

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee  
of Saddleworth Parish Council held at  
The Civic Hall, Lee Street, Uppermill on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

There were present Cllr. Mrs. P. Lord - Chairman

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

**573 Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs., Mrs M. Bingley, Mr.P.Davenport, Mrs. A. McInnes & Mrs. A. Parry

**574. Declarations of Interest** – None

**575 Dog Control Orders** – Councillor Renold circulated a questionnaire for all Councillor to complete and return to him by December 3<sup>rd</sup>..

**576 Springhead Community Centre** – Councillor Beeley informed the meeting that a petition had been given into Oldham MBC and there had been a public meeting with members and officers. It is hoped that it will be taken over as a Community Facility.

**577. Devolution of Services** – the working group has held two meetings and is starting to gather information about the services that the Parish Council would look to manage in the future.

Three basic issues to consider – practical, how would it be paid for and how would it be managed. The Council would only take on responsibility for a service if it could do it better Any changes must be practical,

Information is been requested from Oldham on a number of service areas.

The Conservation Areas Advisory Committee have agreed to assist in recording details of monuments in the area.

The Council needs to think strategically about what we would like to focus on to enhance Saddleworth.

Letters are being sent to Community Associations to inform them of the Parish Plan and their involvement in it's development

There is also a need to clean up specific areas in Saddleworth, it was agreed that the Clerk will write to Oldham M.B.C. requesting them to clear up the area on Smithy Lane.

- 578. Peak Park** – item deferred until January meeting, Councillor Heffernan informed the meeting that the Community Council had written to Phil Woolas MP and was awaiting a reply.
- 579. Toilet facilities in Saddleworth** – need to look at improving the quality of toilets in Saddleworth, need to look at possibility of paying cafés to allow the public to use their toilets. Also need to look at possibility of European monies or sponsorship of certain toilets.
- 580. Local Development Framework** – it was agreed that a Special Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December to enable Oldham MBC officers to give a presentation and answer questions on the LDF. A working group of Councillors Mr M. Buckley, Mr K. Hulme, Mr. B. Lord & Mr. P. Bagley will draft a response on behalf of the Council
- 581. Internal Audit** – members considered the report produced by the Internal Auditor, all the recommendations had now been implemented
- 582. Completion of Audit of Accounts for 2006/2007** – The Clerk submitted a copy of the Annual Return and Statement of Assurance duly certified by the External Auditor along with a copy of their report on issues arising from the Audit..

Members agreed to:

- Approve and accept the Annual Return and Statement of Assurance
- Approve the increase in the Fidelity Guarantee to £200,000
- Note that a full review of the Risk Assessment was considered by this Committee in April and that a further review will be carried out before the end of the Financial year.

- 583. Accounts for Payment** – The list of Accounts for Payment was approved by the Committee. The total expenditure being £50,864.33 and income being £5,943.29. There were no payments made in accordance with Section 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972
- 584. Exclusion of Press and Public** – It was agreed that the Press and Public be excluded for the following item.
- 585. Civic Hall staffing** – The Clerk up-dated the members of the current staffing situation.