

The Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 3rd December, 2014 at Beeson House, Lintot Square, Southwater commencing at 7.30 pm.

Chairman: Mr P. Buckley

**Councillors: Mrs S. Alway Mr L. Apted
Mr G. Cole Mr.K.Diamond
Mr.D.Nagy Mr.M.Neale**

County: Apologies provided by Cllr B. Watson OBE

District: Apologies provided by Cllrs I. Howard, Dr J. Chidlow

Clerk: Mrs.C.Tobin

Press: Not present

Public: Not present

FG124/12/14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting and then highlighted the housekeeping rules and also the fact that mobile phones should be switched off during the meeting.

Mr.Nagy stated that he would like to thank everyone involved in the Christmas Festival at the weekend and also those involved post the event. The Chairman agreed that it had been an excellent event with great feedback from the public.

Mr.Neale stated that he had attended a road safety meeting and whilst he appreciated that the Southwater Road Safety Partnership had advertised for volunteers for Speed Watch he wondered whether a further advertisement could be posted on the website etc. The Clerk stated that she would be happy to do so.

Mr.Apted said that he too would like to reiterate his thanks for a wonderful Christmas Festival.

FG125/12/14 APOLOGIES

There were apologies received and noted from Mrs.P.Flores-Moore, Mrs.C.Vickers and Mr.Watkins.

FG126/12/14 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Clerk referred Members of Council to information issued in relation to

the Member's Code of Conduct and Standing Orders. This information contained a flow chart previously issued should assist Members in reaching their decision this not being overly complicated.

Members NOTED the Clerk's comments and advice.

FG127/12/14 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had no announcements at this point in the meeting.

FG128/12/14 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk referred members to general correspondence received and asked whether Members wished to comment on any particular item.

Members NOTED the correspondence received.

FG129/12/14 MINUTES

It was RESOLVED by all present that the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th November, 2014 be approved as a true and correct record of the meeting, following the change to the date of the meeting which was incorrectly noted.

FG130/12/14 ACCOUNTS & FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk provided Members with information on the current financial position of the Council to 5th November 2014 including Income and Expenditure and Bank Balances.

Members NOTED and APPROVED the Financial Pack produced by the Clerk.

SALC/NALC Subscriptions for Year 2015/16

The Clerk reported that she had received documentation from the County Association indicating a rise in subscriptions for the next financial year. SALC/NALC figure based on electorate figures supplied by the District Councils will be £2,205.392 compared with that of £2,032.74 for 2014/15 a total rise of £172.652. Mr.Buckley stated that whilst the Council did have a problem in paying such a large fee to the National organisation, it felt that the Surrey & Sussex Association provided value for money in terms of help and assistance over the course of a year; therefore it would be prudent to renew the fees for 2015/16.

It was RESOLVED by all that the NALC/SALC subscriptions for 2015/16 should be presented for payment upon receipt of an invoice.

FG131/12/14 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The Clerk presented a payment schedules to 3rd December 2014 for approval in the sum of £61,246.04 including the additional payments proposed under delegated powers.

It was RESOLVED by all present that the payments schedules amounting to £61,246.00 be APPROVED.

FG132/12/14 COMMUNITY GRANT

The Clerk referred Members to two grants received these being:-

Age Uk Horsham District

The Clerk informed Members that Age UK Horsham District had applied for a grant of £200 to assist caseworkers to carry out a full assessment of need, complete paperwork and assist older individuals to claim benefits to increase income and maintain a lifestyle of their own choice.

It was RESOLVED that the Council should APPROVE the grant requested by Age UK Horsham District in the sum of £200.

Holy Innocents Church

The Church is applying for a grant of £154.00 towards the cost of the printing of the Remembrance Day Service. The Clerk was asked how many leaflets had been produced, however the Clerk did not have this information. Mr.Nagy stated that he would like to know this information, as he thought just based on the number of sheets within the programme that the costs seemed particularly high. Members felt that there was insufficient information available to them at the meeting to enable a decision. Members made the point that they were not refusing the grant merely asking for further information. The Clerk to obtain the information for discussion at Full Council.

Whilst discussing the matter of World War I and II, Mr.Diamond asked whether in light of the Parish Council's previous discussions in terms of commemorating the end of World War I, a working party could be convened to take forward a project or project to enable the community to do so. The Clerk stated that a working party would be an ideal conduit, and it was further suggested that any such working party this being Mr.Diamond, Mrs.Alway and Mr.Nagy should also involve all local churches and three community schools.

It was RESOLVED by all present that the Clerk should ask the Church of Holy Innocents how many programmes were produced in order that they had a figure on which to base the grant.

It was RESOLVED that the Council instigate a Working Party to take

forward ideas on ways on how the community of Southwater could commemorate 100 years from the end of World War I. The Parish Representatives being Mrs.Alway, Mr.Diamond and Mr.Nagy.

FG133/12/14**DRAFT PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET FOR YEAR 2015/16**

The Clerk referred to the draft documents prepared for the meeting including the notes appended to the figures. The Clerk further referred to the Budget report prepared for discussion.

The Chairman advised Members that having gone through the figures including the Nationally agreed pay award for 2014/16 a net budget figure of £305,584 Band D Figure of £73.56 this being a 1.78% increase over the previous years Band D figure. This followed the adjustments previous discussed and was under the ceiling discussed of 2%. This had been made possible due to the increase in the provision tax base provided by the District Council of 4154.3 against a figure of 3894.2 in 2014/15. This included any adjustments relating to the National Pay Award for 2014/16, some of which would be paid by 1st January 2015.

At this point in the meeting the Chairman suspended Standing Orders, excluding press and public from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the matter to be discussed; this being in relation to staffing matters these being exempt matters.

At this point in the meeting upon the advice of the Clerk, Mr.Nagy left the Chamber having declared a prejudicial interest, returning when the matter discussed had been finalised by the Committee.

“Confidential Minute”

Standing Orders were reinstated.

Mr.Nagy returned to the meeting.

The Chairman PROPOSED that the Committee APPROVE FOR RECOMMENDATION to FULL COUNCIL a net budget of £305,584, Grant £7722 Gross Budget of £313,306 equating to a Band D figure of £73.56 representing a 1.78% increase in a Band D property over that of 2014/15, this was SECONDED by Mr.Diamond and APPROVED by all present.

FG134/12/14**POLICE MATTERS**

PCSO Cecil reports that the figures for November 14 have not as yet been provided to him, as this meeting is so soon after the end of the month. The Clerk was asked to provide for the next meeting backdated figures for months when the figures had not been provided.

The Clerk to ask Sussex Police for the backdated crime and anti social behaviour statistics for Southwater for the past 12 months to enable Members to analyse these.

Members NOTED this information.

FG135/12/14

COUNCIL PREMISES & LAND**

MUGA

The Clerk informed Members that following public sessions at the MUGA the Leisure Centre Manager had closed this on Sunday due to the amount of rubbish and debris left by the people using the facility, this being despite rubbish bins being provided around the unit. The unit reopened the following day, but the Manager will be monitoring the situation.

Members NOTED and APPROVED of the action taken to remedy the situation.

Skatepark

Mr.Cole informed the Clerk that both he and Mr.Watkins had met with the contractor on site and was pleased to confirm that by the Friday of the week of the meeting, that the works should be complete. Mr.Cole handed the Clerk an invoice received from the contractor and asked that she confirm what payments had been made to date prior to paying or authorising this invoice under delegated powers.

Members NOTED and APPROVED of the action to be taken and were pleased to note the near completion of the works at the Skatepark.

Tree Management Contract

The Clerk has been informed by the appointed contractor that they hoped to start works in the near future. It is anticipated that planning permission may be required to attend to some of the areas as these may be part of the Woodland Preservation Order.

It was the Clerk's intention to leaflet the various areas informing residents of the impending work once notified by the contractor.

Members NOTED the information supplied by the Clerk.

FG136/12/14

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Finance & General Purposes meeting would be Wednesday 7th January 2015.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.