

**Minutes of a meeting of the
FINANCE COMMITTEE
held on
Monday, 1st December 2008 in the Committee Room
Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford**

Councillors present: Chairman R Mitchell, Mrs E Chippette, J Dickson, Mrs M Dorrell, Mrs H Glynn, K Holmes, D Weir and Mrs M Weir.

Also Present: Cllrs Mrs T Bateman, D Eede & R Patient.

- 1. To receive apologies for non-attendance at meeting:**
Cllr V Leach (holiday). Members noted and accepted the apologies tendered.
- 2. Declarations of Interest:**
There were no declarations of interest.
- 3. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting of 10th November 2008 and to approve the destruction of the manuscript notes in respect of that meeting:**
Members accepted the Minutes of 10th November 2008 as a true record and agreed to the destruction of the manuscript notes.
- 4. Action Points:**
The Clerk went through the action list update.
Research investment of reserves – Cllr Mrs Glynn expressed concern, bearing in mind the current climate. The Clerk responded that it was a recommendation from the internal auditor. The Chairman confirmed the Clerk had requested that the research be carried forward to after the planning process was completed and come back with a recommendation thereafter. He asked if Members were happy with that and they were.
Ashingdon Memorial Hall donation request for repairs to roof - Cllr Mrs Weir proposed a provisional grant be included in the budget. Cllr Weir seconded. Cllr Holmes reminded that Members asked to see their accounts before Council came to a decision on a grant. The Clerk responded if Members wished to make a provision in the budget it needed to be included at this stage. The decision to whether to make a grant would be made after the accounts had been seen and the proposed meeting with Ashingdon Parish had been held.
- 5. Financial Report:**
The Clerk went through the Financial Report and had no concerns. Members accepted the Financial Report.
- 6. Agree 2009/10 Budget and recommendation that Full Council ratifies it at meeting on 12th January 2009:**
The Clerk explained the construction of the budget and the calculation of reserves, and he reminded Members of the reserves policy and thus the amount available for draw down. He emphasised that on the basis of the draft budgets and a 2.5% increase in precept there would be an excess of expenditure over income of around £40K. He regarded this as unacceptable bearing in mind the reserves policy. He then went through the budget in detail and drew Members attention to the 5 major items that related to the increase in budget bid. He also reminded Members that the tax base data had not yet been received from RDC and he understood that this would be lower than last year, if so this would have a significant effect on precept

yield. He further explained the sensitivities that he had provided for higher precept figures and the monthly, weekly and daily figures for each of those figures.

Corporate Identity Project - Cllr Holmes proposed HPC refurbish existing signs that are worn and defer the project until money is more available, reducing the budget from £5K to £1K for refurbishment. Cllr Mrs Glynn seconded. The Chairman asked for a show of hands and the motion was carried.

Senior Gym - The Chairman proposed the budget remain unchanged at £5K. Cllr Mrs Chippette seconded. The Chairman asked for a show of hands and the motion was carried.

The Ark II - Cllr Mrs Glynn proposed the £5K budgeted to The Ark II be withdrawn and put into the provisional Ashingdon Memorial Hall budget. Cllr Mrs Chippette seconded. The Chairman asked for a show of hands and the motion was carried.

Summer Fayre - Cllr Holmes proposed £5K be left in budget for Summer Fayre. Cllr Dickson seconded. The Chairman asked for a show of hands and the motion was carried.

Computer System - Cllr Holmes felt it was essential that £2K be left in for computer system and Members agreed to leave the budget unchanged.

Cllr Dickson moved the motion that the budget be accepted, subject to the need to adjust the Band D figure if the base was reduced. Cllr Mrs Dorrell seconded. The Clerk advised that if there was a significant reduction in tax base Members would have to review the budget in January and reminded the next Full Council Meeting date of 12th January 2009. All Members approved the motion proposed by Cllr Dickson.

7. Subscription Renewal:

a) **SLCC (£166)**

Members agreed to the renewal.

8. Donation Request:

a) **The Ark II – referred from Full Council**

This had been dealt with in agenda item 6.

9. Summary of decisions:

- Provisional grant of £5K to be included in budget for roof repairs to Ashingdon Memorial Hall.
- Corporate Identity Project budget to be reduced from £5K to £1K. Project to be deferred and in the meantime refurbish existing signage.
- Senior Gym budget of £5K to remain unchanged.
- £2K Computer System budget to remain unchanged.
- SLCC subscription to be renewed.
- £5K budgeted to The Ark II to be withdrawn.

Chairman