

**REPORT OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2006 AT OLD MILL HALL, GROVE**

Present: Cllr F D Parnell (Chairman)  
Cllr W Evans (Vice-Chairman)  
Cllr W R Ackers  
Cllr P L Hadcroft  
Cllr J Stock

In attendance Cllr D Hadcroft  
Cllr A Lunn

Clerk Mr G M Mundy

**1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Nunn-Price.

**2 Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3 Sign report of committee meeting held 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2005**

It was **MOVED** the chairman and **RESOLVED** unanimously....

**“...that the report be signed as a true record of the meeting”.**

**4 Matters arising from the report of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2005**

a) Item 4 (b) – Local Government and Rating Act 1997 – Parish Review – The reply from the Vale was noted. The clerk was to ascertain when the review would be complete and from what date would the Mably Ward councillor no longer sit on Grove Parish Council.

Clerk

b) Item 6 (d) – Wooden planters – The clerk informed the meeting that the old wooden planters outside the front door of Old Mill Hall could not be repaired due to the damage to them. It was generally agreed to remove the planters and not replace them for the time being.

Clerk

c) Item 9 – Access pad for Old Mill Hall – The clerk informed the meeting that he had received all of the quotations for a new access pad and all of them were more than originally quoted. It was generally agreed that the quotes were excessive.

As the pad seemed ok whenever the code was changed, it was agreed that this should be changed every 3 months or as and when the code becomes compromised, to avoid unnecessary expenditure.

Clerk

**5 Reports from representatives of the following outside bodies**

a) Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – The minutes of the meeting held 21<sup>st</sup> November 2005 were noted.

Clerk

b) Grove Village Hall Management Committee – The clerk is to ask Cllr B Williamson for a report and or a copy of the most recent minutes.

c) Wantage, Grove & District Twinning Association – There was no report.

**6 Old Mill Hall matters**

a) Minutes of the meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> December 2005 were noted. The clerk was asked to chase Mr Rob Bulpitt with regard to when the boiler would be replaced and if he was still interested in quoting for replacing the kitchen units.

Clerk

b) Quotation for additional intruder alarm sensor for the Dixon Suite and kitchen – The clerk informed the meeting of the quotations for additional intruder alarm sensors from Chubb and councillors thought these to be very high. Cllr D Hadcroft said that she could obtain quotations for additional sensors from the company that provide a security service to The Bell Public House as they originally installed the system. She agreed to inform the clerk.

Hadcroft

**7 Millbrook School Car Park**

No meeting had taken place.

**8 Quotations and course detail for outside staff**

Following discussion the following course were agreed for outdoor staff as follows:

Chainsaw maintenance & safety use to crosscutting - £147 per person - K Castle and P Wilson to do the course.

Felling trees to 8" in diameter - £87 per person - K Castle and P Wilson to do the course.

Manual Handling and lifter - £38 per person - K Castle, P Wilson and J Cairns to do the course.

Welding - £65 per person - K Castle to do the course.

PA6 Knapsack Sprayer - £145 per person - K Castle and P Wilson to do the course.

**9 Quotations for additional map boards of Grove**

The chairman explained that the clerk had ordered 1 x card map board (encapsulated in a transparent cover) from the Vale at a cost of £20 plus VAT. The clerk is still awaiting delivery. It was generally agreed to wait until the Vale map board is received before making a decision on further purchase.

**10 Funding for CCTV**

The clerk informed the meeting that he had obtained a ballpark quote for CCTV and it ranged from £2,000 to £25,000, depending on the amount of cover and number of cameras. It was generally agreed to await further discussion with Millbrook Primary School Governors before proceeding further.

**11 Update regarding further highway maintenance arrangements with OCC**

The clerk informed the meeting that he had received further correspondence from Mr Brian Short of OCC. Mr Short had advised the clerk that OCC would require proof of competency on the part of the parish council to undertake weed killing around the village. The competency would entail and be demonstrated by the employees of the council having qualifications and knowledge of chemicals used in spraying. The clerk also informed the meeting that because John Cairns is already qualified and uses approved chemicals around the village, the parish council can show competency already. Courses for other members of staff have been identified already, if the council decide to proceed with this devolved function.

Clerk

**12 Arrangements for a civic visit from Mably**

The chairman spoke and informed the meeting that the visit from Mably would be a civic visit and not a twinning visit. He also informed the meeting that he had spoken to the Mayor of Wantage, Cllr Mrs Reynolds had informed him that they would prefer not to hold the visit over the same time as the Mayors Ball. Following discussion it was generally agreed to host the civic visit from Mably in May 2006. Two dates are possible either the weekend of 13<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> May (20<sup>th</sup> May was preferred). The chairman agreed to speak to the Mayor of Wantage again and the clerk was asked to inform the clerk of Wantage Town Council. It was agreed to recommend to full council the above outline dates and inform Wantage Town Council accordingly.

Parnell

Clerk

**13 Quotations for a replacement photocopier**

The clerk informed the meeting that the lease/hire agreement with Danka for the office photocopier is due to expire on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2006. The clerk had obtained two quotes for replacement copiers as follows:

Danka – Rental Price - £72.50 per quarter  
Service Cost - £28.00 per quarter  
Total Cost - £100.50 per quarter

AB Imaging – Rental Price - £72.00 per quarter  
Service Cost - £30.00 per quarter  
Total Cost - £102.00 per quarter

The above service cost is based on an average of 4,000 sheets of paper per quarter.

It was **MOVED** Cllr P Hadcroft **SECONDED** the vice-chairman and **RESOLVED** unanimously

Clerk

**“to accept the quotation from Danka at a total cost of £100.50 plus VAT,”**

**14 Budget 2006/07**

It was generally agreed to take this item out of order and the decision on the budget was deferred until after

confidential staff salaries had been discussed.

**15 Chairman's urgent communications**

There were no urgent communications.

**16 General Correspondence**

The chairman informed the committee that he had received two invitations as follows:

- (i) Grove Village Hall – Invitation to celebrate the building of the extension to the village hall – The chairman said he would check his diary and inform the clerk accordingly.
- (ii) Grove Free Evangelical Church – Invitation to attend the induction of Pastor John Paul on 4<sup>th</sup> February – The chairman said he would attend and would reply in person.

**17 Confidential items**

It was **PROPOSED** the chairman and **AGREED** in accordance with Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972 ...  
**“that the press and public be excluded from the meeting to permit the committee to consider the confidential items.”**

The meeting was opened up to the press and public again to discuss item 14 which was taken out of order.

**14 Budget 2006/07 – (re-continued)**

Following lengthy discussion...

It was **MOVED** Cllr P Hadcroft **SECONDED** Cllr R Ackers and **RESOLVED** unanimously

**“to recommend to full council the Finance and General Purposes budget to be set at £154,639.”**

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Confirmed 10<sup>th</sup> January 2006

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Chairman