

FGP2011.01.11

At a Meeting of the **FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** of  
COLEHILL PARISH COUNCIL held at Colehill Memorial Hall on  
**11 JANUARY 2011.**

**PRESENT**

Cllr Dave Mitchell, Chairman  
Cllr Susan Davies, Vice-Chairman  
Cllrs Keith Baker, John Bell, Coirin Duff, Tony Holloway (R), KD Johnson,  
Graeme Smith and John Warren.

**APOLOGIES**

Cllr David Packer.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Cllrs Janet Dover and Don Wallace.

Messrs Derek Henderson, Peter Merchant, John Gooch and Sam Fox attended the meeting to listen to the discussion on Colehill Library.

Mr Derek Henderson advised Members that DCC could withdraw funding for Colehill Library from April 2012. He considered that the Friends of Colehill Library and the Parish Council should jointly oppose the withdrawal. He further advised that usage was up on the library despite the reduced hours whereas the usage was down on Wimborne library.

Mrs Linda Dickens attended to listen to the discussions on Colehill Library and on the School Crossing Patrol.

Mr Norman Davies attended the meeting to inform members of his support for Colehill Library and to speak about his objections to DCC's withdrawal of funding for the school crossing patrols. He advised that between 200-300 young people cross Smugglers Lane, by St Michael's Church, daily and that the scrapping of the school crossing patrol would put young people in severe danger.

**345.11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**346.11 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 November 2010, having been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

**347.11 MATTERS ARISING**

276.10 (b) Cllr Davies was considering the number of newsletters that were produced and wondered whether the newsletter could be put at distribution points in the Parish rather than posted to every household. She advised that EDDC would be providing various cost options on the printing. The distribution of the newsletter and costs would be discussed at Council on 25 January.

**348.11**     **COLEHILL LIBRARY**

DCC had advised that after 17 February they would be contacting the 20 communities where an alternative library service provision was under consideration.

DCC would send an elected panel to visit parish councils with a formal offer for consideration, there would then be a three month consultation period.

In preparation of this visit, the Colehill Library Action Group should be set up at the next Council meeting. This Group would consist of Councillors and members of the Friends of Colehill Library.

The Friends AGM would be held on 28 January, at St Michael's Church Centre, at 7.30 pm. DCC's Tracy Long would be attending and it was hoped that a large number of residents would attend.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) a letter be sent to Tracy Long thanking her for deciding to attend the AGM;
- (b) the Colehill Library Action Group be set up at Council on 25 January.

**349.11**     **SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL BUDGET WITHDRAWAL**

Dorset County Council had advised that the funding for all school crossing patrols would be withdrawn. This would affect the three crossing patrols in Colehill.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) DCC be asked to review their funding to see whether savings could be made elsewhere rather than by withdrawing the funding for the school crossing patrols.
- (b) the head teachers be contacted to determine what plans they had regarding this decision.

**350.11**     **ACCOUNTS**

The Clerk circulated a Financial Statement from 1 April 2010 to 7 January 2011 a copy of which is attached at Appendix 1 to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED that the Financial Statement be received and noted.

**351.11**     **BIG SOCIETY – ROLE OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS**

DAPTC had organised a training event on the Big Society which would be held on 10 March, at Dorchester. The first attendee would cost £30, but subsequent attendees would cost £15 each.

RESOLVD that the Clerk and Cllrs Bartlett, Francis, Johnson, Mitchell and Warren attend.

**352.11 EMPLOYEE DISHONESTY PROTECTION (Minute 300.10 5a refers)**

The Risk Assessment Sub-Committee had highlighted that the cover for employee dishonesty protection was at £200,000, however the Council was approximately £80,000 over at some stages throughout the year.

The cost to increase the premium would be £118.72. If the increased cover was required a pro rata additional premium would be charged from the date cover was amended to the renewal date of the policy on 1 June.

Members considered the cost involved to increase the premium against the provisions that were in place to prevent theft, ie three signatories being required to sign cheques, the accounts being reviewed at every Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Chairman of Finance and General Purposes checking that the bank statements were reconciled.

RESOLVED that, given the provisions in place, the employee dishonesty protection would not be increased.

**353.11 COLEHILL AND WIMBORNE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE LTD**

The Management Committee had employed an architect and it was hoped that the redevelopment of the Centre would commence shortly.

Members considered that a letter should be sent to the Management Committee asking for information on the build and the fundraising.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the architect provide a programme of key dates;
- (b) the management committee provide a programme of fundraising;
- (c) Mr David Topping be invited to Council on 25 January with this information.

**354.11 GRIT BIN REQUESTS**

Grit bin requests had been received for Brackenhill Road, Saddle Close and Oakdene Close, and Cllr Mitchell advised of two further sites at Wesley Road and Beaucroft Lane, junction with Whiteways.

There was no budget provision for further grit bins, however it was agreed that discussion as to whether to consider purchasing grit bins later in the year be held at Council on 8 March.

NOTED.

**355.11 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED that the accounts listed at Appendix 2 be passed for payment and cheques drawn accordingly.

The Meeting ended at 21.35 hrs.

CHAIRMAN