

# **RUSTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **LIGHTING AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES:** of the Meeting held on 8 February 2007

**PRESENT:** Councillors T Field (Chairman), D Murphy, G Tyler and M Warrington

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### **1/07            APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Akbar (Sickness), Grevett (Business Commitment) and Steward (Business Commitment). These apologies were accepted by the Committee.

### **2/07            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

There were no Declarations of Interest recorded by Members.

### **3/07            MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 October 2006 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **4/07            PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

#### **(a)            Situation Report**

The Clerk referred to Minute 30/06(a) and reported that the programme of regular inspections was continuing. She said that the standard of cleansing continued to be satisfactory, but that the current standard of cleansing was expected to improve greatly once the new Contract commenced on 1 April 2007.

The Committee NOTED this information.

#### **(b)            Monthly Inspections**

The Clerk referred to Minute 371/06 (Special Council Meeting – 18 December 2006 refers) and reminded the Committee of the Council's decision to appoint either the Chairman of the Lighting and Amenities Committee or another Member of the Council to inspect all of the Public Conveniences on a monthly basis to ensure that once the new Contract commenced, the cleansing was carried out in accordance with the agreed Specification.

Following a brief discussion, the Committee RECOMMENDED that the Chairman of the Lighting and Amenities Committee be appointed to undertake monthly inspections of the Public Conveniences with effect from March 2007, with a suitable pro-forma being produced for this purpose, for retention in the Council's files.

The Clerk said that she would make arrangements to accompany the Chairman of the Committee on the first monthly inspection, in order to familiarise him with the sites and locations.

#### **(c)            The Street - Refurbishment**

The Clerk referred to Minute 30/06(c) and said that she had nothing further to report in this regard at the present time.

The Committee NOTED this information.

**(d) Broadmark Lane - Purchase of Land**

The Clerk referred to Minute 30/06(d) and reminded the Committee of the Council's recent decision to proceed with the purchase of the land on which the mobile toilet unit was sited (Council Meeting - 22 January 2007 - Minute 19/07 refers). She said that the Council's Solicitors had now been instructed to progress this matter.

The Committee NOTED this information.

**(e) Broadmark Lane - Proposed Refurbishment**

The Clerk reported that in view of the fact that it now seemed unlikely that the Developer of the Princess Marina House land would be providing the Council with any financial assistance towards the provision of a permanent structured building to replace the existing mobile toilet unit, she was suggesting that a general refurbishment was undertaken in the new financial year in the form of redecoration, new sanitary furniture and flooring, which would result in an estimated expenditure of some £2,500.00. She reminded the Committee that provision of £25,000.00 had been made in the Committee's 2007/2008 Estimates for improvements to the public toilets, but that this had been provided specifically for the proposed refurbishment of the toilets in The Street.

Following a further discussion, during which it was agreed that it was important, in the interest of the Council's financial position, that the life of the mobile toilet was extended as much as possible, the Committee RECOMMENDED that the Broadmark Lane mobile toilet unit be the subject of a general refurbishment, as detailed above, in the next financial year.

**5/07 BUS SHELTERS AND BEACH SHELTER**

**(a) Cleansing - Situation Report**

The Clerk referred to Minute 31/06(a) and reported that the situation was continuing to be monitored, with Sigma Plumbing undertaking extra cleansing of the Beach Shelter, at the junction of Sea Road and Sea Lane, on a regular basis.

The Committee NOTED this information.

**(b) Cleansing Contract**

The Clerk referred to Minute 31/06(b) and reported that in view of the current financial constraints facing the Council, coupled with the fact that the Bus and Beach Shelters were, in fact, included within the Arun District Council's Cleansing Contract with Verdant PLC, no further action had been taken in respect of the Committee's previous decision in this regard.

Following a further discussion, the Committee RECOMMENDED that its previous recommendation, subsequently approved by the Council, to appoint an external Contractor to undertake the cleansing of the Council owned Wooden Bus and Beach Shelters throughout the Village, with effect from 1 April 2007, should now be deferred, and reviewed later in the year when the Committee's proposed 2008/2009 Estimates were considered.

**(c) Refurbishment/Replacement of Bus Shelters**

The Clerk referred to Minute 31/06(c) and reported that the replacement Shelters located in Sea Lane (west side) and in Station Road (between Hurst Road and Sheepfold Close) had been installed.

The Committee was pleased to NOTE this information.

She advised Members that she had recently received notification from the West Sussex County Council that grant funding of 50% would once again be available for a limited number of applicants in the next financial year. She said that an application to replace the Shelter on the east side of Sea Lane would be being submitted to the County Council, and she was again hopeful that the Council might be successful with its sixth application under this Scheme.

She reminded the Committee that the programme of refurbishment of the remaining wooden Bus Shelters throughout the Village would continue, once funding became available in the next financial year.

The Committee was pleased to NOTE this information.

**(d) Adshel Bus Shelter - North Side of Sea Road**

The Clerk referred to Minute 31/06(d) and said that she had nothing further to report at the present time, but advised the Committee that the Adshel Bus Shelter had yet to be removed from the site in question.

The Committee NOTED this information and the Clerk said that she would approach the District Council again to ascertain the current position in respect of the removal of the Bus Shelter.

**(e) Beach Shelter - Refurbishment**

The Clerk referred to Minute 31/06(e) and said that she had nothing further to report in this regard at the present time. She reminded the Committee that no specific provision had been made in its 2007/2008 Estimates for any major expenditure in this regard.

The Committee NOTED this information and agreed that any further action in this matter should be held in abeyance until the new Committee was in place after the Elections in May 2007.

**(f) Provision of Additional Bus Shelter - Station Road**

The Committee considered a request received from Mrs J Lilley requesting an additional Bus Shelter to be sited in Station Road (outside St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church).

Following a further detailed discussion, the Committee RECOMMENDED that a response should be made to the request stating that it was receiving consideration in respect of both planning issues and financial implications.

The Clerk said that, in the meantime, she would look into both the possibility and the feasibility of a Bus Shelter being sited at this location, with both the West Sussex County Council and the local Planning Authority.

**6/07 PUBLIC SEATS**

**(a) Situation Report**

The Clerk referred to Minute 32/06(a) and reported that the programme of refurbishment would recommence at the beginning of the next financial year. She said that only urgent repairs were being undertaken at the present time.

The Committee was pleased to NOTE this information.

**(b) Provision of Additional/Replacement Seats**

The Clerk reported that a donated seat located on the east side of Sea Lane, north of the junction with Knightscroft Avenue, had been destroyed by vandals and had been replaced in December 2006. She said that a claim had been forwarded to the Council's Insurers, but that due to the policy excess in respect of vandalism damage being £500.00, only £41.00 had been received from the Insurers in respect of the replacement seat.

The Committee NOTED this information.

**7/07 ANNUAL MAINTENANCE OF AMENITY AREAS**

**(a) Situation Report**

The Clerk referred to Minute 33/06(a) and reported that complimentary comments continued to be received in respect of the floral displays around the Village throughout the year, with no adverse comments being received since the commencement of the first Contract with Ferring Nurseries some five years ago.

She then referred to the shrubbed area along Ash Lane, between Broadmark House at its junction with Ashwood Drive. She said that she understood that the total cost of the redesign and landscaping of this section of vegetation was likely to be in the region of £4,000.00. She said that the Rustington-in-Bloom Committee had indicated that it would be prepared to use the majority of the financial provision made in the Council's 2007/2008 Budget for this project, if the Council would be prepared to consider funding the remaining £2,000.00. She confirmed that she had not yet received designs or costings from Ferring Nurseries, but that she was asking the Committee to consider recommending this additional expenditure to the full Council at the appropriate time.

Following a further discussion, the Committee NOTED this information and RECOMMENDED that no further action should be taken in respect of the re-design and re-landscaping of the shrubbed area along Ash Lane, between Broadmark House and its junction with Ashwood Drive, until the suggested design and costings were received for consideration.

**8/07 2007 SOUTH AND SOUTH EAST IN BLOOM**

The Clerk reported that the In-Bloom Committee was working really hard to ensure that the Village was entered for the 2007 South and South East in Bloom Competition. Several fund-raising events were planned including a Plant Sale in May, a Table Top Sale at The Woodlands Centre on Saturday 14 April 2007 and a Grand Tombola Stall at the Rustington Carnival at The Woodlands Recreation Ground on Saturday 23 June 2007.

She then reminded the Committee that the Primary Schools' Design-A-Flower Bed Competition was underway, with the closing date set at 31 March 2007. She advised that the Application Form had now been received, she would be asking the Council to approve Rustington's entry to the 2007 Competition at the next Meeting.

The Committee NOTED this information.

**9/07 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the next scheduled Meeting would be held on Thursday 7 June 2007.