

RUSTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

MINUTES: of the Meeting held on 26 April 2010

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

33/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Collins (Personal). This apology was accepted by the Committee.

34/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

Councillor Mrs Broomfield declared a prejudicial interest in Minute 36/10. She left the Meeting during the consideration of this item and took no part in the discussion and vote thereon.

Councillor Rogers declared a personal interest in Minute 36/10. He remained in the Meeting during the consideration of this item and took part in the discussion and vote thereon.

Councillor Tyler declared a personal interest in Minute 38/10(a). He remained in the Meeting during the consideration of this item and took no part in the discussion and vote thereon.

35/10 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 March 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)

(Prior to consideration of the following item Councillor Rogers declared a personal interest, in his capacity as a Member of the Littlehampton District Lions Club)

36/10 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.

37/10 MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT

The Committee NOTED the end of year Monthly Budget Report to 31 March 2010, which had previously been circulated to Members.

The Clerk advised Members that there may still be some minor adjustments to be made but, in the main, the figures presented were a fair indication of the end of year position. She said that it was anticipated that the system for the previous year would be closed down and finalised by the Council's Accountant within the next couple of weeks.

During discussion of this item, reference was made to the estimated level of under spend on the previous year's Budget, and the possibility of utilising this under spend to progress other projects. A detailed discussion ensued in this regard, following which it was agreed that an item should be included on the Agenda for the next Full Council Meeting, requesting the setting up of a Working Party to investigate the

feasibility of redeveloping and extending the existing Council Offices to include the former Museum accommodation, part of which which had been recently vacated by the Heritage Association.

(Prior to consideration of the following item Councillor Tyler declared a personal interest, in his capacity as West Sussex County Council Deputy Cabinet Member for Adult Services)

38/10 GRANT AID

(a) Sofas & Stuff

The Committee considered an application for Grant Aid received from Sofas and Stuff for financial assistance towards running costs.

Following a detailed discussion, the Committee RECOMMENDED that Grant Aid in the sum of £75.00 be awarded to Sofas and Stuff towards supporting the essential services provided.

The Committee also RECOMMENDED that:-

- (i) Sofas and Stuff be advised that the Grant Aid awarded had been reduced to 50% of the amount awarded in the previous year, due to the financial constraints being faced by the Council at the present time, but that this situation would be reassessed if, and when, an application for Grant Aid was received in respect of the next financial year
- (ii) Sofas and Stuff be offered the opportunity to have some editorial space in the next Newsletter to advertise the service's existence
- (iii) The situation in respect of the recent merger between Sofas and Stuff and HomeLink be monitored over the next twelve months.

(b) Woodlands Table Tennis Club

The Committee considered a request for Grant Aid received from the Woodlands Table Tennis Club. The Clerk also reminded the Committee that Grant Aid had been previously awarded to the Club, by way of a reduction of £7.00 per week in the hiring fees.

Following a discussion, the Committee RECOMMENDED that Grant Aid, by way of a reduction of £7.00 per week in the hiring fees, for a 12 month period with effect from 9 May 2010, once again be awarded to the Woodlands Table Tennis Club. The Committee also agreed that the situation should again be reviewed at the end of the current financial year.

39/10 THE GARDEN CAFÉ - TERRACE AWNING

The Clerk referred to Minute 32/10 and said that she had previously circulated a Quotation received from Superior Awnings. She said that she was also in the process of obtaining further Estimates/Quotations for consideration by the Committee.

Following a detailed discussion, the Committee agreed that this matter should be held in abeyance, pending the receipt of further detailed information in respect of the building's suitability, and the preparation of a business plan to provide justification for the purchase of a Terrace Awning System.

Chairman:

Date: