

RUSTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

MINUTES: of the Meeting held on 15 January 2007

PRESENT: Councillors M Warrington (Chairman), J Collins, Mrs S Lines, D Rogers and G Tyler

1/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Akbar (Sickness) and J Ceiriog-Hughes (Sickness). These apologies were accepted by the Committee.

2/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

Councillor Mrs Lines declared a personal interest in Minute 4/07(a). She remained in the Meeting during the consideration of this item and took part in the voting thereon.

3/07 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 December 2006 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4/07 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AID

(a) Littlehampton and District Citizens' Advice Bureau

The Committee considered an application for Grant Aid for the year 2007/2008.

The Clerk reminded Members that at the Meeting held on 13 January 2004 it was recommended that the Grant Aid to be awarded to the Citizens' Advice Bureau be increased from £1,000.00 to £1,200.00. This was also recommended for the years 2005/2006 and 2006/2007. However, she said that it was now necessary to consider Grant Aid for the year 2007/2008.

Following a further discussion, the Committee RECOMMENDED that Grant Aid of £1,200.00 be made for the year 2007/2008.

(b) Rustington Parochial Church Council

The Committee considered a request for a financial contribution towards the upkeep of the Parish Churchyard for the year commencing 1 April 2007.

The Clerk reminded the Committee that a financial contribution of £900.00 had been made towards the upkeep of the Parish Churchyard for each of the years commencing 1 April 2002 and 1 April 2003. She said that the Parochial Church Council had been asked to apply for this grant on an annual basis, as it was considered that future Councils should not be committed to this annual expense. She then reported that an increased financial contribution of £1,000.00 had subsequently been awarded for the years commencing 1 April 2004, 1 April 2005 and 1 April 2006.

Following a further discussion, the Committee RECOMMENDED that:-

- (i) A financial contribution of £1,000.00 be again made for the year commencing 1 April 2007
- (ii) The Parochial Church Council be asked to acknowledge the Council's contribution towards the upkeep of the Churchyard on not just one, but all of the notice boards in the Churchyard.

(c) **Candlelight Dance Club**

The Committee considered a request for financial assistance towards the costs of the hiring fees for the Village Memorial Hall.

The Clerk reminded the Committee that a financial contribution of £208.00 had been made to The Candlelight Dance Club, by way of a reduction of £8.00 per week in the hiring fees, for a six month period with effect from 1 June 2006.

Following a detailed discussion, the Committee RECOMMENDED that:-

- (i) Further Grant Aid of £208.00 be made to The Candlelight Dance Club, by way of a reduction of £8.00 per week in the hiring fees, for a further six month period with effect from 1 January 2007
- (ii) The situation be reviewed at the end of the six month period, with the Club being asked to submit a copy of its up-to-date financial position at that time.

5/07 STORM DAMAGE – 1 JANUARY 2007

The Clerk reported that the Council Offices had been severely affected by the thunderbolt that had occurred on 1 January 2007. She said that the Telephone System, CCTV System, Fire and Intruder Alarms, together with other electrical equipment, had been damaged and it was estimated that the total cost of necessary repairs and replacements would be in the region of £7,000.00.

She advised the Committee that she was in the process of submitting a claim to the Council's Insurers, in the hope that this would be settled without too much unanticipated expenditure for the Council. She said that if, for any reason, the claim was not settled in full, the aforementioned expenditure would need to be funded from the Council's balances.

The Committee NOTED this information.

6/07 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REQUIREMENTS – 2006/2007 AND 2007/2008

The Committee considered Draft Estimates prepared by the Clerk of the Council and previously circulated.

Following a detailed debate in respect of all of the Committee's Estimates, the Committee RECOMMENDED that the Council's Income and Expenditure requirements for 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 be as shown in the attached Schedules.

The Committee expressed its gratitude to the Clerk and the administrative personnel for their continuing hard work and efforts in respect of the Council's financial administration.

7/07 PRECEPT 2007/2008

The Committee RECOMMENDED the issue of a Precept on the Arun District Council in the sum of £444,000.00 in respect of General and Lighting Expenditure for 2007/2008.

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the proposed Parish Precept of £444,000.00 represented a total increase of 54p on the previous year's Parish Precept for a Band 'D' household in Rustington.

Chairman:

Date: