

Minutes of Finance Committee
Held at Turreff Hall on Monday 8th December 2008

Present: Councillors A Baker, Mrs V Brown, Mrs E A Clare, Mrs R Gregory, J Lavery, P Norton.

Also Present: R Morgan (Parish Clerk), S Pinnington (Newport Advertiser).

1. Apologies: Councillors B Green, Mrs P A Green, Mrs B Mason, C Mason, G Platt, J Thompson.

Resolved – that the apologies are accepted.

2. Declaration of Interest: As per Register.

3. Grant Applications

Resolved – in the opinion of the Council it is in the interest of, and will bring direct benefit to, their area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants that the following grants be approved under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

1. Donnington Sports and Social ABC	£ 600.00
2. Donnington Friendship Club	£ 350.00
3. Lilleshall Memorial Hall	£1,000.00*

Total £1,950.00

* This grant was awarded under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s19.

4. Community Governance Review Lilleshall

The Clerk informed the Committee that emails had been received by the Parish Council with regard to the Community Governance Review for Lilleshall. The first email received was a complaint regarding the actual petition form for a Community Governance Review, in that there was no facility on it to register whether people were for or against it. The Clerk explained that he had been in contact with Telford & Wrekin Council Electoral Services who had advised that this was a standard form set by Government. This information has been passed on to the complainant.

Another email received accused the Parish Council of financial mismanagement. Upon seeking legal advice, the Parish Council was informed that it has no retribution for libel or slander directed at it, but should raise the issue at a Council meeting. This would then bring the matter into the public domain whereby the Parish Council could state its dissatisfaction regarding the innuendo.

Whilst discussing this, the following points were raised by the Committee:

- Members of the parish have the opportunity to, and are notified when the Parish Council accounts are available for inspection in accordance with Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (SI 2003/533) as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/564).
- Councillors were concerned that these accusations cast a slur on the Parish Council.

- Any money that the Parish Council has spent over the years within the whole of the Parish was the result of work required to maintain its facilities in good order. All expenditure is carried out within statutory legislation.
- It was stated that the Parish Council has and will continue to maintain its neutrality throughout the Community Governance Review process.
- The Parish Council recently obtained Quality Status and is very proud of this achievement.

The Committee decided that no further action should be taken by the Parish Council regarding this matter.

The Clerk then informed the Committee that the petition for a Community Governance Review had been handed in to Telford & Wrekin Council that morning with 339 signatures on it.

5. **New Parish Van**

The Clerk reported back to the Committee that a new van had been purchased for the Parish Council due to the previous van being beyond economical repair. The van had been purchased with monies from the Capital Fund which had been set up a number of years ago by this Parish Council for such an eventuality. The Clerk informed the Committee that efforts had been made to sell the old van but to no avail.

Resolved – to authorise that the old Parish Council van is scrapped.

6. **Budgets for 2009/2010**

Each Councillor received a copy of the proposed budgets for this Committee for 2009/2010.

Resolved – to recommend to full Council that the precept for 2009/2010 should remain at £187,000 thus reducing the cost to each elector within the parish.

Due to the fact that Councillor Mrs E A Clare registered an interest in the next item and left the meeting room, Councillor P Norton was elected Chairman in her absence.

7. **Planning Applications**

The Committee considered the following planning applications:

a. W2008/1297

Mr & Mrs Ridley, Land at 6, Hillside East, Lilleshall, Shropshire.

Erection of bungalow (outline).

It was stated that whilst the proposed development is acceptable the Committee had concerns regarding access to the proposed site.

b. W2008/1301

Mrs T R Warner, The Gable, Wellington Road, Muxton, Telford, Shropshire.

Erection of a double attached garage and extension to the front.

Resolved – to have no objection to this application.

8. **Correspondence**

The Chair informed the Committee that the following correspondence had been received:

- a. Membership of Standards Committee as from 1st April 2009.**
- b. Members Code of Conduct – General Principles**
- c. Your Police Service 2009 and Beyond.**
- d. Draft Consultation regarding the Charter for Working Together between Telford & Wrekin Council and Parish Councils.**
- e. Living with dementia in Telford and Wrekin – a survey of the views of sufferers and carers.**

The meeting closed at 2010hrs.

Signature:

Date:

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION