

Minutes of Halls and Environment Committee
Held at Turreff Hall on Monday 9th February 2009

Present: Councillors P Norton (Chair), A Baker, Mrs V Brown, B Green, Mrs R Gregory, J Lavery, C Mason, K Watkins.

Also Present: R Morgan (Parish Clerk).

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

Resolved – that the apologies are accepted.

2. **Declaration of Interest:** As per Register.

3. **Allotments**

The Committee discussed the possibility that renting the piece of land identified for allotments would be a better option than purchasing the land outright.

Resolved – to proceed with the purchase of the land identified for use as parish council allotments and the Clerk is to investigate the possibility of obtaining other land in Muxton for a similar purpose.

4. **Talbot Tennis Courts**

The Committee discussed the rent paid by the Tennis Club and the Electricity costs of the Talbot Centre. The Clerk explained that he had investigated the possibility of switching electricity suppliers to obtain a No Standing Charge tariff. The Companies contacted stated that this was not available to businesses or Councils.

Resolved – to keep the cost of the rent of the Talbot Centre at its present level, but to pass the responsibility of paying the electricity bills to the Tennis Club.

The Clerk informed the Committee that due to the deteriorating condition of the surface of the tennis courts he had obtained quotes for the re-coating of the Court surface.

Resolved – that after considering the quotes provided, Company A is offered the contract to re-coat the tennis court surface at a price quoted at £2,313 plus VAT.

The Committee then discussed the setting up of a Capital Fund for future works that may be required at the Talbot Centre.

Resolved – not to set up a Capital Fund due to the fact that the budgets and precept for 2009/2010 had already been agreed at a full Council meeting held in January.

5. **Garden Competition 2009**

The Committee considered arrangements for this year's Parish Council Garden Competition.

Resolved – that:

- The judges for the Parish Council Garden Competition will be Councillors B Green, Mrs R Gregory and K Watkins (reserve C Mason).

- The date of judging the School entrants will be Friday 10th July. Councillor C Mason will replace Councillor Mrs R Gregory for this due to her close school connections.
- The date of judging the Public entrants will be Saturday 11th July.
- The Clerk is to ask the schools to create a poster for the garden competition to be placed in the libraries and other public buildings.
- The Clerk is to approach Wyevale Garden Centre to see if they would provide a prize for the schools.

6. Closure of Horton Lane

Councillor J Smith, Chairman of Preston-upon-Weald Parish Meeting had requested comments from this Parish Council with regard to the proposed experimental closure of Horton Lane by Telford & Wrekin Council.

Resolved – that this Parish Council objects to the experimental closure of Horton Lane and the Clerk writes to Telford & Wrekin Council listing the following reasons:

- It would increase traffic on the A442
- It would increase traffic congestion at peak hours at the Clock Tower Roundabout.
- It would interfere with access for emergency services and would increase the response time of ambulances and police, both of which are situated in Donnington.
- It would have a detrimental impact on local shops in Trench and Donnington as residents in Horton and Preston upon the Weald would have an increased journey time to them and would therefore find alternative places to shop.

7. Correspondence

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

- a. Telford & Wrekin Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.
- b. Shropshire Council Local Development Framework Consultation – Core Strategy Issues and Options.
- c. Telford & Wrekin CVS Information Event for Village Venues will be held at Meeting Point House, Telford Town Centre, on Wednesday 11th February 2009 from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

Private Session

Resolved – that under Local Government Act 1972 Section 100A, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that these matters be discussed in Private Session and the Public have been asked to withdraw.

8. Cordingley Hall

The Clerk informed the Committee that despite numerous communications with the tenants of Cordingley Hall they were in arrears with their lease payments and therefore in breach of their agreement.

Resolved – that the Clerk instructs its solicitors to send a letter requesting payment as soon as possible.

The meeting closed at 2005hrs.

Signed:

Date: