

KIRKBURTON PARISH COUNCIL

MANAGEMENT & FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 27th NOVEMBER 2008 AT 8.30 pm AT BURTON VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr G Hickey in the Chair

Cllrs H Barraclough, R Barraclough, R Burton, L Holroyd, and M Sykes.

Apologies were received from Cllr Cruden.

**MF11 Apologies and
Declarations of
Interest**

Cllr R Barraclough declared a personal interest in the Chairman's allowance, as he is Vice Chairman.

Members considered whether it was appropriate to increase the level of the Chairman's allowance in view of the level of expenditure over recent years.

**MF12 Chairman's
Allowance**

Resolved: To recommend the allowance is increased to £500 and reviewed again next year.

Members considered the shortage of allotments in view of the increased demand and the length of the waiting lists at both sites. It was reported that Kirklees had not agreed to allowing the land at Little Hallas to be used for allotments, but was investigating alternative sites.

MF13 Allotments

The Clerk reported that a number of allotments were let but appeared not to be cultivated.

Resolved: To initially write to the tenants with uncultivated plots to enquire if they are still required, drawing attention to the waiting list, and to monitor the situation.

Resolved: That Cllr Sykes would make enquiries in Shepley about possible pieces of land, which could be used for allotments. Also to ask existing tenants if they would be interested in dividing their plot into smaller ones.

Members considered the current list of allocated reserves in the budget.

**MF14 Allocated
Reserves**

Resolved: To recommend that the following amounts be removed from the allocated reserves:

	£
HR Advice	1,207.50
Parish Council Walks	465.00
Repairs to Public Seats	300.00
Highburton Cross	2,000.00
Transport Matchfunding	5,000.00

Resolved: That the proposed community centre at Grange Moor is included on the Parish Council agenda to receive an update on the project.

Members noted the new guidance with regard to the advised level for general reserves. Members considered that the Council is operating at the lower end of the range, but felt that the current level was sufficient to cover the cost of any likely eventualities.

MF15 General Reserve

Resolved: To retain the existing level of general reserve.

Members discussed the proposal that a Business Plan is produced for the Council. However, members felt that this already existed in the form of several documents already produced, such as the Aims & Objectives, Environment Plan, the submission recently put together in response to the review of Parish Councils.

MF16 Business Plan

Resolved: That the Committee considered the Council already has a Business Plan evolving through various publications produced and policies in place, and would prefer to develop an action plan.

Members considered the request from a member of the public that a skateboard park be constructed on Highburton recreation ground.

MF17 Skateboard Park in Highburton

Resolved: That a response is sent explaining that it is not within the remit of the Council to do this, but that members would be willing to help identify other organisations who may be of assistance.

Members considered the existing system for capital projects. It was felt that the problems lie not with the systems, but with a lack of professional expertise and time available to organise larger projects.

MF18 Capital Projects

Resolved: To recommend that appropriate professionals are co-opted onto the Management & Finance Committee to advise on capital projects.

Resolved: That a two-year plan is drawn up timetabling projects.

Pursuant to Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it was resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the discussion on the following three items of business was conducted in private:-

Members considered Shelley Community Association's claim for losses arising from the closure of the building in the summer.

MF19 SCA Claim

Resolved: That the Council pays £30.66 to cover the cost of hiring alternative meeting accommodation and associated costs.

The meeting then closed.