

CCL2011.05.24

At the Special Council Meeting of **COLEHILL PARISH COUNCIL** held at COLEHILL MEMORIAL HALL on **24 MAY 2011**.

PRESENT

Cllr Dave Mitchell, Chairman
Cllr Susan Davies, Vice-Chairman
Cllrs David Barnes, Susan Cowsill, Pat Francis, Sue Gretton, Tony Holloway, KD Johnson, Maggie Lawson, Jeff Morland, David Packer and John Warren.

APOLOGIES

Cllrs Janet Dover, Graeme Smith and Don Wallace.

57.11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

58.11 APPOINTMENT TO HIGHWAYS AND PLANS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that Cllrs Lawson and Morland be appointed to serve on the Highways and Plans Committee for the ensuing year.

59.11 RECEIVING AGENDAS BY EMAIL

RESOLVED that Cllr Lawson receive her Agendas by email.

60.11 COLEHILL LIBRARY ACTION GROUP (CLAG)

The reports of the meetings held on 3 and 9 May 2011 were submitted and appear as Appendices 1 and 2 to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

It was noted that the cost of running the Colehill Library was approximately £30K a year, of which £24K was staff salaries. There were periodic maintenance cost, but these were variable and largely unknown.

Cllr Gretton advised that she had attended a meeting at Dorset County Council and that DCC had implied that the ADLIB proposal (ie a 10% cut across all Dorset libraries) was unsustainable and that communities should take on the running of their libraries. Members from CLAG had felt that the ADLIB proposal was the best option and would keep all libraries open.

The improved offer from DCC was an undertaking to provide 500 new books a year, to allow the use of the computerised library management service (when modified) and to pay for the services of a professional librarian for three hours a week.

It was reported that volunteers were no longer coming forward in the required numbers, and that they had assumed that they would be helping the librarian – not having to run it on their own.

After much consideration Members decided that it was not a viable option for the community to take over the Colehill Library. The library would not be able to run on a mostly voluntary basis, and for a reasonable service there would be additional professional staff costs. The Council would not be able to contribute to the maintenance costs which were likely to be high.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the Council would not contribute towards the running of a community library because the library could not be run satisfactorily on a voluntary basis, and the overall costs were likely to be too high;
- (b) a press release be distributed advising of the Council's decision;
- (c) the CLAG reports be approved and adopted.

61.11 ANNUAL RETURN – YEAR END MARCH 2011

The Clerk had circulated a copy of the relevant sections of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2011 a copy of which appears as Appendix 3 to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED that the Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement be approved and signed by the Chairman of Council.

62.11 INTERNAL AUDIT – YEAR END MARCH 2011

A letter from the Internal Auditor, dated 5 May, was distributed. Investigations highlighted that two cheques had been overlooked and needed either using or voiding, that one invoice submitted to the Council for payment appeared not to detail a VAT number and that the creditor be asked to submit an appropriate invoice and that the Clerk's home office allowance had not been reviewed since 2006.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the two cheques be voided;
- (b) the creditor be asked to submit an appropriate invoice; and
- (c) the Clerk's home office allowance be discussed at a future meeting.

Members thanked the Clerk for her work.

63.11 LOCAL COUNCIL ADVISORY SERVICE (LCAS)

LCAS would be holding its annual health and safety seminar on 19 July, at Blandford, at 9.30 am to 1.15 pm.

As a member, the Council received one free space, further spaces cost £30 per person (non members were charged £60).

Discussions at the seminar would include the responsibilities faced with owning open spaces, managing events safely and the risk management process.

RESOLVED that Cllrs Davies, Johnson and Morland attend, together with the Clerk, and a provisional place would be booked for Cllr Cowsill.

64.11 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED that the accounts listed in Appendix 4 in the Minute Book be passed for payment and cheques drawn accordingly.

65.11 **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- (a) Cllr Davies updated Members on the latest edition of the Colehill Clarion and the Big Bike Ride and BBQ that was planned. She advised of the advertisements that would be placed, including onscreen advertising at the Tivoli Theatre.
- (b) Cllr Gretton advised Members that the Memorial Hall Management Committee had decided to not allow the Council to hire the facilities for free for the BBQ and Community Fair on 10 July. This decision had been made because the Committee would not be able to allow other hirers free use and they wished to treat hirers equally. Cllr Warren asked whether they had considered charging, but donating the fee to the Colehill and Wimborne Youth and Community Centre. Cllr Gretton said this had not been discussed, but the Committee had been adamant that the fee should stand.
- (c) Cllr Davies advised that the Big Bike Ride and BBQ poster had been removed from the notice board in the Memorial Hall foyer and she would display another copy.

The Meeting ended at 20.26 hrs.

CHAIRMAN