

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

MINUTES of a meeting of the FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held at 7.45pm on Wednesday 17 April 2019 in the Council Offices, Crafton Green House, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted, Essex.

PRESENT Cllr P L Jones (Chairman), Cllrs J Hudson, J O'Brien J Salmon, G Sell and D Wallace Jarvis

ATTENDING Mrs Ruth Clifford - Clerk
Mr Trevor Lloyd- Assistant to the Clerk
1 member of the public
1 member of the press

503 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs M Caton, M Jessup and F Richards

504 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Cllr Salmon, item 9 – non-pecuniary interest.

505 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 March were approved.

506 MATTERS ARISING - none.

507 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The year-end accounts closedown took place today and no issues were identified. The internal audit is due to take place in two weeks time. Our free reserves still meet the official requirements.

It is hoped that the final cost of the Mountfitchet Exchange construction work should be known by the end of the month.

508 a) FINANCE - PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION- approved

b) DRAFT SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT TO 31ST MARCH 2019

The Clerk tabled the summary. Members sought clarification of some figures. There have been some adjustments to cost centres and allocations. The final accounts, once received, will be presented to the Full Council for approval, along with the Annual Return.

c) VAT RETURN TO 31ST MARCH 2019

HMRC have refunded our VAT payments promptly as usual.

509 LIGHTING: A) OUTAGE REPORT

The Clerk reported outages in Mountfitchet Road and Recreation Ground.

B) GENERAL

A quote for the light in Water Lane is still awaited. Residents need to be consulted before any action is taken.

Cllr O'Brien will be inspecting columns. A number of columns would benefit from repainting but the inspection needs to happen before any painting can take place. He reported that the LED lights in Croasdaile Road were working well.

510 STAFF MATTERS

Personnel working group minutes have been circulated. Staff appraisals and Christmas holiday dates will be considered at the next meeting. There was a discussion of working arrangements for office staff once we are operational in the new building. The Clerk stressed that the reception desk would need to be manned during the published opening hours. She will be compiling a list of Councillors who could be called on to cover if staff were on holiday or on sick leave, especially until Emma's return to work.

511 PARISH GRANTS - TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FROM THE SCOUTS - SEE ATTACHED

After a brief discussion Cllr O'Brien proposed the following:

RESOLUTION that £500 be awarded to the Scouts mini-bus appeal.

This was seconded by Cllr Sell. There were 5 votes in favour and Cllr Salmon, who had declared an interest, abstained.

512 DAY CENTRE

There is a meeting with UDC scheduled for 18 April. It is hoped that the outcome of discussions will be taken back to UDC for consideration, after which a proposal could be considered by the Full Council.

513 WINDMILL

Cllr O'Brien reported on the meeting that had been held earlier in the evening. He commented on the healthy state of the finances but highlighted the need to consider the longer term financial implication of replacing the sails which will need to take place at some point. The Chairman endorsed comments that Cllr O'Brien had made at the Windmill meeting regarding the commitment and enthusiasm of the Stansted Millers who work very hard on behalf of the Mill.

514 YOUTH CENTRE

Cllr Salmon reported that the three members of the Stansted Youth 2000 Management Committee have agreed to serve as trustees but written confirmation is awaited. A fourth

trustee is need for the application for CIO status to go forward. We have been informed that all the documentation has been completed and the application can be submitted once the SY 2000 Members' agreement is received.

Numbers attending on Friday evenings have been very good.

Members would like Linda Barnes to produce a two-year action plan for the Youth Club.

Cllr O'Brien thanked the Chairman for his forty three years of distinguished service and wished him a long and healthy retirement. The Council's finances had been run in a very efficient manner and he had been an effective mentor. These comments were endorsed by Cllr Sell and other committee members.

Meeting closed 8.45 pm