

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee – 1 December 2010
Held at the Brockridge Centre, Woodend Road, Frampton Cotterell

Present: Councillors D Hockey (*Vice-Chairman in the Chair*), Mrs Bashford, Broome, Clothier, Farbrother, Mrs Stickland and Thomson

Apologies: Councillors Pat Hockey, Manfield and Mrs Rowan

472 Evacuation Procedure

The Chairman drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

473 Declarations of Interest under the Local Government Act 1972

- Cllrs Broome and Stickland declared interests as members of the Frampton Cotterell Over 50s Computer Group.
- Cllr D Hockey declared that the participation of those Parish Councillors who are also members of South Gloucestershire District Council in both the debate and any subsequent vote on matters contained in the agenda would be on the basis that the views expressed were preliminary views taking account of the information currently available to the Parish Council. Parish Council members who are also District Councillors reserved their final views until they were in full possession of all relevant information both for and against.

474 Confirmation of Minutes – 27 October 2010

RESOLVED:

- That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting of 27 October 2010 be confirmed and signed.

475 Minutes of the Joint Parishes Night Bus Group – 16 November 2010

The Committee considered the contents of the above minutes and noted with satisfaction that four passenger surveys had been completed during the year. Both the Clerk and Members felt that Yate Town Council's offer to service the JPNBG meetings at a cost of £40.80 per meeting was acceptable.

RESOLVED:

- That the Minutes be accepted.
- That Yate TC be advised that budgetary provision of £1077 has been made to meet the Parish's contribution to the Night Bus service for 2011.
- That Yate TC be advised that the offer to service meetings of the Group, at a cost of £40.80 per meeting, is accepted with thanks.
- That the JPNBG and SGC be thanked for the survey work which has been carried out in 2010.

476 Frequency and timing of Meetings

Referring to Minute 746, the Clerk sought Members' views on the frequency and timing of Council and Committee meetings. The Committee noted the comments submitted by Cllr Mrs Rowan via e-mail to the effect that there was a good case for reverting to afternoon meetings for at least the Staffing and F & GP Committee meetings. Cllrs Mrs Bashford, Mrs Stickland, Thomson, Clothier and Farbrother also spoke in favour of daytime meetings. Cllr Clothier stated that the Brockridge Committee could be converted to an Advisory Group meeting bi-annually in the daytime. The Chairman commented that the issue merited further review, taking the most recent consideration of the matter [15 September 2010] as the starting point.

RESOLVED:

- That a Working Group comprising Cllrs Clothier, Pat Hockey, King, Thomson and Susan Tubey be asked to draw up proposals for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee.

477 Review of Council Policies

Members noted that a report on this matter would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee on 24 January 2011.

478 Draft Agreement between the Council and the Over50s Group

The Clerk presented the formal response from the Chairman of the Over50s Group. The Chairman raised concerns about payments made and income received by the Group and felt that the Council should be satisfied that the Agreement was an equitable one and that it represented value for money for local residents.

RESOLVED :

- That the matter be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee.

479 Street Lighting Switch-off

The Clerk reported the details of a meeting with SGC lighting staff on 18 November 2010. A further meeting was planned for 2.00pm on Tuesday 11 January 2011 when a final analysis of responses received would be undertaken; a report on the findings would then be submitted to Council on 24 January 2011.

RESOLVED:

- That Cllrs Clothier, Farbrother and D Hockey be authorised to attend the meeting on 11 January 2011 and report back.

480 Council Budget for 2011/12

The Clerk reported the budget aspirations of all service Committees. Members suggested a number of changes/transfers of budgetary responsibilities in order to present a more complete financial picture of each Committee's role together with a clear reflection of Council activity as a whole. Members asked for the two additional items of expenditure he raised – an increase to the insurance premium of £1000 and an estimated £1000 for grounds maintenance equipment – to be included in the budget report to Council on 13 December 2010.

RESOLVED to recommend:

- That the budgets as set out at Appendix 1 to these minutes be recommended for approval.

481 Finance

a Accounts for Payment (see Appendix 2)

RESOLVED:

- That the Accounts totalling £11029.12 be approved.

b Income and Expenditure Report as at end-October 2010

The Clerk presented the above report for Members' information.

RESOLVED:

- That the report be noted.

c Internal Audit arrangements

The Clerk confirmed that SGC's Audit Team were scheduled to visit the offices on 14 and 15 December 2010 in order to carry out a full internal audit.

RESOLVED:

- That the report be noted.

d Insurance valuation of Council property

Referring to Minute 457d, the Clerk reported the receipt of valuation figures from David James and Partners in the sum of £2,072,500. Members heard that the figures had been passed on to Zurich Municipal, the Council's insurers.

RESOLVED :

- That the report be noted.

483 Correspondence

Request to purchase land at The Park

Members considered the above request. The Chairman expressed his concern at the precedent that might be set if the Council were to agree to the request. Cllr Thomson asked about the legal position given the status of The Park as a Public Open Space. Cllr Pat Hockey felt that the Council should preserve natural habitats and encourage indigenous wildlife by clearing up litter in the area in question.

RESOLVED :

- That Cllrs Mrs Bashford and D Hockey be authorised to inspect the site and report back to the Council meeting on 13 December 2010.

484 Date of Next Meeting

WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY 2011 AT 7.30PM AT THE BROCKERIDGE CENTRE