

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee  
of Saddleworth Parish Council held at  
The Civic Hall, Lee Street, Uppermill on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

There were present Cllr. Mr K. Begley - Chairman

Mrs. B Beeley	Mr. A. Hodgkiss
Mrs M. Bingley	Mr. J. Hudson
Mr. R. Birse	Mr. K. Hulme
Mr. M. Buckley	Mr. B. Lord
Mr. B. Cullen	Mrs. P. Lord
Mr. P Davenport	Mrs. A. Parry
Mr. R. Franklin	Mr. P. Renold
Mr. D. Heffernan	Mrs. D. Shaw

- 706. Apologies for Absence:** Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Dr. D. Atherton, Mr. P. Bagley & Mrs. A. McInnes
- 707. Declarations of Interest – None**
- 708. Peak Park –** The Chairman welcomed Councillor C. McLaren – O.M.B.C. rep on the Peak Park, Michelle Carr & Geoff Willerton from O.M.B.C. and Sean Prendergast – Chief Ranger, Head of Field Services – Peak park. Mr Prendergast made a short presentation on the role of the Peak Park. The Peak Park plays an active part in promoting tourism in the area. An Economic Review Roadshow will be held in the New Year.
- 709. Voluntary Weekend –** Feedback has been received from a significant number of the organisations that took part. The sub-group that organised the event will meet early in the new year and report back to this committee.
- 710. Parish Plan –** Over 1,100 questionnaires have been returned so far and the data is currently being analysed. The information will form the basis of the Parish Plan. There has been a delivery problem in part of Springhead, questionnaires have now been hand delivered to the affected properties.
- 711. Rights of Way. –** A large amount of preparation work has been done and method of feedback to Terence Cavanagh has been agreed. A considerable amount of work has been completed in Diggle.
- 712. South Pennine Forum –** Awaiting feedback from the meeting of the South Pennine Branch of the Yorkshire Local Councils Association.
- 713. Congestion Charging / Transport –** It is now down to individuals to make the decision, it is the largest amount of money made available by any Government for a Transport scheme. Oldham needs the money to fund the metrolink line along Union Street. GMPTE have given assurances that the work will be finished on Greenfield Station despite problems with the current contractor. The condition of the Wool Road Canal Society Car Park will be raised at the AGM. The Cooper Street parking scheme will be going ahead.

- 714. Pennine Prospects** – There have been two meetings of the Leader project, the European funding has been allocated to areas across the country. The keys aims of the project are heritage, conservation and improved access. A total of £4M is available over 5 years, proposals for grants will be available early in the new year. It is possible that the Parish Council could apply for some funding, Councillor Beeley will seek clarification at the Board meeting.
- 715. Area Committee** – The membership of the Area Committee will be as discussed at the previous meeting. The Chairman of the Area Committee can be any member of the Committee. All members of the Area Committee can vote, most of the voting will be in sub-committees. The intention is that Saddleworth and Lees will have a cohesive voice and have power over services in the area. The arrangements will be reviewed in April. It was agreed that the proposal would be adopted by the Council. Any Parish Council wishing to be considered for nomination to the Area Committee should contact the Clerk by 5 pm on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Councillor Hulme abstained.
- 716. Civic Hall Modernisation Phase 2** – A proposed scheme has been designed by John Barnes. The first floor will be extended over the existing Council Chamber this will allow for the extension of the stage and provision of changing / toilets facilities at the back of the new stage. There will also be a food preparation area on the first floor, additional storage and access ramp at the rear of the building. The existing Council Chamber and office area will be re-configured to provided a Civic room for weddings, conferences and Council meetings. It was agreed that the Architect be requested to submit a Planning application to Oldham MBC. Talks will be held with current and potential users of the Hall to finalise design of the inside of the building.
- 717. Chain of Office** – A new chain of office and jewel for the Chairman and a new chain for the Consort have been ordered.
- 718. Code of Conduct** – Consultation is taking place on a revised code of conduct which will include officers, including those employed by the Parish Council. It was agreed that there was no need to extend the current code. Any specific comments should be passed to Councillor Cullen for inclusion in the response from the Oldham Standards Committee.
- 719. Internal Audit Report** – The Committee considered the report produced by the Internal Auditor, the report was received and noted
- 720. Accounts for Payment** - The list of Accounts for Payment was approved by the Committee. The total expenditure being £20,543.53 and income being £3,767.37. There were no payments made in accordance with Section 137 and 139 of the Local Government