

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on
Tuesday, 19 January 2016 in the Civic Chamber, Council Offices, Skelmanthorpe**

PRESENT: Cllrs R Brook, G Turner, B Jewitt, P Flinders, P Cassidy, M Blanshard, R Gott, J Depledge N Denby and S Hellewell

APOLOGIES: Cllr J Cook.

IN ATTENDANCE: C Wadsworth, Clerk to the Council

15/026 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were received.

15/027 Open Session

There were no members of the public present.

15/028 Apologies for Absence

Reasons for absence from the meeting were submitted from Cllr J Cook. **RESOLVED** that the reason for absence submitted by the councillor be accepted as valid.

15/029 Admission of the Public

RESOLVED that there were no items requiring the exclusion of the press and public.

15/030 Countryside Officer Discussion

A discussion was held around the post of Countryside Officer, which, due to Andy Wickham's redeployment elsewhere within Kirklees Council, would become vacant. A recommendation was needed as to whether to replace Andy or not. If a replacement was agreed, Rob Dalby had stated at Full Council that Kirklees Council would undertake the recruitment procedure and take on management costs of the post, should the parish council agree to replace Andy. It would be necessary to recommend what hours and payscale should be adopted. It was generally agreed that the Countryside Officer post, since its early days, had provided a 'model' for the approach to enabling and empowering volunteer groups. It was noted that money could be made available from next year's budget by viring funds from the Community Grant Aid budget line. Discussion was held around the high cost of the van quoted by Rob Dalby of Kirklees Council, and whether this could be sourced separately. Cllr Jewitt advised on a course of action for this.

RESOLVED that the Finance & General Purposes Committee recommend to Full Council that in principle, a Full Time employee be recruited on Grade 6 payscale initially as a replacement for Andy, with the need to establish detailed costs for doing this. The parish council should also investigate the costs of a vehicle for the post.

15/031 External Auditor Update on Position 2016/2017

No further information was available. The parish council had voted at the last Full Council meeting to remain opted-in.

15/032 New Homes Bonus

Cllr Jewitt reported he had two firms quoting for replacement windows for the library building, should the committee agree to go ahead and apply for the New Homes Bonus grant.

RESOLVED that in principle the parish council apply for the New Homes Bonus grant once quotes had been received, and replace windows subject to receiving the grant, and the amount received.

15/033 Grant Process Discussion

RESOLVED that a line be added to the grant guidance advise stating '*where applicants have substantial reserves in excess of what they are applying for, an explanation should be provided*'.

15/034 Schools Grants

- Cumberworth CE First School – **RESOLVED** that the grant for staging be awarded using the General Power of Competence provided by the Localism Act 2011.
- St Aidan's First School – **RESOLVED** that the grant for 'grow to schools' be awarded using the General Power of Competence provided by the Localism Act 2011.

15/035 Community Grants

- Clayton West Scout Group – **RESOLVED** that the grant not be awarded, however, in principle the council felt supportive of this application but expressed concerns which the Clerk would communicate to the group.

- AFC Emley – **RESOLVED** that the grant be awarded using the General Power of Competence provided by the Localism Act 2011.

15/036 Skelmanthorpe Library Building Asset Transfer Update & Churchfield Lease Update

The Clerk stated that the parish council solicitor was hopeful of completing his report and providing the papers to sign by the end of January. Cllr Turner stated that the Kirklees legal team had not heard anything from the parish council solicitors. The Clerk agreed to follow this up.

15/037 Budget 2015/16 and Expenditure Review

- Request to vire £76 from Admin budget to Subscriptions due to increase in YLCA subs (see attached)
- Request to vire £600 from Conference budget to Litterbins to cover cost of 3 bins requested in Dec
- Request to vire £112 from Admin budget to Website due to compromise of install

RESOLVED that the above virements requested by the Clerk be approved.

15/038 Draft Budget 2016/17

RESOLVED that the draft budget amendment as presented by the Clerk be recommended to Full Council increased to £212,170.20 from £212,029.20 due to an increase in YLCA subscription.

15/039 Precept Discussion:

RESOLVED that the Finance & General Purposes Committee recommend to Full Council that the figure of £219,359 be raised via the precept.

15/040 Orders for Payment

RESOLVED that the orders for payment no. 647 totalling £3,501.08 be approved for payment.

15/041 Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 15 March 2016

Signed..... CHAIR