

## **RUSTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES:** of the Meeting held on 22 March 2010

**PRESENT:** Councillors G Tyler (Chairman), A Akbar, Mrs C Broomfield, J Collins, Mrs S Lines, D Rogers and P Warren

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#### **26/10      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Ceiriog-Hughes (Hospitalisation). This apology was accepted by the Committee.

#### **27/10      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

Councillor Mrs Broomfield declared a prejudicial interest in Minute 29/10. She left the Meeting during the consideration of this item and took no part in the discussion and vote thereon.

#### **28/10      MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 February 2010 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

*(Prior to consideration of the following item Councillor Mrs Broomfield declared a prejudicial interest, as the proprietor of Owen Electrical Limited)*

#### **29/10      PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

The Committee RECOMMENDED that the Accounts be paid and the necessary cheques be drawn. A copy of these Accounts is attached and forms part of these Minutes.

#### **30/10      MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT**

The Committee NOTED the Monthly Budget Report which had previously been circulated to Members.

Following consideration of the Monthly Budget Report, the Committee agreed to take no further action in this regard at the present time.

#### **31/10      GRANT AID - ST PETER AND ST PAUL PARISH CHURCH**

The Committee considered a letter received from The Reverend Zachary Allen expressing the Parochial Church Council's disappointment in respect of the Council's recent decision not to increase its annual grant towards the upkeep of the Churchyard.

In his letter, Reverend Allen said that it would not really be appropriate for a member of the Parish Council to join the Hall and Grounds group, as almost all of its deliberations were concerned with the running and maintenance of the Church Hall. He said that in order to assist the Council to have a better understanding of the required maintenance and costs involved, the Parochial Church Council would welcome an opportunity to meet with a representative from the Council, at a mutually convenient time.

Following a detailed discussion, the Committee RECOMMENDED that a Meeting with the Church Wardens and other Members of the Parochial Church Council should be arranged as soon as practicably possible, at which the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, together with the Clerk, should represent the Council.

The Clerk referred to Minute 13/10, and Minute 7/10(b) (Museum Management Committee Meeting - 25 February 2010 refers) regarding the Committee's concern in respect of the anticipated future financial deficit position in respect of the Café.

The Committee then considered the options which had been suggested and addressed by the Museum Management Committee as follows:-

- Close both the Museum and Café

*Not considered to be a practicable option, as both were now established as community facilities*

- Franchise Café Element Only

*This could prove to be a very difficult option to expedite, due to the loss of control in respect of opening hours, the concept of the operation, the lack of in-house toilet facilities, and general difficulties associated with placing too many restrictions on a Franchisee*

- Move to Charitable Trust

*Currently being investigated by Mr Peter Hussey, but not thought to be a viable option for this particular operation*

- Review of Museum and Café

*Review the Museum and Café operations to find more economical ways of utilising and restructuring personnel and volunteers in order to make savings*

- Retain Status Quo

*Continue to operate in the same way as for the past twelve months, whilst trying to identify possible savings and ways in which to increase income, and review again when current income and expenditure estimates are revised, and the following year's budget considered*

Councillor Warren advised the Committee that he had prepared a paper detailing ways in which he was suggesting that the estimated £15,660.00 loss for the financial year commencing 1 April 2010, could be avoided. A copy of this paper is attached and forms a part of these Minutes.

A detailed discussion then ensued, during which all of the proposals contained within Councillor Warren's paper were considered.

The Committee then RECOMMENDED:-

- (a) that the financial position in respect of the Garden Café for the year ending 31 March 2010 be noted
- (b) that a general review of the Café's Budget for the financial year commencing 1 April 2010 be undertaken, and in particular, with a view to reapportioning certain votes and reducing the estimated deficit
- (c) that estimates be obtained for an external canopy system for the Garden Café for consideration by the Committee

**Chairman:** .....

**Date:** .....