

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee  
of Saddleworth Parish Council held at  
The Civic Hall, Lee Street, Uppermill on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

There were present Cllr. Mrs. A. McInnes - Chairman  
Cllr. Mr.P.Davenport – Vice Chairman

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

**599 Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs. Mrs M. Bingley, Mr M. Buckley & Mr P Renold

**600. Declarations of Interest** – None

**601. Himalayan Balsam** – Graham Gibbons from Groundwork – Oldham & Rochdale gave a presentation of the work that had been undertaken in 2007. The aim had been to involve schools and the community and reduce to concentration of Himalayan Balsam across Saddleworth. There will be a need to re-visit some areas in 2008 as the seeds can lay dormant. The 2007 scheme was supported by a £1,000 grant from Peak Park in addition to monies from the Parish. Mapping of sites has been carried out by Groundwork.

The proposed cost of continuing the work in 2008 was £3,000. The aim is again to work with schools and the wider community, in partnership with Oldham Countryside Service, Mersey Basin and Peak Park. It was agreed to fund the programme for 2008. The programme needs to be reviewed at the end of the year and include information about the amount cleared as a % of total amount in the area.

**602. Rights of Way** – The meeting was informed that 2 workshops had been held attracting over 30 volunteers. There are 294 paths in Saddleworth to be reviewed. A Parish Councillor will act as co-ordinator in each ward, The purchase of hand held GPSs for each ward would assist in the accurate recording of locations on the paths, at a cost of approximately £600. It was felt that there were other more cost effective methods. It was agreed to purchases 6 dog scarers at a cost of approximately £30 each.

- 603. Parish Plan** – A public meeting will be held at the Civic Hall on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March as the start of the consultation process. Mark Chappelhow from Community Futures will facilitate the meeting. There was concern that information sent to Councillors for their information was being passed onto the Press, disrupting the planned programme of publicity about the event. It was agreed that information sent to Councillors and reports accompanying agendas should be treated as confidential until discussed at a meeting.
- 604. Peak Park** – It was agreed that Councillors Mr Hudson, Mr B Lord & Mrs McInnes meet to discuss how to progress the possible extension of the Peak Park.
- 605. Civic Hall Parking** – The Clerk advised the meeting of the potential problems with usage of the car park when Oldham MBC introduce restrictions on other car parks in Uppermill. It was agreed in principle that the Council should restrict parking times on the Civic Hall Car Park and that the final details will be agreed by the Civic Hall sub- committee.
- 606. Risk Management Assessment** – The Clerk presented a report on the up-dated Risk Management Assessment. The changes included the provision of CCTV in the Civic Hall and the increase in insurance cover recommended by the External Auditor. Members accepted the report and noted that procedures are in place to meet any risks which may occur
- 607. 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..
- 608. Provision of CCTV in the Civic Hall** – members considered a report of the current CCTV system and agreed to the purchase of a further camera to be installed at the front of the building with a “pan and tilt” facility.
- 609. Committee and Sub-committee for 2008 – 2009.** deferred to next meeting
- 610. Accounts for Payment** – The list of Accounts for Payment was approved by the Committee. The total expenditure being £20,383.09 and income being £8,185.78. There were no payments made in accordance with Section 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972