

MADELEY PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, held on Monday, December 17th 2007 at Jubilee House, 74 High Street, Madeley, commencing at 6.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillors: **D Davies, D Edwards, G Green, E Swift, DP Taylor (Vice-Chair), S Taylor**
Councillor M Swift
Clerk to the Council, Deputy Parish Clerk
Graham Bould, Groundwork

In the absence of the Committee Chair, Councillor DP Taylor presided

F07/25. Apologies for Absence

Councillor J Jones	-	Family commitment	-	Accepted
Councillor A MacKenzie	-	Illness	-	Accepted

Absent

Councillor R Coldicutt

F07/26. Declaration of Interests

There were none

F07/27. Remarks from the Chair

The organisation and presentation of the 'World on a Plate' event held at Jubilee House on December 14th 2007 was commended and adjudged a great success for participants and audience. Councillors were thanked for their support.

F07/28. Public Discussion

No members of the public were present.

F07/29. Presentation – Groundwork (Black Country)

Graham Bould, Development Manager for Groundwork

Groundwork supports communities, working with partners to improve the quality of life through delivery of beneficial projects and programmes for environmental, social and economic renewal – bringing expertise in key areas (community development, landscape, employment & training, education, business advice, and youth work)

Following the development of the Black Country and Telford Housing Renewal strategy 'evolve', Groundwork is looking to invest and deploy its resource in the identified South Telford area of regional growth potential – Brookside, Woodside and Sutton Hill.

Groundwork proposes a potential Parish Partnership Agreement to develop a growth package for contracted out services.

Groundwork could deliver:

- six-fold return on capital investment for natural environment and revenue funding for groups and businesses
- additional stakeholder activity in programmes for youth activity, community events, enterprise development and environmental training
- support for voluntary and community groups

Councillor D Edwards joined the meeting

Councillors appreciated the prospect for commitment to the regeneration of Madeley, Sutton Hill, and Woodside in a broader context – this was a positive opportunity limited only by the capacity for financial and human resource to be applied. The potential existed to link with local project work and to identify and pursue external funding streams for added value and benefit.

A Parish Partnership Agreement could be used to develop effective working partnerships contributing towards a strategy for Regeneration.

Councillors were asked to consider the proposal and feedback ideas at the February 2008 meeting.

F07/30. Minutes

Resolved:

that the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes meeting held on October 22nd 2007 be confirmed and approved for signature subject to the following amendment:
“Councillor A MacKenzie declared a non-prejudicial interest in all matters relating to Telford Trust Madeley United Charities”

F07/31. Reports

to receive Committee reports for information and consideration of referred items

31.1 Leisure & Community Committee

The report of the Leisure & Community Committee meeting held on November 12th 2007 was presented for information.

Noted

- **‘Tripping Out’ Scheme**

Inaugural meeting of Councillor working group held and progress made on development

- **Community Events**

Feedback reports on community events in Madeley, Sutton Hill and Woodside would be presented to Leisure & Community Committee

31.2 Leisure & Community Committee

The report of the Leisure & Community Committee meeting held on November 26th 2007 was presented for information.

Noted

31.3 Personnel Committee

The report of the Personnel Committee meeting held on November 26th 2007 was not available and would be presented to Council in January 2008.

31.4 Environment Committee

The report of the Environment Committee meeting held on October 8th 2007 was not available and would be presented to Council in January 2008

F07/32. Budget & Finance

to effectively monitor and control the council's budget to ensure best value for the community.

Business Plan Report

The Business Plan was presented for Councillors information.

Noted

32.1 Expenditure Approval List

to approve expenditure transactions

The Responsible Finance Officer presented the Expenditure Transactions Approval List report for period to December 2007

Noted

Resolved:

that the expenditure transactions recorded be confirmed and approved for payment

32.2 Financial Budget Comparison Report

to note actual monies received and spent compared to 2007/08 budget

The Responsible Finance Officer presented the Financial Comparison Report for the period to December 2007.

Noted.

32.3 LGPS Actuarial Valuation

(Councillors E Swift and S Taylor noted an interest in the Shropshire County Pension Fund through membership of the scheme. This was determined as non-prejudicial as membership related to a different participating employer)

Local Government Pension Scheme Actuarial Valuation (2007) sets the contribution rates for participating employers in the scheme for the next three years. The revised contribution rate for Madeley Parish Council set by the Scheme Actuary is 20.7%

Resolved:

that Madeley Parish Council agrees increase to LGPS employer contribution rate effective April 1st 2008

32.4 Legal Expenses Insurance

In response to Councillor concern over the position of indemnity, it was proposed to provide cover against the cost of legal representation in a range of employment and business related issues (Liability claims are covered within Public and Employers Liability)

Indemnity will cover Councillors and Officers against claims whilst undertaking duties on behalf of the Council – subject to agreed principles

Resolved:

that the statement of agreed principles for indemnity of Members and Officers be adopted

Resolved:

that Standard cover for legal expenses insurance be added to combined local insurance policy YLL-122018-1993 at an advised premium of £231.95 + IPT

32.5 F&GP Budget 2008/09

The Finance Officer had prepared a draft budget proposal for 2008/09 for consideration. This indicated an increase of £44,500 from the budget allocation in 2007/08 – principally to account for the opportunity provided by financial incentive of Telford & Wrekin Council's Regeneration scheme for District Centres.

Members acknowledged the need to provide capacity and commented on the level and use of Reserves held.

Resolved:

that the draft budget proposal of £278,085 for 2008/09 be approved

32.6 Budget & Precept 2008/09

Members considered the draft budget proposals for 2008/09 for Council, Personnel, and Income, and the approved and recommended budgets for Leisure & Community Committee, Environment Committee, and Finance & General Purposes Committee, in order to recommend draft Precept 2008/09 to Council.

Supporting Notes had been drafted to provide summary information of budget and precept, provisions, Band D equivalent properties, and potential Parish rate

In general, draft committee budgets were accepted. Attention focussed on the application of Reserves to meet the cost of exceptional expenditure in 2007/08 and mitigate the impact of increased financial requirement on the 2008/09 precept.

Committee	Budget	Adjustment	Precept
Council	£21,990.00	£5,755 – Payment of Councillor Allowances 2006/07	£14,115.00
Finance & General Purposes	£278,085.00	£2,000 – IT Support, transfer of ICT £2,930 – Office Services, office relocation £4,000 – Coach House, Earmarked reserve £15,000 – District Centre Regeneration (Community Fund)	£253,035.00
Environment	£25,070.00	£5,000 – Boundary Signage, Earmarked reserve £1,450 – Green Day overspend	£17,200.00
Leisure & Community	£71,250.00	£3,000 – Christmas Lights, accounting forecast error £210 – Christmas Lights overspend	
	(£4,000.00)	£4,000 – Youth provision budget	£61,135.00
Personnel	£1,100.00	No change	£955.00
Income	(£34,790.00)	No change	(£34,790.00)
	£358,705.00		£311,650.00

The only recommended budget reduction related to Youth Provision which encompassed funding for Sports Day (£2,500), MUGA development (£1,000), Connexions for Youth (£3,000), and 'Tripping Out' scheme (£4,500). This was considered excessive – the revised budget was set at 100% increase from 2007/08.

The proposed use of unallocated Reserves amounted to £15,345

The Finance Officer advised that the revised draft precept proposal would levy a Parish rate of £63.98pa for Band D equivalent properties – an increase of 11.74%. (Councillors noted that without special measures for Regeneration included in the budgetary provision the Parish rate would be £59.87pa – an increase of 4.56%)

The Finance Officer was asked to prepare revised budget and precept proposals with report and recommendation for consideration of approval by Council, together with Supporting Notes and a projection for Reserves at financial year-end (to ensure compliance with Audit guidelines).

F07/33. Assets
to continuously improve all Council owned and managed properties and to provide facilities that are safe, well maintained and welcoming.
to publicise these facilities effectively and to deliver an efficient, value for money service.

Business Plan Report

The Business Plan was presented for Councillors information.
Noted

- **Woodside Allotments**

Discussion were to take place on a proposal from Woodside Allotments Association for transfer of lease effective 2010

F07/34. Partnerships
to develop effective working partnerships with other agencies and organisations to ensure a co-ordinated approach towards the achievement of common goals
to consider and evaluate more major projects requiring funding

Business Plan Report

The Business Plan was presented for Councillors information.
Noted

F07/35. Correspondence
There was none

F07/36. Information
There was none

F07/37. Date of Next Meeting
the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee is scheduled to take place on Monday, February 11th 2008, commencing at 6.30pm.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed..... Dated.....