

Finance Committee Meeting
Minutes of the meeting held at 7.12pm 7th November 2012
In the Committee Room at the Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards

Members Present: Cllr R Warman, Chairman

Cllr R Bryan

Cllr R Dudman

Cllr M Dyer

Cllr C House

Cllr Mrs J House

Cllr A Warman

In attendance: Mrs A Jacobs, Clerk and 6 Members of the Public.

- 253. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest:-** Cllr R Dudman declared a PI in item 7 as a cheque for Travelling expenses was included for attending the Flood Seminar on 3rd November on behalf of the Council.

Cllr Mrs Warman stated that she was the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee and therefore automatically a Charity Trustee. A Statement was then read by her informing Members that based on guidance from the Under Secretary of State she was of the opinion that being a Trustee in this instance is not a Discloseable Pecuniary Interest. A copy of the statement made appears as appendix A with these Minutes in the Minute Book. The Clerk was also asked to forward a copy to the Monitoring Officer. Members asked that a copy of the letter referred to was provided to Members. Cllr Mrs Warman agreed to supply a copy the relevant paragraph of the letter from Mr Bob Neale.

- 254. Apologies:** Cllr B Goringe; Cllr M Hockley; Cllr G Willetts. Cllr R Bryan was delayed.

- 255. Public Speaking:** A Member of the Public asked if the Parish Council was not liable for the building as you own it. The building is leased to the VHMC.

A Member of the Public stated that there was no question about the stability of Santander. It was explained that having found out that the Council was not covered by the FSCS it decided to split the reserves between banks to try and ensure the safety of the money.

- 256. Grant of Dispensation:**

The Clerk confirmed receiving requests from all Members of the Council with the exception of Cllrs J Crow and B Goringe to enable discussion of the precept. The recommendation from the Clerk was that the requests be accepted to enable participation in the Precept discussion. This was agreed unanimously. Proposed by Cllr M Dyer, seconded by Cllr C House.

RESOLVED: Dispensations were granted to discuss the Precept to those Members present.

The Clerk will also put this as an item for resolution on the full Council agenda.

- 257. Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting -** The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2012 – pages 37 & 38. were approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J House and seconded by Cllr R Dudman. Agreed unanimously.

- 258. Matters Arising from the Minutes:** The response to the letter from Mr E Pickles concerning the lack of protection from the FSCS was discussed. Members noted that it did not answer the questions raised. The Clerk will resubmit the questions.

- 259. Schedule of payments for cheques:** The schedule of cheques for numbers 003991 – 003998 was discussed, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, and a public access version is placed with these Minutes in the Minute Book see Appendix B. The schedule was approved. Proposed by Cllr M Dyer, seconded by Cllr Mrs A Warman. Cllr R Dudman abstained from the vote.

RESOLVED: That the schedule of payments for cheque numbers 003991 – 003998 be approved.

260. Bank Accounts:-

- i) The Clerk submitted for information a bank reconciliation for the period ended 19th October a copy of which, had been circulated to each Member and placed with these Minutes in the Minute Book see Appendix C . It was proposed for acceptance by Cllr Mrs A Warman seconded by Cllr Mrs J House. Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To accept the bank reconciliation for 19th October 2012 as presented.

- ii) Reserves Subcommittee: Cllr C House gave a brief update. The Committee is still looking for alternative accounts. Members agreed to renew the AIB investment due for renewal on 13th November. Proposed by Cllr R Bryan, seconded by Cllr Mrs J House.

RESOLVED: To renew the AIB investment due for renewal on 13th November

- 261. Village Hall Grant:** The Chairman asked to hear from the Treasurer of the VHMC, Mrs Frecknall. Mrs Frecknall had supplied at the direct request of Members, a substantial amount of information prior to the meeting. This had taken a considerable amount of time to prepare. Mrs Frecknall reminded Members that Members of the VHMC were also volunteers like Councillors and the running of a hall of this size takes up a great deal of their time. Separate fund raising had taken place however last minute unexpected expenditure often came up. The papers circulated indicate a grant is required of £9453 for 13/14. Mindful of the need to keep costs down the VHMC have delayed certain work to subsequent years which has resulted in this lower figure. In the last few days the VHMC have been informed that they will from April 2013 have to pay for waste collection the cost for this is £2,028 which has not been included in these figures. The request was discussed. Cllr House proposed that a grant of £8,000 be recommended to full Council, this was seconded by Cllr Mrs J House, Cllr M Dyer proposed an amendment to £10,000 which was seconded by Cllr R Bryan. The vote was put and agreed by 3 votes in favour, 2 against and Cllr Mrs A Warman and Cllr R Warman abstained.

RESOLVED: To recommend to full Council that a grant of £10,000 is given to VHMC for 13/14.

- 262 Budget setting and precept – Members** considered future plans and budgetary requirements for 2013/14 . It was noted that there was no provision to assist the Scouts. A sum of £2,000 was included under Grant Contingency – Youth. The Committee reviewed the revised figures. The advice of DAPTC, that due to proposed changes the precept recommendation should be in principle and the final budget approved at the end of January was noted. Proposed by Cllr R Bryan, seconded by Cllr M Dyer. Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED to recommend the revised budget be approved in principle to full Council.

263. Exchange of Information:

1. Next meeting scheduled for 5th December 2012
2. The Clerk was asked to put appointment of Youth Club representative on the next full Council agenda.

Meeting ended at 8.25pm

Chairman