

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee
of Saddleworth Parish Council held at
The Civic Hall, Lee Street, Uppermill on **Monday 23rd February 2009**

There were present Cllr. Mrs. A. McInnes - Chairman
Cllr. Mr K. Begley – Vice Chairman

Cllrs.	Mr. P.W. Bagley	Mr. K Hulme
	Mr. R. Birse	Mr. B. Lord
	Mr. B. Cullen	Mrs. P. Lord
	Mr. P.H. Davenport	Mrs. A.C. Parry
	Mr. R.G. Franklin	Mr. P.N. Renold
	Mr. A. Hodgkiss	Mrs. D.M Shaw

742. Apologies for Absence: Apologies for Absence: Cllrs. Dr. D. Atherton. Mrs. B.A. Beeley. Mrs. M.J. Bingley, Mr. M. Buckley. Mr. D. Heffernan, Mr. J. Hudson

743. Declarations of Interest – None

744 Voluntary Weekend – Update
Discussion on this item was deferred to the next meeting

745. Parish Plan - Update.
A meeting will be held on 30th March 2009 with the volunteers who helped to produce the Questionnaire, to feed back on the responses received and the Draft Plan

746. Rights of Way – Update
There was nothing to report

747. South Pennine Forum – Update
This issue has not yet been discussed by YLCA due to staff sickness

748. Transport – Update
Following the Referendum, thought needs to be given to the best way to move forward with transport issues in Saddleworth; these include Diggle bus times, Diggle Station and cross Pennine routes. The provision of village signs is being dealt with by the Area Committee

749. Fuel Poverty – Update
A working group will be set up to look at issues in Saddleworth

750. Pennine Prospects – Update
The Parish Council is looking at possible funding for the Visitor Information Service and a Tourist Map.

751. Area Committee – Update

There is a ground breaking situation with the Parish Council working closely with Oldham MBC Councillors on the Area Committee for the benefit of Saddleworth

752. Civic Hall Modernisation Phase 2

The Planning Application is currently being considered and an estimate for the proposed work is being sought. A full report will be provided to the Council before any decision is made to commence the work

753. Communities in Control: Real People, real power. Code of Conduct for Local Authority members and employees – Update

Details of the submission prepared by the Oldham Standards Board were circulated. There is concern that the proposals are ‘a sledgehammer to crack a nut’

754. Peak District National Park LDF – Core Strategy

The Planning Policy Sub-committee will draft a response to the document and report back to a future meeting of this committee.

755. Risk Management Assessment

The Clerk presented a report on the updated Risk Management Assessment. Members accepted the report and noted that procedures are in place to meet any risks which may occur.

756. Review into the Effectiveness of systems of Internal Control

The Clerk advised the Council that the Accounts and Audit Regulations require the Council to review their systems of internal control and the effectiveness of Internal Audit. Members reviewed the Internal Audit Plan prepared by the current auditors, Yorkshire Internal Audit Services, and agreed that it fully meets the needs of the Council and that the plan should be adopted. Members also noted that a review is being undertaken on the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations of the Council

Accounts for Payment - The list of Accounts for Payment was approved by the Committee. The total expenditure being £20,873.74 and income being £3,338.25. There were no payments made in accordance with Section 137 and 139 of the Local Government

Urgent Item - Postal sorting and Delivery Arrangements

It is understood that the Post Office is considering re-organising the sorting and delivery arrangements in Saddleworth. This will involve the closure of the three sorting offices in Saddleworth and the relocation of the postmen to Oldham, with casual staff delivering post in Saddleworth. A small group of Parish and Borough Councillors are meeting on 24th February 2009 to discuss what action can be taken, including convening a public meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to the Post Office expressing the Parish Council’s concern about the proposals. It was also agreed that Phil Woolas MP would be contacted