

TWYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held at The Loddon Hall, Twyford on Tuesday 11th March 2008 at 7.45pm.

Present: - Mr R Mantel (Chairman), Mr D Hymers, Mr J Bowley, Ms S Doughty, Mrs S Harriott-Kerr and Mr J Jarvis.

In attendance - Clerk Mr J March.

1. Public Questions – none.

2. Apologies – Miss C La Trobe.

3. Declarations of interests in items on the agenda – Mr J Jarvis declared an interest in item 10.6.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2008. Proposed Mr J Bowley, seconded Mr D Hymers and approved unanimously.

5. Matters arising and action points –

5.1 Mr D Hymers to consider the changes to the Model Contract of Employment for Clerks. Mr Mantel has contacted BALC offices and is awaiting a reply. Carried forward.

5.2 The Clerk to put the declaration of vacancy notice on the main notice board. Completed.

6. Clerks Report

- Bank balances as at end of January 2008 – Current account £3,987.15 Deposit account £27,052.65. Income Bonds £46,000, National Savings Account £2,914.67
- Bank balances as at end of February 2008 – Current account £3,353.48 Deposit account £24,052.65. Income Bonds £46,000, National Savings Account £2,914.67
- VAT return for January 2008 £716.76 reclaimed.
- VAT return for February 2008 £879.05 reclaimed.
- Dividends received – BT £56.16, Henderson £175.57.
- Encashment of Telefonica Loan notes and purchase of shares. The Clerk has checked with Nat West and to purchase shares through them will occur regular fixed charges. Mr J Jarvis to make enquiries with a stock broking company and provide details to the Clerk.
- Payment dates for Precept. WBC has advised that 10% of the precept will be paid earlier on 8th April, 40% on 30th April and the final 50% on 30th September as usual.
- Receipt of Loan Note re ICI shares. The Clerk confirmed these have been received and put in safe storage at the bank.

7. Staff Wages 2008/9. Review carried out of the wages for the Village Ranger, Park Warden and Cleaner. Proposed by Mr D Hymers, seconded by Mr J Jarvis to **RECOMMEND** to the Full Council that their wages be increased by 3% with effect from 1st April. Carried unanimously.

8. Annual WBC/Town and Parish Conference. Proposals for agenda items received from WBC discussed. Agreed to **RECOMMEND** to the Full Council that the proposal from WBC to discuss their Vision Document is not taken up. Instead items suggested by Parish and Town Councils to be selected for discussion. Suggested items from Twyford are: (a) Provision of cemetery facilities. (b) Provision of local amenities that are the duty of the borough to provide and how town and parish councils can co-operate with WBC to facilitate this e.g. library provision. (c) Environmentally friendly public lighting.

9. Consultation on Orders and Regulations Relating to the Conduct of Local Authority members in England – Mr D Hymers has examined the document and feels there is no need to make any comments.

10. Correspondence:

10.1 WBC Minutes of Committee Meetings 13.11.07 – 14.01.08. Noted.

10.2 Charter European Trust Annual report to 30.11.07. Noted.

- 10.3 WBC Recruitment of an additional Non-Town Parish Member to WBC Standards Committee. Proposed appointment of Mr R Mantel noted.
WBC Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee 11.03.08. Noted.
Henderson Global Directors Short Report 6 months to 31.12.07. Noted.
Polehampton Swimming Association loan request. Mr Mantel has passed a letter he has received on to the Clerk and asked him to request further details on their membership and accounts.
Astra Zeneca annual report and notice of AGM. Noted.

11. Grant requests –

- 11.1 Charvil Girls Choir. Proposed Mr J Bowley, seconded by Mr D Hymers to **RECOMMEND** to the Full Council that no grant be awarded. Carried, For 5, 1 abstention.
- 11.2 WBC Street Worker. Proposed by Mr J Jarvis, seconded by Mr J Bowley to **RECOMMEND** TO The Full Council that the requested grant of £1670.42 be made. Carried. For 5, against 1.
- 11.3 Polehampton C of E School PTA. Proposed by Mr J Jarvis seconded by Mr R Mantel to **RECOMMEND** to the Full Council that a loan of £5000 be made on the terms requested. Amendment proposed by Mr D Hymers, seconded by Mr J Bowley that a loan of £2500 be offered. Amendment not carried. For 2, against 4. Original motion then voted on and carried. 4 for, 2 against.
- 11.4 Berkshire County Blind Society. The last grant to this organisation was made in April 2007 so this request is deferred to the April meeting.
- 11.5 Readibus. The last grant to this organisation was made in July 2007. The Clerk to reply to Readibus telling them their request will be considered in July and to ask them to send a copy of their annual accounts, which will be issued then.

12. Items to be considered from other Committees

- 12.1 Planning and Amenities 03.03.08. None.
12.2 Parish Lands 05.03.08. None

13. Date of next meeting- Tuesday 15th April 2008

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.