

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL**FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES**

MINUTES of a meeting of the FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held at 8.27pm on Wednesday 17th May 2017 in the Council Offices, Crafton Green House, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted, Essex.

PRESENT Cllr P L Jones (Chairman), Cllrs M Caton , M Jessup, J O'Brien, F Richards, J Salmon and G Sell

ATTENDING Mrs Ruth Clifford - Clerk
Mrs Emma Philbrick - Administration Assistant
3 Members of the public
Cllr D Wallace-Jarvis

55 APOLOGIES

No apologies received

56 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

57 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2017 were approved

58 MATTERS ARISING

484 - Windmill Path - The Clerk is pursuing this with the contractor

59 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Nothing to report

60 FINANCE

(a) PAYMENTS FOR AUTHROISATION - Approved

(b) DRAFT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT TO 31.03.17 - The report was received

(c) VAT RETURN TO 31.03.17 - The report was received

61 LIGHTING

(a) OUTAGE REPORT - No issues to report

(b) LIGHTING COLUMNS IN RAINSFORD AND CROASDAILE ROADS - UPDATE

Cllr O'Brien reported that he had received two letters from residents Harris and Chandler who do not agree that the light needs to be erected in the footpath between Croasdaile Road and Gilbey Crescent. He explained that this is an experimental light which was being trialled to see how effective it would be. One of the concerns raised was the affect on the

bats and also that it would attract moths. Cllr O'Brien stated he had sought information from the Bat Conservation Trust website and the LED lighting to be used is the best form and should not affect the bats. As Mr & Mrs Harris were present at the meeting, the Chairman invited them to comment on their concerns.

Mr & Mrs Harris pointed out during the summer the bats are affected by them having their windows open with a light on. Gilbey Crescent is dark with no lights so why light the foot path? They also asked if it could be trialled in a different area? Cllr O'Brien stated that over the years they had many requests from Gilbey Crescent for a light and also this is one of the only areas which is clear from trees so would be the best place for the trial and would obtain best results as to the efficiency of the lights.

Various Councillors pointed out that the footpath lead to Bentfield School so this should be lit especially for children taking part in after school clubs in the winter months. This is also for Health and Safety purposes.

Mr & Mrs Harris said they had lived there for 40 years and have never had a problem. They are being made to live in City conditions when Stansted is a Village. Why is the trial being done in the summer months when we have lighter evenings. It makes more sense to run a trial during winter. Cllr Sell asked if the trial could be done during Winter but Cllr O'Brien pointed out that the main concerns of the two residents was youths gathering in the alleyway and the affect it had on the bats, both of which are more common in summer so a trail now would see what if any effect the light had on both of these.

Cllr F Richards proposed the following

RESOLUTION To undertake a 4 month trial period to start in August to see the effect from Summer through to Autumn, taking into account the clock change in October.

Seconded by Cllr Sell and unanimously agreed.

Mr & Mrs Harris asked if the footpath could be put back until the trial started as it was unsafe in its current state and also asked how the trial will be assessed? The Clerk will speak to the contractor and arrange for this to be done and Cllr O'Brien agreed to visit Mr & Mrs Harris during the trial to maintain contact with them.

The discussion turned to the other lights in Croasdaile Road which are subject to a trial scheme. It was agreed to try adding 1 mtr height extensions to columns 7 & 8 and to add an extending arm to the column outside house no 24. The extensions cost £129 each. It was also agreed to add a baffle to the column nearest to the Harris' house.

(c) **TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM RESIDENT IN MILLFIELDS TO RELOCATE A LIGHTING COLUMN**

After discussion it was suggested that although the light was there before the residents moved in, the Council would like to encourage off road parking. The Clerk would obtain costs for the light to be moved and it would then be suggested that the Council and the resident pay 50/50 towards costs. The Clerk would report the outcome at a future meeting.

62 WINDMILL

The Clerk reported that the bi-annual Inspection had been completed and the feedback was good. The external decorating and pointing does need to be completed though so an attempt would be made again to obtain quotes.

Cllr O'Brien reported on the quotes received for the internal painting. One quote was slightly higher from a company who used employees to complete the work and a slightly lower quote was received from a company who was one person working on their own. It was agreed that they would go ahead with the slightly higher quote as this would ensure more continuity on the project if anyone was to fall ill etc as they had other employees who could continue with the work.

63 YOUTH CENTRE

The Clerk advised that the second meeting arranged for last week had been postponed but she would get a new date in the diary for this. No further forward with the house on site but Cllr Richards pointed out that a lot was happening in the Health Care system which might change this.

Meeting Closed at 9.08pm