

Westerleigh Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee
Held 16th November 2015
Manor Hall Coalpit Heath

Present:

Cllrs B Taylor, D Boulton, A Fay, A Gibbs, S Blackmore, G Jancey, M Crumpton, C Nicholls, J Butler

Cllr J Butler was appointed minute taker in the absence of the Clerk

1. Andy Gore South Glos. Council to brief committee on SGC Waste Consultation and possible new waste containers

The presentation focused on policies, targets and current progress made. In comparison to neighbouring authorities, SGC has the highest volume of waste. Recycling levels have increased but there is still too much waste going into the black bins. Research is continuing on how to improve this. Strategies and aims for the future were outlined. This consultation will run until 15th February 16.

Agenda item 2 was moved to the end of the agenda on the request of parishioner H Buston

2. Apologies for absence

Clerk – Mrs Thornton

3. Declarations of Interest under The Localism Act 2011

None

4. Approve minutes of meeting held 21st September 2015

Proposed by Cllr B Taylor and seconded by Cllr A Fay, agreed by all. The minutes were duly signed

5. Matters Arising

Mr Bracey asked about the parishioner comments re: Manor School hand dryers
Cllr M Crumpton replied that we are not in a position to answer.

Cllr J Butler asked Cllr G Jancey if he had left the room for item 7c (the item in which he declared a pecuniary interest), he replied 'no'.

Cllr M Crumpton stated that she wished to confirm that at that meeting several Councillors had declared interests and the Clerk advised they could vote. She questioned the legality of this and outlined her reasoning for this statement.
She pointed out that the agenda wording for Declaration of Interests had changed for this meeting.

6. Committee to agree revised budget 2015/16 (please read in conjunction with agenda item 7)

Cllr B Taylor advised that he was confused by some of the figures so Cllr M Crumpton suggested deferring this matter.

Decision: Proposed by Cllr M Crumpton and seconded by Cllr A Gibbs that this be deferred to Full Council on 14th December 15. Agreed by all.

7. Committee to discuss/agree works in relation to

a) Bitterwell Lake – paths and car park – Cllr G Jancey to reported to committee detail of these quotations

Decision: proposed by Cllr M Crumpton and seconded by Cllr G Jancey this matter be deferred to Full Council on 14th December 15. Agreed by all

b) Track at Pansy Vale – quotations enclosed

Decision: proposed by Cllr M Crumpton and seconded by Cllr G Jancey this matter be deferred to Full Council on 14th December 15. Agreed by all

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8. Committee to set and agree budget 2016/17
This item was deferred to Full Council on 14th December 15
9. Committee to agree precept sum 2016/17 for recommendation to Full Council on 14th December 15
This item was deferred to Full Council on 14th December 15
10. Committee to consider grant applications from:-
- a) St Peters Hospice
Decision: £1800 proposed by Cllr G Jancey and seconded by Cllr J Butler, all in favour
 - b) Gloucestershire County Council – ‘For the Record’
Decision: £500 proposed by Cllr B Taylor and seconded by Cllr M Crumpton, all in favour
 - c) Yate and District Heritage Centre
Decision: £200 proposed by Cllr C Nicholls and seconded by Cllr B Taylor, all in favour
 - d) Cruse Bereavement Care
Decision: Nil sum awarded as it is not a local organization Proposed by Cllr B Taylor and seconded by Cllr G Jancey, all in favour
 - e) Frampton Festival
Decision: £300 proposed by Cllr G Jancey and seconded by Cllr A Fay, agreed by all

Due to a remaining budget provision, it was agreed any other grant applications would be considered at the February committee meeting.

11. Committee to approve payment of accounts
Manor Hall – room hire £65.00
Konica Minolta – copier charges £74.38 gross £61.98 net
Royal British Legion – 2 poppy wreaths £35.00
Decision: proposed by Cllr J Butler and seconded by Cllr G Jancey, agreed by all
12. Committee to comment on any planning applications
None
13. Items to report
- a) Cllr J Butler reported shopmobility are proposing to hold a meeting to discuss funding of the group – Cllr G Jancey to attend
 - b) Cllr J Butler – Manor Hall business rates rebate has come under question and the trustees are in discussions and co-operating in this matter
 - c) Cllr M Crumpton stated our policies and procedures had not been ratified since 2008 and we should have a working group to review the website as these are not up to date – agenda item for 14th December 15
- At this point in the meeting Committee considered agenda item 2 which was deferred to the end of the meeting
14. Parishioners to raise questions regarding minute item 1877 draft minutes Full Council meeting 2nd November 15
With the agenda papers the Clerk had circulated the transcripts of this minute item prior to the start of the meeting to council members only.
- a) Why Cllr C Nicholls address is still not on the website, this matter having been in the minutes Cllr D Boulton stated committee will get back with an answer.

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- b) Why is Cllr G Jancey circumnavigating the democratic process by appearing in a local publication on Manor Field making his own enquiries before the parish council have even discussed a new playarea. Cllr G Jancey responded it is a public area so he is entitled to have his picture taken anywhere. Our council has a certain amount of money which we have to use [community benefit] before matters are brought before council parish councillors can go out and look at the possibility to do other things. His initiative was a play area. He has contacted SGC and has discussions on this matter along with Manor School over the use of the field. Cllr M Crumpton advised the Governors have not made a decision on the usage of the site. Cllr G Jancey advised the Governors are considering fencing in the area due to dog fouling. Manor Hall also talks about a playarea on land which does not belong to them either. This matter will not progress until Manor School have made a decision regarding the use of the field and give any necessary permissions. Cllr J Butler outlined the history of the proposed playarea on the site from the Manor Hall Trustees.
- c) Why did Cllr M Crumpton see fit to discuss private and confidential information regarding Ram Hill Cottage and how was she privy to this information? How was information relating to the Council Tax position of the property obtained? How should the resident proceed with this matter? Cllr M Crumpton was asked for advice from the resident on how she should handle this by either a) take further action against you or b) ask you to resign?
Cllr M Crumpton asked for the question be submitted in writing and in line with council standing orders she was not obliged to answer. She did respond she was approached by a resident who wanted to remain anonymous.[A parishioner referred back to his question at the start of the meeting about anonymity.] Cllr M Crumpton reiterated what she had stated at the meeting of 2nd November 15 minute item 1877.
- d) Cllr G Jancey should not have acted alone and that he should have included Council.[see b)]
The Chair advised this was a matter of Cllr G Jancey and not that of the Council.

15. ITEMS TO REPORT CONTINUED CLLR G JANCEY INVOKED STANDING ORDER NUMBER DISCUSSIONS AND RESOLUTIONS AFFECTING EMPLOYEES OF THE COUNCIL

- 39. If at a meeting there arises any question relating to the appointment, conduct, promotion, dismissal, salary or conditions of service, of any person employed by the Council, it shall not be considered until the Council or committee (as the case may be) have decided whether or not the public and press shall be excluded.

Signed

Date :