

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

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

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

- 654. Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs. Dr. D. Atherton, Mr. P. Bagley, Mr M. Buckley, Mr. P. Davenport & Mr. A. Hodgkiss
- 655. Declarations of Interest** – None
- 656. Recycling** – Jo Stanley from OMBC and Jane Hawkes from GMWDA explained recycling and refuse collection in Saddleworth. The trial of the managed weekly collection has increased recycling rates from 22% to 38%. The system is being extended across the Borough, some parts of Saddleworth will move onto the system in the next few weeks, the majority of Saddleworth will have transferred by October / November. Food waste is collected every week, recyclable waste is collected one week and other waste the following week. There are currently 25 Civic Amenity sites across 9 boroughs in Greater Manchester, Wigan has its own system. A number of new processing plants are being developed across Greater Manchester to achieve a 50% recycling target by 2020, the aim is also to slow down waste growth to nil. GMWDA are happy to look at any possible sites for additional cost effective Civic Amenity sites.
- 657. Parish Plan** – The pilot questionnaires have been circulated and returned, the questionnaire has now been modified and will be sent to the printers shortly. The questionnaires will be distributed by the Royal Mail during the week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> October for return by the end of October. Arrangements have been made for them to be left at Post Offices, Libraries, the Visitor Information Centre and Civic Hall.
- 658. Rights of Way.** - The walk at High Moor took place on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July, There has been a meeting with Terence Cavanagh to discuss problems identified on the surveys completed in Diggle, it is important that it can be seen that action is being taken.
- 659. Peak Park** – meeting not yet arranged..

**660. South Pennine Forum** – The task and finish group has reviewed the responses from the neighbouring Town and Parish Councils. It has been suggested that the Parish Council should join or be an associate member of the South Pennine Branch of the Yorkshire Local Councils Association (YLCA). The Clerk has contacted the Association for further information. The group also recommended that a small group of Councillors should visit the Councils who have been supportive of the idea of a South Pennine Forum. A letter will be sent to all the Council's who responded thanking them for their comments. The matter will be reviewed at the next Finance & General Purposes Committee when a reply has been received from YLCA .

**661. Congestion Charging / Transport** – An additional Roadshow has been arranged to visit the Museum in Uppermill, the hours have also been extended to 10 am to 7.30 pm. Attempts are being made to hold a public meeting at the Civic Hall on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September. It is hoped that as many people as possible will attend the events to find out the facts.

Brownhill Bridge work may not start until January or February, the work will require the complete closure of the bridge for 2 months.

**662. Voluntary weekend** – Publicity will be appearing in the local press. The working group will be meeting later in the week to finalise details of the organisations that are attending and the programme of entertainment for the weekend.

**663. LDF – Call for sites** – Members considered the report prepared by members of the Planning Policy Committee. It was agreed to forward the document to Oldham MBC with the inclusion of two additional sites in Austerlands .

Concern was raised that the right of way at Bailey Mills appears to have been closed off. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact Oldham MBC to clarify the situation.

**664. Pennine Prospects** – The Leader bid will be submitted later in the week.

**665. Up-grade of I.T. equipment** - Members considered a report from the Clerk on the need to up-grade the current I.T. hardware and software. It was agreed that a file server and associated software should be purchased.

**666. Budget monitoring** – The Clerk submitted a report showing the annual budget, expenditure and income to date and the budget remaining. The report was received and accepted.

- 667. Statement of accounts 2007 – 2008.** – The Clerk submitted a revised copy of the Statement of Accounts. Members approved the revised statement.
- 668. Balances & Forward Planning** - Members considered a report from the Clerk on the current level of balances. It was agreed that a Repair & Renewals Fund of £30,000 should be created for the Civic Hall, along with a Cemetery Reserve of £10,000. The remaining £35,000 will be held as a General Reserve. The level of reserves will be reviewed at least annually.
- 669. Accounts for Payment** - The list of Accounts for Payment was approved by the Committee. The total expenditure being £7,407.71 and income being £3,804.00. There were no payments made in accordance with Section 137 and 139 of the Local Government
- 670. Exclusion of Press and Public** – Members voted for the exclusion of press and public from the meeting for the next item
- 671. Visitor Information Service** – The Clerk submitted a report on the operation of the Visitor Information Service, it was agreed the Parish Council will continue to support the service until March 2009. The Finance Assistant will work in the Centre on Tuesday & Thursdays from October and a grant of £3,500 will be paid to the Museum to fund the hours provided by their staff. Additional payments of £618 will be made to Parish Council staff to provide cover at the Civic Hall.