

Biddenden Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting of the Finance Committee held on April 6th 2009

Present

Cllr T Lupton – **Chairman**
Cllr A Barfoot
Cllr Mrs E Cansdale

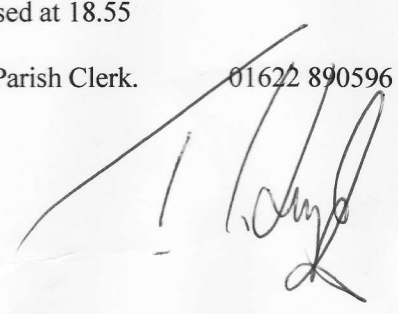
Cllr J Rymer Jones
Graham Smith (Parish Clerk)
One parishioner

- 1 There were no apologies for absence
- 2 The minutes of the Finance Committee held on 04.11.08 were approved and signed by the Chairman
- 3 Under matters arising the Clerk explained that the Internal Auditor felt there was no value in placing the Council's funds with more than one bank. Cllr Barfoot queried whether the Council's funds would be protected if the bank failed. The Clerk would check. (The Council's bank is the National Westminster.)
- 4 The Chairman said the end of year (2008/9) budget predicted a surplus of £65k. It is £76k but this does not allow for the payment of the Audit Commission bill (£16.4k) which will now fall into 2009/10
- 5 In response to minute 10 of the Parish Council meeting of March 10th 2009 Cllr Lupton went through his previously circulated paper which explained, in detail, the background to the monies received from Jarvis Homes and how the sums had been allocated to the proposed main road improvements, the Post Office project and the High Street south side pavement improvements.
It was clarified, by reference to the paper, that the Council had earmarked £12.5k of the Jarvis Homes money and added £10k in budget allocation for pavement improvements but until an acceptable scheme was tabled by KCC Highways the Council had not approved any specific contribution.
Cllr Rymer Jones thanked the Chairman for his lucid explanation. All Councillors agreed.
- 6 In discussion it was explained by the Chairman that a Section 106 agreement was not appropriate for the Old Mill Court development, also that there was no obligation on the Council to spend the £12.5 k on pavement works but that the sum was still available in the Council's funds should the Council choose to use it for a pavement scheme.
- 7 The Chairman closed the meeting to allow the parishioner (Ms G Clark) to seek clarification of issues to her satisfaction.
- 8 It was agreed that the Chairman's paper, with all the details, and these minutes would be presented to Councillors prior to the April 14th Council meeting with a recommendation that the following conclusion be noted.
"There were two agreements with Jarvis Homes, one for receipt of £5k to be spent on the MF car park-school footpath (actually spent) and one for receipt of £37.5k to be tentatively allocated £25k Post Office project and £12.5k pavement project. The £25k was spent and the latter is available but not approved for expenditure by the Parish Council until an acceptable KCC scheme is developed.
The 2007/8, 2008/9 and 2009/10 budgets include £10k for pavement works but only the 2007/8 budget also refers to the £12.5k. These two sums equate to the frequently quoted £22.5k available for a pavement scheme."

The meeting closed at 18.55

Graham Smith, Parish Clerk.

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30th June 2009