

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee
of Saddleworth Parish Council held at
The Civic Hall, Lee Street, Uppermill on **Monday 28th April 2008**

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

- 623 Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs. Dr. D. Atherton, Mrs M. Bingley & Mrs. A. Parry
- 624. Declarations of Interest – None**
- 625. Parish Plan –** Two meetings have been held with volunteers to draft the questionnaire to go out to all households in Saddleworth in October. A pilot will be distributed to 200 properties in May / June. The pilot will be distributed and collected by volunteers.
- 626. Rights of Way.** The survey work should start in May
- 627. Peak Park –** the Council should be able to become more involved with the better working arrangements between the Peak Park and Oldham MBC.
- 628. South Pennine Forum –** responses have been received from a number of Parish and Town Council, the task and finish group will be re-convened to review the responses.
- 629. Congestion Charging / Transport–** a response has been received from Northern Rail. There is a major change to rail services arising from the introduction of a new West Coast Main Line timetable. The changes are primarily on the south side of Manchester, on the whole there is little affect on the Manchester Victoria to Huddersfield trains in terms of frequency and number of trains but some of the times may change. They are reviewing to Sunday services in consultation with GMPTE and have an aspiration to improve Sunday services on a number of routes, including Victoria to Huddersfield but are some way off knowing what is possible. It is quite likely that some improvements will be possible in

December but others will have to wait until May or December 2009. This will all depend on the business case for each route, as well as the constraints of timetabling their services amongst those of other operators, and the support that GMPTE may choose to give.

They are aware of revenue collection issues and various actions are in hand to improve it.

- 630. Voluntary weekend** – Twenty seven organisations have expressed an interest in participating. Saddleworth Monthly are going to provide some sponsorship for the event.
- 631. LDF – Call for sites** – An initial meeting has been held, the deadline for the information has been extended by Oldham MBC.
- 632. Visitor Information Service** – a letter has been received from Saddleworth Museum thanking the Parish Council for extending the Information Office a further six months, during which time the situation can be assessed and the future prepared for. The public appear to be happy with the decision to support the service. A full review will be made during the next few months.
- 633. South Pennine Walking and Riding Festival** – It was agreed that the Parish Councillors should be encourage to support the event and assist in the organising and planning of events.
- 634. Himalayan Balsom funding** – It was agreed that the Council would submit an application to Awards for All for £1,370 to fund additional events. The Council in partnership with Groundwork Oldham and Rochdale will look for other funding sources for the project.
- 635. Boundary Signs** – It was agreed that the Parish Council supported the idea the erection of signs at the County boundaries. It was also agreed that signs in Saddleworth should include the white rose. The Members agreed to provide £500 towards the cost of the provision and installation of the signs.
- 636. Planning Training** – Members were reminded that Oldham M.B.C. are providing two Training sessions in July and that Parish Councillors are invited to attend.
- 637. Accounts for Payment** - The list of Accounts for Payment was approved by the Committee. The total expenditure being £29,934.45 and income being £3,602.65. There were no payments made in accordance with Section 137 and 139 of the Local Government