

FGP2011.09.20

At a Meeting of the **FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** of COLEHILL PARISH COUNCIL held at Colehill Memorial Hall on **20 SEPTEMBER 2011**.

PRESENT

Cllr Graeme Smith, Chairman

Cllrs Susan Cowsill, KD Johnson, David Mitchell, Pat Francis (R).

APOLOGIES

Cllr Susan Davies, John Warren and Don Wallace.

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Keith Baker and Mr Jim Priest attended to advise Members of the Colehill Memorial Hall Management Committee's request that the Council underwrite any legal costs.

205.11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

206.11 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 July 2011, having been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

207.11 MATTERS ARISING

139.11 – Bournemouth Airport Cllr Mitchell advised that contrary to what had been previously said by Sally Windsor, the Airport would be continuing with the drop off charge.

208.11 COLEHILL MEMORIAL HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Mitchell advised that he and a colleague had been advising the Colehill Memorial Hall Management Committee on their case against a heating engineer. Neither he nor his colleague would be charging the Management Committee for their advice, however for the record the charges would have been in the region of £3500.

Cllr Mitchell considered that should the Management Committee win their case they would receive approximately £11,000 in costs. If they lost they would have to pay approximately £7,000 to the heating engineer, plus any costs due to loss of work.

Advice had been sought from the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils as to whether the Parish Council was permitted to pay legal costs. DAPTC had advised that the Council's role as Custodian Trustee was very limited. The Charity Commission stated that Custodian Trustees could assist the management committee but could not have any administration function. DAPTC considered it was a matter for interpretation as to whether underwriting the cost of legal fees was administration or assistance.

DAPTC also advised that the Governance and Accountability for Local Councils stated: “Those who are responsible for the conduct of public business and for spending public money are accountable for ensuring that public business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards. They must also ensure that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively.” DAPTC said that it was a matter for the Council to decide whether the use of public money in this case was economic, efficient and effective and that the Council would need to be prepared to justify and evidence any decision.

Cllr Mitchell advised that as the Management Committee had been unable to secure an expert witness their case was weakened.

Mr Baker asked what would happen if the Management Committee continued with the case and lost, but did not have enough money to pay the costs. Would the members of the Management Committee be personally liable? Cllr Mitchell did not know, but said he would make enquiries and advise accordingly.

Cllr Mitchell proposed, seconded by Cllr Cowsill, that it would not be appropriate to commit to underwriting any legal costs. 3:1 1 abstention.

RESOLVED that the Council would not commit to underwriting the Colehill Memorial Hall Management Committee’s legal costs.

209.11 **ACCOUNTS**

The Clerk circulated a Financial Statement from 1 April to 20 September 2011 shown as Appendix 1 to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED that the Financial Statement be received and noted.

210.11 **EXPENDITURE 2012/13**

RESOLVED that school crossing patrols, filling of grit bins and the library be considered as extra expenditure in the budget for 2012/13.

211.11 **COUNCIL BADGES**

Cllr Johnson advised that a company could make 16 acrylic coated magnetic badges for £153.84, which included a one off artwork set up charge and delivery. Cllr Johnson thought that these badges would be longer lasting than the laminated badges that were used at the moment.

Cllr Mitchell proposed, seconded by Cllr Cowsill that Committee recommend to Council the purchasing of Members’ name badges. 4:1

RESOLVED that Committee recommend to Council the purchasing of Members' name badges.

212.11 GRIT BIN PURCHASE

RESOLVED that a grit bin be purchased to replace the one that was stolen on the corner of Jessopp Road and Cutlers Place. Unanimous.

213.11 GRIT BIN REQUEST

Two requests for grit bins had been received from residents in Bridle Way and Hornbeam Way. Both residents had advised that they lived in areas where the roads dipped and where ice and snow lasted for several days due to possible sunshine being blocked by houses.

The resident in Bridle Way knew that there were two grit bins already in Bridle Way, however being a pensioner she was unable to get grit from these bins as they were some distance away.

Cllr Mitchell proposed, seconded by Cllr Johnson, that no further grit bins be purchased until DCC had advised on the changes to their winter maintenance service for 2012/13. Unanimous.

RESOLVED that no further grit bins be purchased until DCC's 2012/13 winter maintenance service was known.

214.11 LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

RESOLVED that Committee recommend to Council that Cllr Susan Cowsill be permitted to attend the Local Government Conference with the Council meeting the cost of the conference and the travelling expenses. Unanimous.

215.11 TIME CAPSULE – PRIEST'S HOUSE MUSEUM

The Priest's House Museum had invited the Council to nominate an object for the time capsule they would be burying in the foundations of the new Open Learning Centre.

Cllr Davies had suggested that a copy of the Council's newsletter be nominated.

RESOLVED that the Priest's House Museum be informed that the Council's nominated object was a copy of the Council's newsletter. Unanimous.

216.11 SUPERFAST BROADBAND IN DORSET

DCC had invited the Council to consider raising the precept to contribute towards the capital match funding that Dorset was required to provide to help improve the level of broadband in Dorset.

Mr Baker had advised the Council that Wimborne and Colehill were due to have Superfast Broadband in December 2011.

RESOLVED that the Council would not contribute towards this funding.

217.11 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED that the accounts listed at Appendix 2 to these Minutes in the Minute Book be passed for payment and cheques drawn accordingly.

218.11 ITEMS FOR REPORT OR FUTURE AGENDA

The Clerk advised that the National Savings and Investment had accepted Cllr Davies as a signatory.

The Meeting ended at 21.16 hrs.

CHAIRMAN