerk Mr J March.

- 1. Apologies-** Mrs L Dane
- 2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda-** none
- 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2003-** Dr Garrard proposed, Mr Hymers seconded, agreed unanimously.
- 4. Matters arising and action points**
 - 4.1 The Clerk has obtained valuations for Stanlake Pavilion and Twycombe Lodge. Insurance valuations: Stanlake £190,000 and Twycombe Lodge £135,000. Twycombe Lodge market valuation £240-250,000 depending on condition of interior. If insurance valuations were adjusted to these figures the net annual saving in premium on this years rates would be £254.41. Clerk to contact insurance company. Twycombe Lodge to be added to asset register. Clerk to check on the status of Stanlake Meadow.
 - 4.2 The Clerk has contacted the Royal British Legion and gave details of the information obtained relating to the War Memorial. The position relating to ownership is unclear.
- 5. Clerks Report**
 - Bank balances as at end of Sept 2003-Current account- £12,860.63
Deposit account-£16,512.59 Income bonds- £60,000, National Savings account-£2199.36.
 - VAT return for September 2003-£637.81
 - Dividends received- BT - £44.20, Henderson - £226.16, Charter Pan European - £149.08
 - Quarterly budget statement and capital account to 30th September 2003. The committee discussed the figures for the second quarter. The actual spend is generally in line with the budget with the exception of five budget headings where annual charges have been paid. The income from sports club looks low. Clerk to investigate where the income from the Comets Football Club has been posted and to raise invoice for Tennis Club rent for the 2003/4 season. A discussion took place on the payment of fees and the councils credit policy for payments due. Agreed that Parish Lands committee review the agreements for the use of all sports facilities and the date when invoices should be raised each year. On the capital account the question was asked who decides what investments the council puts its funds into. The background was explained by the chairman that in the past we paid financial advisors but we rarely took their advice as it was felt better to leave investments on a long term basis rather than keep moving funds around. The level of reserves and value to residents was also discussed and if we should have a "wish list" of projects to spend them on. The chairman explained the benefit of the current level to residents is that it generates income that can be used to fund grants to local organisations.

6. Dates of future meetings

The Clerk presented the list of meetings up to December 2004 for approval. The list was amended to show a Finance and General Purposes meeting on 9th December 2003 with the Full Council meeting on 16th December 2003. The venue for the Meet the Public meetings was discussed. Agreed that the June and September meeting will be scheduled to be on the forecourt near Waitrose if dry and revert to the United Reform Church hall if wet. Clerk to circulate dates and book rooms.

7. Policy on use of e-mails.

A discussion was held on the current use of e-mails by councillors and what information is disclosed to the public. It was agreed that the clerk asks councillors if they want their e-mail details circulated to other councillors for internal use. Clerk to prepare a list and circulate.

8.. Correspondence:

8.1 WDC Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 14.10.03 - noted

8.2 Letter from Syngenta regarding cessation of trading in shares. Agreed that as our holding is only 13 shares we sell them.

8.3 Letter from WDC regarding State of the District Debate - noted

8.4 Letter to from badminton club asking the Community Association to repair the lights in Loddon Hall copied to the Council Chairman as no action has been taken. He explained the problems regarding the running of the hall. Following further discussion it was agreed that the Clerk writes to the Community Association secretary to invite them to attend the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to discuss future plans.

9. Grant requests: -

9.1 Serinette Ladies Choir – agreed not to support this application.

9.2 Thames Valley Ambulance –agreed not to support this application as the council only provides support to village based organisations, not to ones covering larger areas of the country.

9.3 Polehampton Infants School – referred to next meeting. Clerk to check details of last grant request.

9.4 Keep Mobile - referred to next meeting. Clerk to check details of last grant request.

10 Items to be considered from other Committees

10.1 Planning and Amenities-none

10.2 Parish Lands –proposal to spend £3000 of reserves on resurfacing KGVR car park area Wargrave Rd –noted, no objection.

11. Date of next meeting- Tuesday 11th November 2003

The meeting closed at 10.10pm