

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 31ST MARCH 2008

PRESENT: Cllrs A Butler (Chairman) P Oliver, P Helvin, V Clarke, J Coward, T Hart, H Noble, M Clegg, N Ward, L Talbot, A Dickinson, P Jones and D Lambert.

1 member of the public was present.

31/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr S Edwards.

32/08 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Ward declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 9 on the agenda due to the fact that she is the Chairman of the Lancashire Playing Fields Association whose subscription renewal was to be considered. She left the room during the debate and voting on that item.

33/08 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was resolved that the minutes of meeting held on the 18th February 2008 (previously circulated) be approved and signed by the Chairman.

34/08 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The meeting was adjourned to listen to representations from the public.

Mention was made that Preston City Cllr N Abram is to stand down at the next elections. The lady who will be standing in his place introduced herself to the Council.

The meeting was reconvened.

35/08 FINANCIAL MATTERS

It was resolved that the following payments should be approved

500441	PRESTON CC	CHRISTMAS TREE	925.90
500442	GREENWOOD GARDEN SERVICES	LENGTHSMAN	379.99
500443	GREENWOOD GARDEN SERVICES	LENGTHSMAN	512.34
500444	PRINTING WORLD	NEWSLETTER	235.00
500445	ST CHRISTOPHERS	ROOM HIRE	25.00
500446	W V MCWHITTLE	SALARY AND EXPENSES – 31/3/08	2374.97
		Net Salary £2082.10 Office Allowance £125.00 Postage £20.16 Tel/Internet £46.50 Mileage £98.21 Stationery £3.00	
500447	INLAND REVENUE	TAX & NAT INS	1014.74
500448	LONGTON PC	PHOTOCOPYING	70.72

36/08 PARISH COUNCILS ALLOWANCES SCHEME

The Parish Remuneration Panel had considered the above scheme and made recommendations outlined in the papers enclosed with the agenda. The recommendations are the same as previously in that no Basic Allowances are recommended but that a scheme for the payment of Travelling and Subsistence Expenses for approved duties outside the Parish is appropriate. This Parish Council's current policy is the same as that recommended by the Panel.

It was resolved that the recommendations of the Panel should be accepted and that payment of Travelling and Subsistence Expenses should be made at the rates set out in the recommendations for approved duties outside the Parish boundaries.

37/08 LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

a) It was resolved that the subscription to LALC and the Local Council Review at a total cost of £525.02 should be approved.

b) It was resolved that the following issues affecting the community should be entered on the pro forma circulated by LALC:

Anti Social Behaviour, Speeding/Road Safety/ Parking, Criminal Damage, Dog Fouling, Fly Tipping/Litter, Lack of Police Presence on the Streets & Public Open Space Maintenance.

c) It was resolved that the following should be considered in response to a questionnaire asking members to identify areas where additional member training might be required:

- **Communication in general terms relating to both the public and other local government authorities**
- **The outcomes, way forward and best practice with regard to the 'Neighbourhood Working' emanating from recent pilot exercises.**

38/08 PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL SEMINAR

It was resolved that Cllrs Coward, Butler & Lambert should represent this Council at the forthcoming seminar event on the 12th April 2008.

39/08 LANCASHIRE PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION

It was resolved that membership of the above Association at a cost of £17.00 for 2008 should be confirmed.

40/08 CLERK'S CONTRACT AND SALARY 2008/9

In accordance with the Clerk's Contract of Employment point 6.2 and subject to satisfactory performance the Clerk's salary is due to rise to point 27 on the NJC pay scales with effect from 1st April 2008. A provision has been made in the 2007/8 budget calculations.

It was resolved that the scale increase should be confirmed.

41/08 LANCASHIRE LOCALS CLIMATE CHANGE FUND (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

Members received an update in respect of the above fund from Cllr Ward following the recent Lancashire Locals meeting. Examples of the type of grant applications being received were provided as below and members were encouraged to identify specific projects which might qualify for funding under this heading and bring them to Council for consideration in the future. It was noted that funds are available until August of this year. It was also suggested that members should individually spread the word to local groups to make them aware of the available funding for qualifying projects with a view to those groups applying for funding themselves. A suggestion was also made that the Council's newsletter might run an article on this subject.

£11830.00 – Broughton Pre School – Insulation of Hall
£12493.00 – Enviro Nappies – To support the re-use of towelling nappies thus reducing plastic waste
£8000.00 – Friends of Grimsargh Green – Installation of solar powered lighting
£15000.00 – Woodplumpton Club – Purchase of Wood Chip Boiler

42/08 BULLYING AT SCHOOL COMPETITION

An approach had been made via the police with regard to a school campaign at Lea Endowed School highlighting the adverse effects of bullying at school. Children have been set a competition to write either a poem or produce a leaflet highlighting the adverse effects of bullying in an attempt to raise the awareness of and limit the instances of bullying taking place. The competition is to have several prizes at each class level and we have been invited to provide some contribution to those prizes. Due to the fact that we have no meeting until the 31st March 2008 the Chairman and Clerk have discussed the request and indicated to the police that the Parish Council would support the competition by way of providing three prizes EACH for classes 5 AND 6 being vouchers of £10 1st prize & £5 for second and third for each class (Total Cost £40.00)

In return for the donation which meets the Parish Council published policy and can be made under LGA 1972 S137 the Council will have the opportunity to pick the winners for those classes and make the presentation which will be covered for our Newsletter thus enhancing the profile of the Council.

It was resolved that the indication of support as outlined above should be formally approved.

43/08 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting which is the APCM will be held on Monday the 19th May 2008 at 7.30pm. Prior to this meeting commencing at 7.00pm the Annual Parish Meeting will be held.