

**REPORT OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 3^d JUNE 2008 AT OLD MILL HALL, GROVE**

Present: Cllr F D Parnell (Chairman) Cllr P L Hadcroft
Cllr W Evans (Vice-Chairman) Cllr J E Nunn-Price (part meeting)
Cllr W R Ackers Cllr J M Stock
Cllr S K Dexter

Clerk: Mr G M Mundy

1 Apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

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

No declarations were made.

3 Sign report of committee meeting held 8th April 2008

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 previous meeting

(a) Item 4 (c) – Health & Safety – The Clerk informed the committee that the Health and Safety Officer had sourced a DVD regarding safe use of ladders at a cost of £89. It was generally agreed that delegated authority be granted to the Clerk to purchase the DVD.

Clerk

5 Reports from representatives of the following outside bodies

(a) Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – No meeting had taken place.

(i) OALC AGM to be held on Monday 9th June 2008. It was agreed that the Chairman and Cllr Stock attend the AGM because of the relevance to planning issues that would be discussed at the meeting.

Parnell/
Stock

(b) Wantage, Grove & District Twinning Association – No report had been received.

(i) French group minutes (02/04/08). The French group minutes were noted.

6 Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils

(a) Continued membership of the OALC. It was **MOVED** Cllr Ackers **SECONDED** Cllr Dexter and **RESOLVED** unanimously

Clerk

“to continue membership of the OALC for 2008/09 at a cost of £1,334.51”.

(b) Election of two council representatives. It was generally agreed that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Council be elected as representatives of the OALC.

7 Membership of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council

It was **MOVED** Cllr Dexter **SECONDED** Cllr Hadcroft and **RESOLVED** unanimously

Clerk

“to continue membership of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council for 2008/09 at a cost of £20”.

8 Subscription to the Local Council Review (LCR)

It was **MOVED** the Chairman **SECONDED** Cllr Hadcroft and **RESOLVED** unanimously
“to continue subscription to the Local Council Review at a cost of £48”.

9 Staffing Sub-committee

It was **MOVED** the Chairman **SECONDED** Cllr Hadcroft and **RESOLVED** unanimously
“to agree the following members to the staffing sub-committee:

Cllr Parnell, Cllr Evans, Cllr Ackers and Cllr Dexter.”

10 Old Mill Hall matters

Clerk The Clerk informed the meeting that he had received an email from Cllr Mellersh who had informed him that the AGM would probably be held in July. Cllr Mellersh has also requested that the parish council website includes details of OMH. The Clerk was asked to reply to the email and request what sort of information they require. The Clerk also informed the meeting that there had been no progress with the district council regarding the rent rebate. The Clerk was asked to contact Grove's three district councillors.

Clerk Cllr Dexter then spoke regarding the effect of the rates on the hall and obtaining Charity status. The Clerk was asked to contact the Charity Commission regarding the rules etc and also to trawl the archives for more information.

11 Millbrook School car park

Hadcroft Cllr Hadcroft agreed to attend the car park users meeting to be held on Tuesday 10th June starting at 4 pm. The meeting will take place in Millbrook School.

12 Health and Safety Officer's report

There was nothing to report.

13 Chairman's Urgent Communications

(a) To receive the Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31st March 2008 – The Income and Expenditure sheet was noted.

(b) Council Reserves – The Clerk explained that despite each of the committees' end of year expenditure coming in under budget, there was expenditure from the reserves of some £15,168. He further explained that because of the way the precept was calculated last year, this expenditure would have to be attributed to the committees.

Cllr Dexter suggested that for ease of accounting why not transfer all of the reserves to come under the F&GP Committee remit. He further added that if a particular committee wanted to purchase a large item from outside its budget it would have to ask the F&GP Committee.

Dexter/
Clerk A general discussion took place, following which it was agreed that the Chairman, Cllr Dexter and the Clerk draft a Financial Plan for consideration at the next Finance & General Purposes Committee.

Cllr Nunn-Price arrived

(c) Dog waste bins on the Recreation Ground/Wasbrough Fields – It was reported by some residents and councillors that some of the dog waste bins were overflowing.

The Clerk had contacted the District Council who informed him that due to staff holidays some of the dog waste bins had not been emptied. The Clerk was asked to write and complain about this oversight. This matter was referred to the Dog Working Party for further discussion.

- (d) Twining – Cllr Nunn-Price reported that there was a proposal to amend the policy with regards to unaccompanied children participating in Twining visits. The proposed policy change reads as follows:

“In view of the requirements of the Children Act 1989 and 2004 and other recent legislation on safeguarding children, which includes children sent from abroad to stay with host families, the Twining Association cannot take responsibility for the welfare of unaccompanied children travelling independently and can no longer act as broker for their hosting arrangements. The Association is happy to continue to facilitate exchanges between accredited groups such as schools, scouts and clubs where appropriate supervision is provided. Here “children” means young persons under the age of 18 (or older if vulnerable e.g. learning difficulties)”.

- (e) Bus Strategy – Cllr Nunn-Price reported that she had attended a Bus Strategy Chapter 3 revision consultation meeting, and gave a verbal report. A fuller report is held by the Clerk should anyone wish to view it.

All

14 General Correspondence

There was no general correspondence.

15 Confidential Matters

- (a) Sign minutes of the confidential meeting held on 8th April 2008 – It was **MOVED** the Chairman and **RESOLVED** unanimously

“to sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting”

- (b) Matters arising from the report – There were no matters arising from the report.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

Confirmed 15th July 2008

Chairman