

IVER PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the **POLICY FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** was held on **WEDNESDAY 11th February 2009**, commencing at 8 pm at **Iver Village Hall (Coppins Room)**

MINUTES

Present:- Mr Wilson (chaired the meeting), Mrs Watkins, Mr Oxley, Mrs Vigor-Hedderly, Mr Lidgate, Mrs Lidgate

In Attendance:- Mrs Collins (Clerk)

- 81. Apologies for absence were received from:** Mr Adlam, Mrs Mowat, Mr Bradford, Mr Gidar.
- 82. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda.** Mr Oxley declared an interest as chairman of Iver Village Hall Committee and a member of Richings Park Residents Association. Mrs Watkins declared an interest as a member of Iver Village Hall Committee and Mr Wilson and Mr and Mrs Lidgate as members of Iver Heath Village Hall Committee. All in regard to item 85.
- 83.** Resolved to sign the **Minutes** of the meeting held on 26th November 2008.

84. FINANCE

(a) Budget Monitoring – the budget for 08/09 to 31st January 2009 was considered in detail and it was agreed that in 2009 there should be a separate budget meeting of the Policy Committee in addition to the normal Policy meeting. Concern was expressed at the cost of running Iver Heath Sports Pavilion. It was agreed that the time to consider raising the fees for users is at the budget setting meeting.

(b) Municipal Mutual Scheme of Arrangement. The chairman explained that there is a small possibility of a clawback of all or some of the insurance payment that was made to the Council when the sports pavilion in Iver Heath was destroyed by fire in the early 1990s.

(c) Bank Statements – there were no statements available.

(d) Bank Accounts – the committee considered the risk of having the majority of the Council's money with the Bank of Ireland and whether to open more bank accounts with £50,000 in each. In April the Council will probably have funds in excess of £300,000. Resolved to put £45,000 into the Coop bank and re-open the deposit account with Barclays and put another £45,000 in there leaving approximately £85,000 in the Bank of Ireland at the present time. It was also resolved to open new deposit accounts with HSBC and Lloyds ready to spread the funds on 1st April when the precept arrives. The decision was based on security of funds rather than for interest rates as these are low everywhere at present. This was a unanimous decision.

85. SECTION 137 – approval required under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972

- (a) St Margaret's Churchyard** – grant of £360 was approved.
- (b) Iver and District Countryside Association** – grant of £360 was approved
- (c) Iver Village Hall** – grant of £360 was approved
- (d) Iver Heath Village Hall** – grant of £360 was approved
- (e) Richings Park Residents Association** – grant of £50 towards Christmas lights was approved
- (f) Victim Support** – request for a grant was not approved.

TRAINING and ADMINISTRATION

- 86. Office move** – the Clerk gave an update on the move that took place on 4th February. Despite the snow most things had gone according to plan. The installation of telephones, copier and computers had been delayed by one day but these were now installed and initial teething problems were being sorted out. It was resolved that the official office opening date be the 4th March at 3 pm. Clerk to invite press and Chief Inspector Greenfield along with Parish, District and County Councillors and the Chief Executive of South Bucks District Council.
- 87. Conferences** – resolved to approve the Clerk's attendance at either the Larger Council's Conference in April or the general conference in October (depending upon the relevance of the topics once published).
- 88. Rostrevor Gardens** – completion is about to take place on 3 of the properties. Noted.
- 89. 107 High Street** – it was noted that the property may be up for sale and the Clerk was asked to let the agent know that there is no right of access with the property and also to see if the Council's solicitors can put a caution on the land registry.

90. 105 High Street – solicitor is drawing up a new licence offer now that the last one has been terminated. The Clerk was asked to get the Council’s solicitors to inform the owners that if they do not sign a new licence then there is no right of access and the Council will block it off 7 days from the date of the letter.

POLICY

91. Youth Work – Sally Tugwell – report was not available as the Clerk had had to cancel her meeting with Sally owing to the move and had forgotten to ask for a written report to be sent. This has now been received and is appended to the Minutes.

92. Indemnifying Members from legal costs arising from defending an allegation in respect of breaching the Code of Conduct. Parish Councils now have the power to indemnify members as mentioned. It was considered that this is necessary to add at the next Policy Renewal.

93. Use of Parish Council Office – resolved not to let the office building to outside groups. Councillors are very welcome to use the meeting room during the day but it would be helpful, where it is possible, to let the office know in advance in case they need to clear the table of any work in progress or volunteers working or have any staff meeting planned etc. Resolved that the Clerk should arrange for the chairman to hold a set of keys to the building. Resolved that the clerk can use discretion regarding use of the photocopier by outside groups and individuals but that in principle this would not be allowed as a regular function and that no fee would be charged.

94. Local Government Pension Scheme – Discretions within the Scheme. Resolved to approve the appended Policy Document which is based on the Bucks County Council policy.

PROJECTS

95. Christmas Lights – (a) Resolved to approve a change of date from the first Saturday in December to 28th November 2009 for this year. Resolved that membership of the working party should remain the same provided the councillors are willing and resolved to purchase some new lights for the tree outside the village hall – all white.. Noted that BLE have recommended purchase of 2 x 100m festoon cables for the tree outside the village hall with 20 additional star flashes and more bulbs. Cost to be in the region of £2,000. The Clerk said that money would be tight this year as the lights come from the interest on savings and this is likely to be significantly reduced in the current economic climate. The chairman urged everyone to apply for grants where possible.

Next meeting 22nd April 2009

Meeting closed at 10.05 pm

Signed (Chairman)

Date