

**Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee****Held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Bush Room**

**Present:** - James Sumner (JS) (Chair), Alison Peters (AP), Ann Curtis (AC), Marcus Fry (MF), Mike Webb (MW).

Graham Smith (Clerk)

**1. Apologies accepted for Absence**

Steve Blick

**2. Evacuation Procedure**

Evacuation procedures were noted.

**3. Public Participation**

None

**4. Declaration of Interests**

None

**5. Minutes of meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and Matters Arising**

5.1. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016

**16.026 Resolved:** The minutes of the meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman

5.2. Matters Arising – (Clerk) informed the committee that the review of Alveston Parish Council Financial Regulations would be deferred to the next F & GP meeting due allocating the full meeting to item 8 on the agenda.

5.3. Outstanding Actions – None

**6. Matters Arising from Committee Reports**

6.1. Planning Committee – None

6.2. Footpaths & Allotments Committee – None

6.3. Playing Fields & Open Spaces Committee – None

**7. Financial Reports**

7.1. Finance Report June 2016

(JS) informed Cllrs that he had reviewed the financial reports and all appeared in order.

**16.027 Resolved:** The financial reports for June as presented were accepted as accurate.

**8. Green Space Development**

(JS) presented to the committee the recent work performed by the sub-committee including the completion of the utilities survey, obtaining of quotes and meetings/email exchanges with representatives from South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) Street Care department. (All minutes of the Green Space Development Committee meetings had been distributed with the agenda packs).

A decision point has been reached and (JS) reported to the committee that he was not happy to fulfil the technical requirements of the project and ultimately becoming responsible and therefore proposed that if the project was to move forward to the next stage the committee should recommend using South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) to complete all aspects of the project from then on in. (Clerk) informed Cllrs that further to his action from the last sub-committee meeting that the project (if undertaken by SGC) would take a minimum of 10 weeks from placing purchase order to the laying of the final boulder.

Cllrs raised concerns that the proposed solution was a deterrent and would not act as a preventative measure and whereas the initial project cost based on the purchase and delivery of boulders was regarded as reasonable by the Alveston Parish Council when not exceeding £7,500. After consultation with SGC and with a greater appreciation of the level of technical work & potential risks involved in delivering the project, the final project cost has risen to more than £12,000 and an additional annual grounds maintenance charge of £1,100 would also be levied on Alveston Parish Council residents in perpetuity.

While the reasons for selecting the boulders above other solutions were well understood, examples of travellers moving boulders to gain access to sites at Yate and more recently at Frenchay were given as evidence of the ineffectiveness of such a solution against a determined occupier.

(AP) reminded Cllrs of the original objective of the Green Space Development Committee which was “to take steps to deter future encampments on the Down Road green space while trying to improve its use as an amenity for local residents” and raised concerns that the cost of the project was extremely high for a solution which may well not work.

(MF) agreed that the cost was prohibitively high for a solution which was not fully effective and the money could be put to better use, however the residents need to be informed and a business case presented exploring ways in which money may be raised by sponsorship or resident donations. (JS) expressed concerns that the committee was not running with public expectations.

(JS) requested that a decision be made and that the wording of the decision be presented at the next Parish Council meeting however, members of the Open Space Development Committee should be informed of any decision made by the Finance Committee prior to resolution of the Parish Council.

(AP) proposed that the committee decide not to proceed with the boulder project on the grounds that this is a significant cost to Alveston Parish residents, both initially and additional future expenditure on behalf of all Parish residents for land which is owned and managed by SGC. There is potential ineffectiveness as the proposed solution could still allow for the removal of a single boulder relatively easily and would therefore render all expenditure pointless.

The proposal was seconded by (MF) and 4 Cllrs agreed while one Cllr abstained.

**16.028 Resolved:** The F&GP committee reject the request for project funding due to the significant cost to Alveston Parish residents for a potentially ineffectiveness proposal.

(MF) thanked (JS) and the Green Space Development Committee for the work undertaken.

## 9. Authorisation of Payments

9.1. Payments made 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016 - Payments signed by Cllrs Janes Sumner & Marcus Fry

Details	Ref.	£
Grounds Maintenance Contract - June	2710	1212.20
Underpayment – Bus Shelter Paint	2711	30.12
Total Payments		£1,242.32

## 9.2. Recent Receipts

Details	Ref.	£
Gross Interest	T/Fer	5.54
Total Receipts		£5.54

**10. Correspondence**

Ecotricity – (Clerk) informed Cllrs that Ecotricity have confirmed that they will be sending a letter outlining the traffic movements from 11th July to get aggregate to the windturbine site . As Church Road has regular use by large lorries this will not be too onerous although timings have been discussed out of rush hour to facilitate travel along Old Gloucester Road. There will also be details about the movement of ‘large components’ which will start early next year. This is likely to be a little more problematic although the timings will probably be very early morning.

Regarding the Community Benefit funding, there is no wish to have major publicity at this time. We suggest that the council informally discuss the need for projects with potential local organisations so that there are some ideas by the time the plans are made public. Helen Taylor from Ecotricity is managing the Green Britain Foundation’s funding offer and would like to come to a Parish council meeting in the autumn to discuss plans in more detail. After that publicity will be very welcome.

The committee recommend that (Clerk) contact Frampton Cottoral Parish Council Clerk to discuss progress and procedures with local community groups.

**F160704-01:** Contact Frampton Cottoral Parish Council Clerk to discuss progress and procedures relating to the Ecotricity Grant with local community groups.

**Action to (Clerk)**

Co-Operative Bank – Clerk confirmed that he had received a letter from Co-Operative bank confirming investments for a further year.

ALCA / NALC – (Clerk) informed the Committee that he had circulated to all councillors notification of a Devolution Deal Workshop on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July (19:30) at Manor Hall, Coalpit Heath.

**11. Website / Helmet**

None

**12. Any other business**

(MF) proposed that Cllrs meet informally to discuss “next steps” for the Green Space Development Committee. Cllrs agreed to diarise an informal meeting for the 26<sup>th</sup> September at the Ship Hotel at 7:30PM.

**F160704-02:** Inform Cllrs of date and content of informal meeting at the Ship Hotel.

**Action to (Clerk)**

(JS) reported to the committee a breakdown of Parish Council Finances as reported within the RBS accounting system and confirmed that currently there is £10,500 of unallocated funds which are available for use.

(AP) requested that (Clerk) make a note to report to the Parish Council that consideration should be given to increase Grant Aid via the 137 payments.

Meeting Closed 20.33PM

**The next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee is on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 8.20pm.**