

LEA & COTTAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH HALL, BLACKPOOL ROAD, LEA, PRESTON AT 7.30 PM on MONDAY 30th JUNE 2008

PRESENT: Cllrs P Oliver, N Ward, J Coward, T Hart, V Clarke, D Lambert. S Edwards, P Jones & H Noble

3 Members of the public were present.

Due to the absence of both the Chairman & Vice Chairman Cllr N Ward was elected to preside for this meeting.

63/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Talbot, Clegg, Butler, Helvin & Dickinson.

64/08 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTS

None.

65/08 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 19TH May 2008 should be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

66/08 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The meeting was adjourned for public discussion

Members of the public raised the issue of the withdrawal of bus service 87. This matter had been raised at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 19th May 2008 and a letter sent to Preston Bus expressing concern at the withdrawal of the service and supporting residents in their attempts to have the service reinstated. A reply had been received indicating that the route was not commercially viable and whilst Preston Bus regretted the need to withdraw the service it had had no alternative given the overall situation.

It was mentioned by a member of the public that a meeting had taken place last Thursday at which the concerns of the residents had been presented to Preston Bus. Whilst ideally the residents would prefer full reinstatement of the service they had indicated a compromise position of reinstatement on an hourly basis to coincide with route 24 which would then provide an half hour service between the two routes. Preston Bus had agreed to consider the representations made and the suggested compromise indicating that a response would be made by early August.

The meeting was re-convened

67/08 PLANNING MATTERS

2008/0443 – Alterations and extensions to existing dwelling house, conversion of existing outbuildings to form 6 dwellings, together with reconstruction of building to form garaging and domestic/cycle storage @ New House Farm Tudor Ave Lea Preston PR4 0XA.

It was resolved that this Council should support the above development which it was felt would improve the visual aspects of the area and remove the present derelict buildings which were an attraction to youths which often then resulted in incidents of anti social behaviour.

68/08 FINANCIAL MATTERS

It was resolved that the following payments should be approved

CHQ NUMBER	PAYEE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
500460	Balloons and Gas Express	Balloons for Lea Gala	46.41
500461	Greenwood Gardening Services	Lengthsman / Materials	500.99
500462	Chorley Bottle Gas	Gas for Lea Gala	40.00
500463	Viking Direct	Stationery	162.80
500464	Printing World	Newsletter and Annual Report	490.00
500465	Greenwood Gardening Services	Lengthsman / Materials	649.00
500466	Trinity Church Cottam Hall	Donation to float expenses – S137	100.00
500467	W V McEnerney-Whittle	Salary and Expenses (1 st quarter 2008/9)	2495.03
500468	Inland Revenue	Tax & Nat Insurance (1 st quarter 2008/9)	985.85
500469	Longton Parish Council	Photocopying Costs	64.76

69/08 PRESTON CITY COUNCIL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Members were asked to consider an invitation to nominate one member to be considered for the Preston City Council Standards Committee. Three Councillors put their names forward.

It was resolved that this Council should nominate Cllr Jones for consideration for the Preston City Council Standards Committee.

70/08 INSURANCE – FIDELITY GUARANTEE

The Council's present Fidelity Guarantee is set at £37000.00 however within this financial year the maximum amount at any one time within the Councils Bank Account is almost £47000.00 as a result of an increased Precept, a high carry forward position and funds received in respect of the lengthsman scheme. Whilst not necessarily required by law it is considered best practice and strongly recommended by the External Auditor that the Fidelity Guarantee should cover the maximum amount held at any one time in any one year.

It was resolved that the Councils Fidelity Guarantee should be increased to £47000.00

71/08 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

It is recommended practice for Financial Regulations to be reviewed from time to time. These were last done in August 2005. The RFO had undertaken a full review in the light of current guidelines and a draft copy of his proposals had been circulated with the agenda. The only change from the existing regulations was to increase the level at which a formal tender is required from £2500 to £10000 since the existing figure is very low. It was noted that at this new figure of £10000 the Council would be required to go to formal tender however it would still have the opportunity to go to tender at any lower figure on any particular future contract should it so wish.

It was resolved that the Financial Regulations as presented above should be formally adopted by this Council.

72/08 YOUTH SHELTER

Members had been requested to consider a suggestion that this Council might in some way become involved in the provision of a Youth Shelter within the Parish.

It was resolved that this Council should support further investigation into the feasibility of the provision of a youth shelter(s) in both Lea and Cottam including the possible involvement of the Jubilee Action Group which was now being formed to support recreational, educational and social activities principally, but not wholly exclusively, in Lea and that Cllr Lambert would take forward this further investigation and report back to the Council in due course.

73/08 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on the 1st September 2008