

MADELEY PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, held on Monday, October 23rd 2006 at Jubilee House, 74 High Street, Madeley, commencing at 6.30pm.

PRESENT: **Councillors: D Davies (Chair), D Edwards, R Evans, G Green, J Jones, A MacKenzie, C Muddiman, M Swift**
Rev H Morris, Madeley Team Ministry
Lyn Brayne, Telford & The Wrekin Citizens Advice Bureau
Deputy Clerk

F06/13. Apologies for Absence

Cllr G Ashcroft	-	Work commitment	-	Approved
Cllr DP Taylor	-	Work commitment	-	Approved

F06/14. Declarations of Interest

There were none

F06/15. Remarks from the Chair

There were none

F06/16. Public Discussion

There were no members of the public present

F06/17. Presentation – St Michael’s Church Restoration

Reverend H Morris, Vicar of Madeley

St Michael’s Church, Madeley, was in need of refurbishment to make better use of the internal space and to improve access (meeting DDA requirements).

The programme will take up to 5 years to complete at a cost of £500,000

The vestibule has been restored; Victorian pews will be replaced with flexible seating (following successful pilot); the dais will be lowered; new toilets and kitchen will be installed; the Chancel will be retained; the church organ will be replaced (with current organ parts used to restore the organ at St Mary’s Church, Madeley); an extension (possibly of oak/lead construction) will be built to house a meeting room. Revised external access will maintain the symmetry of the Thomas Telford designed listed building

Extended consultation has taken place with Borough of Telford & Wrekin (Conservation Officer), English Heritage, and the Diocesan Advisory Committee, to ensure a development sympathetic to its historic context. Professional consultants will devise Access/Conservation/Business Plans

It is expected that the restoration of the Church Tower Clock, funded by Madeley Parish Council, will be completed by year end 2006.

It was noted that a proposal to close the churchyard and transfer burials to Castle Green cemetery was being discussed. Madeley Parish Council annual grant for maintenance of the Churchyard has been instrumental in keeping this public and contemplative space in an appropriately tidy condition.

F06/18. Telford & The Wrekin Citizens Advice Bureaux Re-organisation

Lyn Brayne – Service Director

Madeley Parish Council funded an extended service level at Madeley Citizens Advice Bureau – a weekday evening session and appointment only benefit application sessions – that provided a service for people who could not attend the regular day-time sessions and targeted particular needs such as employment and debt advice. Benefit sessions assisted clients with applications (especially Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance)

However, the inability to meet demand at the Dawley Bank, Madeley, Telford Town Centre and Wellington sites due to limited opening times and technical support, mean that the Trustees have decided to deliver a better quality, more efficient and reliable service through adoption of a 'hub and spoke' model with a single advice site (based at Waterloo House, Ketley) with outreach services. It is intended that the re-location will take place by the end of 2006, with full service operative by March 2007.

The relocation of services will particularly affect communities close to current bureaux. It is intended to minimise the effect of this service change through a bid to the Big Lottery Advice Plus programme for funding to develop and deliver outreach advice surgeries and a home visiting advice service – for those whose needs cannot be met by a telephone advice service but who would find it difficult to travel for face-to-face advice. As a result of statistical evidence of need and because of previous financial support, Madeley would pilot the new service.

Councillors were aware that client and contact records indicated the demand for the Citizens Advice Service in Madeley but were concerned that the outreach proposal could properly meet the demand and need of the client group.

Outreach would be general advice undertaken by professional with IT support; a specialist advisor would undertake home visits. Services could go to the heart of communities where there is now little provision – Woodside and Sutton Hill. Periodic campaigns would also address issues.

Madeley Parish Council was asked to support the funding bid and provide a commitment to work with Telford and The Wrekin Citizens Advice Bureaux to determine appropriate services within the civic parish and develop a funding strategy to ensure sustainability of the service in Madeley at the end of the 5-year funding term.

Councillors confirmed support for the funding application and requested a copy of the Big Lottery Advice Plus bid in order to confirm the scope, capacity, and accessibility of the outreach scheme and as a basis to monitor and evaluate future financial support.

F06/19. Minutes

Resolved:

that the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on July 18th 2006 be confirmed and approved

F06/20. Committee Reports

to receive Committee reports for information and consideration of referred items

20.1 Leisure and Community Committee

Councillor D Edwards presented the report of the Leisure and Community Committee meeting held on September 27th 2006 for information.

Noted

20.1.1 Madeley Living History Project

Leisure & Community Committee recognised the importance of the project to the community and supported the Strategy review proposal.

Resolved:

that the Madeley Living History Project is funded for a further 3-year term commencing September 2007 on a 20hrs per week part-time basis

Resolved:

that, subject to successful HLF application for Project Planning grant, Madeley Living History Project Officer working hours are reviewed to take into account additional work load

20.1.2 Woodside Family Groups

Supplementary information providing evidence of need, details of beneficiaries and funding forecast had been received in support of the application and was considered alongside the recommendation of the Leisure & Community Committee.

Recommended:

that a grant of £3.960 is awarded to Woodside Family Groups Project to fund employment of Play Focus Workers to June 2007

20.2 Personnel Committee

Councillor D Davies presented the report of the Personnel Committee meeting held on October 2nd 2006 for information.
Noted

20.3 Environment Committee

Draft minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on October 9th 2006 were not available

F06/21. 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

21.1 Expenditure Approval List

The Responsible Finance Officer presented the Expenditure Transactions Approval List report for period to October 2006
Noted

Resolved:

that the expenditure transactions recorded be confirmed and approved for payment

21.2 Financial Budget Comparison

to note actual monies received and spent compared to 2006/07 budget

The Responsible Finance Officer presented the Financial Comparison Report for the period to June 2006.
Noted.

The Chair noted the following statement: -

'Section 100B (4) Local Government Act 1992

I am of the of the opinion that the following item should be dealt with as a matter of urgency at this meeting to avoid any unnecessary delay'

21.3 Vire Report – Environment Committee

The Responsible Finance Officer noted that a vire report presented to the Environment Committee required the approval of Finance & General Purposes Committee under Financial Regulations (7.3.2). The report of the spending committee was considered, and:

Resolved:

that the Green Day budget should be increased by vire of £1,330 from the Spring Clean and Madeley Community Orchard budgets

21.4 West Mercia Constabulary – 'Natural High' Schools Programme

F06/22. 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

22.1 War Memorial

F06/23. 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

23.1 Environmental Partnerships

F06/24. Correspondence

There was none

F06/25. Information

There was none

F06/26. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee is scheduled to take place on Monday, December 11th 2006, commencing at 6.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Signed..... Dated.....
(Chair)