

Minutes of meeting of Dersingham Parish Council held on 12th January 2009 in Dersingham Infant and Nursery School at 7.00pm

- Present:** Cllr R Johnston (in the Chair), Cllr P Burall, Cllr A Bubb, Cllr C Berry, Cllr V Brundle, Cllr J Houston, Cllr R Murrell, Cllr A Smith, Cllr R Brackstone, Cllr A Chapman, Cllr A Maxwell, Cllr D McNeil
- In attendance:** The Acting Clerk
The Clerk
- Parishioners:** Five

10588 Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Brackstone proposed Cllr Burall be elected Vice Chairman for the meeting, seconded by Cllr Berry. All in favour. **Resolved that Cllr Burall be elected Vice Chairman for the meeting.**

10589 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Manship.

10590 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Houston – representative of Council to Dersingham Village Social Club
Cllr Johnston – employer of David Lee

10591 Meeting of Finance, General Purposes and Administration Committee meeting held on 2nd January 2009. Recommendations to Full Council under Minutes 60 and 61

Minute 60

Resolved that a recommendation be made to Full Council that committees can only spend within their budgets, money cannot be transferred from one area of a committee's responsibility to another, and committees can only spend beyond their budget if Full Council pass a resolution approving the overspend. Cllr Smith, Vice Chair of Environment Committee, apologised on behalf of the committee, advising that an overspend on a dog waste bin in 2008/9 had been a genuine error. She wished to advise that the sale of dog waste bags had provided £107 of additional income.

Resolved to approve the recommendation

Resolved that a recommendation be made to Full Council that Chairman or Vice Chairman must authorise any additional maintenance work.

Cllr Johnston proposed that there be a £250 limit. All in favour.

Resolved to approve the recommendation

Resolved that a recommendation be made to Full Council that if a committee request funding to be included in the budget then that expenditure should take place if at all practicable.

Cllr Houston, Chair of Recreation Ground Committee, advised that an order was about to be placed for new play equipment.

Resolved to approve the recommendation

Resolved that a recommendation be made to Full Council that the present policy, of all recurring expenditure being paid via the precept, and one-off payments being taken from reserves, be continued.

Resolved to approve the recommendation

Minute 61

Resolved to recommend to Full Council that Norfolk Constabulary be asked to extend the lease for a further six months.

Resolved to approve the recommendation

10592 Precept for 2009/10

Cllr Burall, Chairman of Finance, General Purposes and Administration Committee, presented the draft precept agreed by the committee. He proposed that the precept be kept at the same level as 2008/9. Cllr Chapman considered in the present financial climate this would be seen as a gesture of goodwill, but Cllr McNeil was concerned that the costs of Council's suppliers would continue to rise. Cllr Burall advised that a saving would be made by the removal of one office telephone line, used for fax. Cllr Bubb advised that the second line had been installed to be used for outgoing calls, not primarily for fax. Cllr Burall advised that he was currently assessing telephone provision. He advised that he had hoped to make a saving, by reducing the number of organisations subscribed to, but this had not been possible. Savings may be made by using different stationery suppliers. He proposed that grants to Sports Ground Management and Community Centre were unaltered, £500 was included in the draft budget for DEC, the budget for minor grants was reduced to £250, and the £500 grant for the Heacham Community Car Scheme was retained at the present level.

Cllr Burall made recommendations regarding committee expenditure. With regard to Communications Committee, Cllr Burall considered that DATA, Village Voice and Village Voice Live were all self-financing. Cllr Bubb, Chairman, advised that any surpluses could now be rolled over into the next financial year. With regard to Recreation Ground Committee, Cllr Burall advised that £12000 would be spent from reserves for five years for new play equipment (total £60,000). With regard to Environment Committee, it was proposed to spend £2000 from reserves to provide one new streetlight needed at the entrance to the Carole Brown Health Centre. Cllr Smith, Vice Chair, outlined committee's proposals for litter bin provision, advising that a survey of litter bins had been recently carried out. Some little-used bins, currently emptied by Borough Council, would be removed and stored. Borough Council would only empty the five bins to be emptied at no extra cost. Committee were currently finalising arrangements for the emptying of the remaining bins. Cllr Burall revised his proposed spend from reserves on litter bins from £1500 to £500 per year for the replacement of existing bins by the new wheelie-bin type litter bins. Other expenditure from reserves was £10,000 per year until 2012/13 for the proposed new village hall, and £10,000 for the relocation of the parish office, although Cllr Burall advised that that expenditure on the parish office was very difficult to assess at the present time

Cllr Burall proposed a precept of £67,803, seconded by Cllr Johnston.

Resolved that the precept for 2009/10 be £67,803.

Cllr Johnston thanked Cllr Burall in particular, and all the members of the Finance, General Purposes and Administration Committee for their work preparing the budget.

10593 Date, time and place of next meeting

26th January 2009 in Dersingham Infant and Nursery School at 7.00pm.

Parishioners Comments

Mr K Green expressed concern regarding the Village Fryer parking and serving customers from the car park of Dersingham Village Social Club. Cllr Johnston advised that investigations had shown that the Village Fryer complied with all licenses to trade. Cllr Burall advised that the terms of the lease prevent sub letting in any form and a letter would be sent to the Social Club advising that the Village Fryer cannot operate from the Social Club car park.

Mr Sweeney, representing Dersingham Village Social Club, said that he had been advised by the Acting Clerk that grants would be considered at the Precept Meeting. The Social Club were presently experiencing financial problems. Cllr Burall advised that total grant provision would be agreed at the Precept Meeting but that the Social Club should detail in writing their requests regarding financial help which would then be considered by the Finance, General Purposes and Administration Committee.

Mr Cross expressed concern regarding expenditure on the War Memorial Area Enhancement Project from reserves. Cllr Johnston advised that funds had notionally been put aside for the project at the start of the year and that the project would now cost £12,500, instead of the estimated £20,000. It was very likely that a grant would be obtained from Borough Council.

Mr Cross considered that Council needed to control spending and was particularly critical of spending on dog waste bins. Cllr Bubb advised that it was hoped to obtain sponsorship for the bins.

Mr Green advised that there had been a recent burglary at his premises. He was very concerned that from April 2009 only PCSO's would patrol Dersingham. Cllr Smith advised that it had been proposed to invite Inspector Buckley to attend a special meeting to advise of the new policing arrangements. Acting Clerk advised that Inspector Buckley had agreed to the meeting, which would be held in February, and hoped to be accompanied by Stephen Bett, Chair of Norfolk Police Authority. Final arrangements needed to be agreed then posters would be displayed. Cllr Houston advised that he would raise these concerns at the next Local Action Group meeting.

Mr Cross expressed concern at the lack of Council minutes on the website. Cllr Bubb explained that the person who arranged the posting of the minutes had been seriously ill.