

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE OF LONGDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE W. I. HALL,
LONGDON, ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2nd, 2008

Present: Cllr. R. C. Hemmingsley (Chairman of the Council, who chaired the meeting); Cllr. N. Stanfield (Vice-Chairman of the Council); Cllr. The Rev. J. R. Andrews; Cllr. A. J. Juxon; Cllr. Mrs. H. A. Meere; and Cllr. S. K. Welch.

Also present was the Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr. M. A. W. Parsons was absent from the meeting.
No apologies were received.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting, held in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, on Monday, April 28th, 2008 were, on a motion proposed by Cllr. Stanfield and seconded by Cllr. Juxon, approved and signed after the word “initial” had been inserted in front of the word “budget” where it appeared in Item 3. “Allocation of Budgets to Highways & Footpaths Committee and Greens and Open Spaces Committee”.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Allocation of Budget to Highways & Footpaths Committee

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Welch and seconded by Cllr. Andrews, it was agreed that the Council should be recommended to allocate a further £2500. 00 to take into account the cost of upgrading the footpath across the Glebe Field at Longdon.

4. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR

The Clerk presented a financial statement for the first quarter of the current financial year ended 30th June 2008 (*copy attached*).

This showed income of £13903. 27 (as compared with £15102. 25 at the end of the corresponding quarter in the previous financial year) and expenditure totalling £5843. 96 (as compared with £3481. 17 at the end of the corresponding quarter in the previous financial year).

There had been increased expenditure under “Community Halls”, “Highways & Footpaths” and “Section 137”, but the Committee had concluded that these increases had been wholly justified and that the Council’s finances were being managed prudently.

5. ADOPTION OF INDEPENDENT INTERNAL AUDITOR'S FINAL REPORT

The Committee noted the comments in the Independent Internal Auditor's second and final report for the financial year 2007/2008.

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Stanfield and seconded by Cllr. Welch, the recommendation of the Auditor that the Council should amend Appendix B, Standing Order B2 of the Council's Standing Orders, which currently stated that "the normal practice of the Council will be to appoint Working groups, Committees and Sub-Committees may also be appointed to gather and analyse information".

It was agreed that the Council should be recommended to amend the Standing Orders accordingly.

In addition, Mr. Blount had pointed out that, contrary to Standing Order No. 70, which allowed for the suspension of Standing Orders, some Standing Orders could not be suspended, and it was agreed that this, too might have to be amended.

However, the Committee was unclear about the relevance of Mr. Blount's reference to NALC Legal Topic Note LTN04, which did not appear to refer to the review of Standing Orders, as Mr. Blount thought, and the Clerk was instructed to seek clarification on this point from Mr. Blount.

6. ANNUAL RETURN – EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE AND OPINION

The External Auditor's Certificate was formally received and read, and her comments noted.

7. AMENDMENT OF COUNCIL'S HALIFAX SAVINGS ACCOUNT TO REMOVE AND REPLACE REDUNDANT SIGNATORY

The Clerk reminded the Committee that there were currently four signatories of whom three were required to sign a withdrawal form – Cllr. Andrews, Cllr. Juxon (who appeared in the Passbook as "Mr. Allen J., Joxon"), Cllr. M. Nutting (who appeared as "Mr. M. Numming" and who had, in any case, long since left the district) and himself.

In practice, this meant that he always had to obtain the signatures of Cllr. Andrews and Cllr. Juxon when he wanted to transfer money, and this sometimes presented him with a problem when both were away, especially during the summer months.

He was instructed to find out the procedure for making the necessary changes.

8. DELIVERING "LONGDON LIFE"

On a motion proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr. Welch, it was agreed that the payment made to Mrs. Hazel Crosbie for delivering "Longdon Life" should be raised from £35. 00 to £45. 00.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be agreed.