

HARTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Mrs J Hoad
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9th November 2006

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee to be held on Wednesday 15th November 2006 commencing at 9.00 a.m. at Hartley Library, Ash Road.

Yours sincerely

Julie Hoad
Proper Officer

AGENDA

1. Apologies

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive Members' declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

(WHITE)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 13th June 2006. (Annexed).

4. Income and expenditure

(CREAM)

To review the Council's receipts and payments from 1st April to 9th November 2006. (Annexed – Financial Report indicating the Council's net position at 9th November 2006).

At the last meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee it was requested the Committee be provided with a breakdown of amounts spent and received relating to Rectory Meadow for the financial year 2005/06 and the current financial year so far. Copies of the financial reports relating to Rectory Meadow for 2005/06 and the current financial year have been circulated with this agenda. (Annexed).

5. Budget 2007/08

(LIGHT BLUE)

To consider the budget for the financial year 2007/08. (Annexed).

6. Land to the north of Rectory Meadow

To consider the current position regarding the offer to donate an area of land at the rear of Rectory Meadow.

Background document

Letter dated 15th May 2006 to solicitors acting on behalf of adjoining land owner

E mail dated 20th October 2006 from solicitors acting on behalf of adjoining landowner

7. Donations

(1) To consider the following requests for donations:

- Citizens Advice Bureau – to support the work of the Swanley & District CAB
- Kent BTCV – to support the Kent Tree Warden Scheme. The suggested donation is £100.
- Kent Wildlife Trust – to assist with the restoration of Oare Marshes
- Kent Wildlife Trust – to support the work of the Conservation Team of the Trust. A gift of £50 is requested.
- Victim Support Kent – to support the work of the charity which offers emotional support and practical help to victims of crime, witnesses, their families and friends. The charity has asked that consideration be given to making a donation from next year's budget (2007/08) when setting the Council's budget and for a donation from this year's budget (2006/07).

(2) Rural Age Concern Darent Valley

(GREEN)

To consider a letter dated 16th June 2006 from the Chief Officer at Rural Age Concern Darent Valley. (Annexed).

Background documents

Letter dated 16th October 2006 from Swanley and District Citizens Advice Bureau Ltd and enclosure

Letter dated 25th July 2006 from BTCV

Letter received on 4th October 2006 from the Kent Wildlife Trust

Letter received on 8th June 2006 from the Kent Wildlife Trust

Letter dated 16th June 2006 from Rural Age Concern Darent Valley

Letter dated 1st November 2006 from Victim Support Kent

8. Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

(YELLOW)

To consider a letter dated 6th October 2006 from Kent County Council in respect of the employers' policies relating to the Kent Local Government Pension Scheme. (Annexed)

The current schedule of Hartley Parish Council's policy decisions adopted by the Council on 12th July 2004 is attached for members' attention. The schedule has been amended to show the proposed amendments to reflect the changes in legislation affecting the LGPS. (Annexed).

Background document

Letter dated 30th October 2006 from Kent County Council, Pension Section and enclosures

Letter dated 6th October 2006 from Kent County Council, Pensions Section

Letter dated 18th August 2006 from Kent County Council, Pension Section

Letter dated 23rd May 2006 from Kent County Council, Pension Section and enclosures

9. POSTCOMM

Under a licence granted by Postcomm in 2001, Royal Mail is required to provide a universal postal service. Part of that service is to ensure a delivery is made every working day to every home or premises, unless there are exceptional geographical or other circumstances identified by the Regulator. A review of Postcomm's current policy which defines the exceptional geographical conditions or other exceptional circumstances when Royal Mail is exempt from its universal service obligation has taken place and whilst the deadline for any comments on the consultation document was 8th November 2006, the Committee may be interested to consider the document entitled "Policy Review on Exceptions to Royal Mail's Universal Service Obligation for Delivery Services – August 2006". (Annexed).

Background document

Letter dated 8th August 2006 from Postcomm

Policy review on exceptions to Royal Mails Universal Service Obligation for Delivery of Services

10. Rural Post Offices

At a meeting to be held on 13th November 2006, the Council will be considering a proposal from Cllr Alford for (i) the Parish Council to record that it supports the current campaign that the Government should take steps to retain the essential and valuable services provided by Post Offices in rural communities, (ii) the Member of Parliament be advised of this decision and that he be asked to give an assurance that he will support the retention of a Post Office in Hartley and, (iii) the Finance and General Purposes Committee be requested to consider what further support the Council can give to this campaign.

The Committee is requested to consider what further support the Council could give to this campaign.

11. Localism and related issues

(PINK)

To consider a letter dated 24th July 2006 enclosing a briefing note from Sevenoaks District Council's Chief Executive on a number of initiatives and Government guidance relating to the future of local government. (Annexed).

Background document

Letter dated 24th July 2006 from SDC, Chief Executive

Briefing note on localism and related issues, dated 14th June 2006

12. Date of the next meeting

List of circulated documents

1. Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 13th June 2006 **(WHITE)**
2. Financial report indicating the Council's net position at 9th November 2006 **(CREAM)**
3. Financial reports for 2005/06 and the current financial year relating to Rectory Meadow. **(CREAM)**
4. Draft budget 2007/08 **(LIGHT BLUE)**
5. Northfield draft budget 2007/08 **(LIGHT BLUE)**
6. Letter dated 16th June 2006 from Rural Age Concern Darent Valley **(GREEN)**
7. Letter dated 6th October 2006 and enclosure (schedule of KCC employer policy decisions) **(YELLOW)**
8. Schedule of employer policy decisions for Hartley Parish Council showing the proposed amendments **(YELLOW)**
9. Policy Review on Exceptions to Royal Mail's Universal Service Obligation for Delivery Services – Consultation document - August 2006
10. Letter dated 24th July 2006 from SDC's Chief Executive **(PINK)**
11. Briefing note dated 14th June 2006 **(PINK)**

Committee membership
Cllr Abraham
Cllr Barnett
Cllr Mr M Harris (ex officio)

Cllr Alford
Cllr Gaywood (ex officio)
Cllr Ramsay