

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee
of Saddleworth Parish Council held at
The Civic Hall, Lee Street, Uppermill on **Monday 22nd October 2007**

There were present Cllr. Mrs. A. McInnes - Chairman

Mr. P. Bagley	Mr. D. Heffernan
Mrs. B Beeley	Mr. A. Hodgkiss
Mr. K. Begley	Mr. J. Hudson
Mr. R. Birse	Mr. K. Hulme
Mr M. Buckley	Mr. B. Lord
Mr. B. Cullen	Mrs. P. Lord
Mr. R. Franklin	Mrs. A. Parry

561 Apologies for Absence: Cllrs. Dr. D. Atherton, Mrs M. Bingley, Mr.P.Davenport, Mr. P. Renold & Mrs. D. Shaw

562. Declarations of Interest – None

563 Dog Control Orders – Councillor Renold is leading on this - adjourned to the next meeting.

564 Congestion Charging – Councillor Franklin informed the meeting that there is little prospect of the provision of a station at Diggle. It was agreed that the Council should hold a public meeting to discuss Congestion Charging and invite the Regional Directors of Northern Rail and First Bus along with Councillor Richard Knowles. A proposal to invite Councillor Jeremy Sutcliffe to the meeting was defeated. The Clerk will liaise with Councillor Franklin to arrange the meeting.

565 Notice boards - Arrangements are being made to provide a notice board adjacent to the cross roads in Denshaw. Attempts are being made to identify a suitable site in Grotton. Councillors were asked to volunteer to oversee the notice boards in their ward. Currently Cllr Mr. Lord oversees Springhead, Cllr Mr. Hudson – Greenfield and Cllr Mr. Franklin – Diggle. Councillor Mrs Lord will look at possible site in Lydgate and Dacres.

The notice board in Millgate car park is currently being used by the Oldham Countryside Service. The Clerk will clarify the situation with the Countryside Service.

Knowsley School on Cooper Street was also identified as a possible site for a notice board

The design of the notice board is being changed to make them more weather proof.

- 566 Christmas Trees and Illumination Competition** – all current recipients of trees are being contacted to ensure that they want a tree and will put lights on it.

A list of all the current sites will be circulated to Councillors, It was agreed that details of any possible new sites should be forwarded to the Clerk for consideration at the next Special Projects Sub Committee meeting on 5th November.

An A5 laminated sign will be given to each site stating that the Tree was provided by the Parish Council.

Councillors were also asked to promote the illumination competition.

- 567 Voluntary Sector Consultation** – The Parish Council will provide an opportunity to voluntary bodies that operate in Saddleworth to show case their activities, It was suggested that the event would run over a weekend in September at the Civic Hall with groups providing entertainment. It was agreed that a Task and Finish group consisting of Councillors Mr Keith Begley, Mrs Barbara Beeley and Mr Brian Lord would produce a proposal and report back to a future meeting of the Committee.

- 568 Budget Monitoring** – The Clerk submitted a report showing the annual budget, actual expenditure and income to date and the budget remaining. The report was received and accepted

- 569 Accounts for Payment** – The list of Accounts for Payment was approved by the Committee. The total expenditure being £6,672.89 and income being £87,817.90. There were no payments made in accordance with Section 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972

- 570 Councillor Training** – The Clerk informed the meeting that he had received an e-mail from Shaw and Crompton Parish Councillor Diane Williamson, thanking the Council for their hospitality during the joint training session at the Civic Hall. The information was received and noted.

- 571 Devolution of Services**
Councillor Buckley presented a report to the Committee setting out which Services the Council could potentially take on and the steps required to produce a Parish Plan. It was agreed that a sub-group be created to move the issues forward, the group will provide regular up-dates to this committee. It was agreed that the group will comprises Cllrs. Mr. Buckley, Mr. Begley, Mr Cullen, Mr. Franklin, Mr. Lord, Mrs McInnes & Mrs Parry.

There may be some external funding for the production of the Parish Plan, the current budget includes an amount for Quality Parish Council work.

The Parish Plan and Village Design Statements will feed into the OMBC Local Development Framework.

The Council needs to have an active involvement in tourism in partnership with Oldham MBC & the Peak Park. The local libraries need to become a community hub.

It was suggested that the Council needs to look at how the arrangements work in Bradford and Holme Valley Parish Council. Consideration should also be given to affiliation to NALC.

It was also agreed that Councillor Mr. Lord will give an update on the Peak Park proposals at the next meeting of this committee

- 572. Urgent Business** – The Chairman informed the meeting that she will be on holiday for the next meeting of the committee. It was agreed that Councillor Mrs P Lord will chair the meeting if the vice –chairman is unable to attend.