

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE HELD ON 5th FEBRUARY 2007 AT 10.00 a.m.
AT HARTLEY LIBRARY, ASH ROAD**

Present: Cllr Mr C Alford (Chairman)
Cllr Mr A Barnett
Cllr Mr J Gaywood

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

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Mr L Abraham, Mr M Harris and Mr B Ramsay.

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 15th November 2006 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. Income and expenditure

The Committee reviewed the Council's receipts and payments for the period 1st April 2006 to 29th January 2007 and was satisfied that the level of expenditure would be contained within the estimates set for the year.

RESOLVED: That, the report indicating the Council's net financial position at 29th January 2007 be received and noted.

5. Audit 2005/06

The Committee examined the external auditor's certificate and opinion in respect of the accounts for the financial year 2005/06 and noted there were no matters giving cause for concern.

The Committee noted that the notice of conclusion of audit and right to inspect the annual return had been displayed on the Council's noticeboard in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003.

RESOLVED: That, the external auditor's certificate and opinion in respect of the accounts for the financial year 2005/06 be received and noted.

6. Half year internal audit for the period 1st April 2006 to 30th September 2006

The meeting was adjourned at 10.10 a.m. to allow members of the Committee to read to the interim internal audit report.

The meeting resumed at 10.15 a.m.

The Committee considered the recommendation contained in the interim internal audit report for the period 1st April 2006 to 30th September 2006. The internal auditor had recommended that in future a list of unrepresented cheques and unrepresented receipts should be provided at the half year audit as evidence of outstanding items shown in the bank reconciliation.

The Clerk informed the Committee that in order to overcome this problem in the future, reports listing the unrepresented cheques and unrepresented receipts would be run off the Council's systems on the last working day of September.

RESOLVED: That, the interim internal audit report for the period 1st April 2006 to 30th September 2006 be received and noted, and the recommendation contained therein be supported.

7. Donations

The Committee considered a request for a donation from the Kent Wildlife Trust to raise money for habitat management. The Committee suggested that the Council's annual subscriptions should be reviewed at the next committee meeting and the Clerk was asked to provide the Committee with a list of the organisations to which the Council makes annual subscriptions, including the current subscription rates.

RECOMMENDED: That, in accordance with powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 a sum of £100 be donated to the Kent Wildlife Trust.

8. Rural Post Offices

The Committee considered a letter dated 21st December 2006 from the local Member of Parliament in response to concerns expressed by the Council in respect of proposed changes to the Post Office network.

RECOMMENDED: That, the Council respond to the local Member of Parliament expressing its disappointment over the Government's initiatives affecting the services provided by the Post Office network and seek assurances from the local Member of Parliament that he will oppose any suggestion to close the Post Office in Hartley.

9. Northfield

The Committee considered a letter dated 4th December 2006 from a resident requesting the Parish Council give consideration to the construction of wind powered generator on Northfield. Whilst the Committee supported, in principle, the regeneration of electricity, it felt that the siting of wind turbine on Northfield would be inappropriate and in any event would not be permitted under the terms of the lease.

RECOMMENDED: That, the matter be referred to the Northfield Management Committee.

10. Youth Committee

The Committee considered a request from the Youth Committee to ear mark any surplus of funds from Youth Committee's current annual budget to provide financial support for the provision of a skateboard park at Woodland Avenue.

RECOMMENDED: That, the Council agree to transfer any surplus of funds held by the Youth Committee in its annual budget at the end of the current financial year to the youth reserve.

11. Date of the next meeting

18th April 2007 at 10.00 a.m. at Hartley Library.

The meeting closed at 10.45 a.m.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

