

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE  
HELD ON THURSDAY 24<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2005 AT 10.00 a.m.  
AT THE PAVILION, MANOR FIELD**

Present: Cllr Mr L Abraham (*arrived at 10.17 a.m.*)  
Cllr Mr A Barnett  
Cllr Mr J Gaywood  
Cllr Mr B Ramsay (Acting Chairman)

In attendance: Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)  
1 member of the public

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Mr C Alford.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes**

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2005 be approved and signed as a correct record.

*Cllr Mr L Abraham arrived at the meeting at 10.17 a.m.*

**4. Parish Office**

The Committee examined the draft lease for the relocated Parish Office and the agreement to undertake the building work, in conjunction with comments received from the Council's solicitors in relation to both documents.

In relation to the draft lease, the Committee expressed the following views.

- (1) The current cleaning arrangements for the Parish Office, which are currently undertaken by Kent County Council at a charge of £50 p.a., be continued in respect of the new office. The Committee acknowledged the charge to clean the new office may increase to reflect the increased size of the new office.
- (2) The Committee accepted clause 1.1.2 contained within the first schedule on page 24, in respect of the right to park one motor vehicle on the forecourt at times when the library is open to the public, but considered the lease should make provision for the Council to be entitled to unrestricted use of the car park at such times when the library is shut.
- (3) The Committee reiterated its intention to use the main library premises for the occasional Committee meeting and requested that provision for such use be included within the lease.

In relation to the agreement to undertake the building work, the Committee expressed the following views.

- (1) The Council's solicitor be advised that the building contract for the works is not as outlined in clause 1.3 on page 1 of the agreement, but is a contract specifically employed by the Council's architect.
- (2) The Council's solicitor be advised that the contractor will be in a position to commence the building work on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2005 and the contract period is estimated to be 5 weeks. This being the case, clause 2.7.1 on page 4 in respect of the completion of the building works should be amended to reflect these dates.

RESOLVED: That, the terms and conditions contained within the draft lease dated 30<sup>th</sup> December 2004 and the agreement to undertake the building work be accepted, subject to the Committee's comments expressed above and Council's solicitor be instructed to finalise the lease and agreement to undertake the building work as soon as possible.

**5. Integrated Kent Franchise: Stakeholder Briefing Document**

The Committee considered the Integrated Kent Franchise Stakeholder Briefing Document, January 2005 published by the Strategic Rail Authority which sets out the level of service to be provided by the various franchise operators in London and the South East.

RESOLVED: That, the document be noted.

**6. Local Government Pension Scheme**

The Committee considered a letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2005 from Kent County Council detailing changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme rules which are effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005.

The main changes to the scheme are as set out below:

- (1) To raise the normal retirement age for all members to their 65th birthday.
- (2) To raise the age at which a member is entitled to the immediate payment of retirement benefits following redundancy/efficiency retirement from 50 to 55 years of age.
- (3) To raise the age at which a member may elect to receive early payment of their retirement benefits, subject to their employers consent, from age 50 to age 55 years.

RESOLVED: That, changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005 be noted.

**7. Citizens Engagement and Public Services: Why Neighbourhoods Matter and Vibrant Local Leadership**

The Committee considered two discussion documents received from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister entitled (1) Citizen Engagement and Public Services: Why Neighbourhoods Matter and (2) Vibrant Local Leadership. The Committee commented that whilst it agreed with the content of the documents in respect of its efforts to empower communities, it was nevertheless disappointed over recent changes to local boundaries recommended by the Boundary Commission.

RESOLVED: That, the documents be noted and a letter be written to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister expressing the Committee's views on recent local boundary changes and the effect these changes have on neighbourhoods.

**8. Date of the next meeting**

To be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 11.20 a.m.

Signed:.....  
Chairman of F & G P Committee

Date:.....