

BURNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held at Burnham Park Hall on Monday 4 February 2002 at 8.30 pm

Members Present: *Councillor M Taylor (Vice-Chairman)*
Councillors, P C Adams, S E Davies, L K Hazell and J Somers

PART I

85. **Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from Councillors P J Adams, H Blair and P A Davies.

Members noted the resignation of Councillor K M Dolan.

86. **Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest

87. **Minutes of the Committee Meeting – 17 December 2001**

Councillor M Taylor, Vice-Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of meeting held on 17 December 2001.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That the minutes be approved.

Finance.

88. **Budget Monitoring Month 9**

The Executive Officer presented the budget monitoring report at Month 9

RESOLVED:

- ◆ Members noted the report

89. **Budget 2002/03 – Hanging Basket costs.**

The Executive Officer informed the meeting that the current cost for hanging baskets was £80 per basket per year and the Councils current policy was to charge businesses £50 per basket per year. The Executive Officer informed members that it had proved difficult obtaining payment from some businesses.

Members discussed the details of the current cost of the hanging basket contract, the implications of withdrawing the service and how to ensure the service was delivered more effectively.

RESOLVED

- ◆ That the current subsidised rate should continue.
- ◆ That businesses should be invoiced in advance and informed that if payment was not received prior to the change of the baskets the service would be withdrawn.

- ◆ That the Executive Officer should enquire if a reduction in the size of the contract would impact on the current contract price.

Applications for grants and section 137 funding

90. Members discussed the parameters for establishing a policy for the making of grants to the Community. Among the issues discussed were:

- (a) The policy should ensure that all aspects of the community could be considered.
- (b) That any grants should be applicable to requests which had a direct benefit to the community.
- (c) The need to promote and advertise the funding available.
- (d) The development of guidelines for applications.
- (e) The need for two application dates.
- (f) The need to hold back some funds for contingencies
- (g) That a maximum limit should be agreed.

Councillor M Taylor reminded the meeting that Section 137 funding was not just for grants but was a power for the Parish Council to spend funds on items which it already did not have a statutory power and this may include the celebration of the Queen's Jubilee.

RESOLVED

- That a maximum limit for each grant application should be set at £500.
- That the Executive Officer would draft a policy for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee.
- The policy would reflect projects, which have a direct benefit to the community and would not include individual sponsorship.

91. **Any Other Business**

There was no other business

92. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

RESOLVED

- ◆ **That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded and they should be asked to withdraw**

Chairman

Date

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PART II

93. **Minutes of the Committee Meeting – 17 December 2001**

Councillor M Taylor, Vice-Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of meeting held on 17 December 2001.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That the minutes be approved.

94. **Insurance Claims**

The Executive Officer informed the meeting of two claims being made against the Council. These included a claim by Harcup for an injury received while playing rugby in the Burnham Park in March 2000 and a continuation of the claim with the new owners of Walnut Tree Cottage regarding damage to their property due to surface water. The Executive Officer informed the meeting that both issues had been passed on to the Councils Insurers for action.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That claims and actions to date be noted.

Meeting Concluded 9.55 p.m.
