

AGENDA FOR MEETING 18TH FEBRUARY 2008

1. APOLOGIES

2. NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTS

3. CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7th January 2008 (previously circulated)

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The meeting will be adjourned to listen to representations from the public.

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Members are asked to approve the following payments.

500435	SLCC	Clerk's Subscription	161.00
500436	Destroyed	N/A	N/A
500437	SLCC Conference	Clerk's Attendance	223.25
500438	Greenwood Gardening Services	Lengthsman	374.00
500439	Preston CC	Bulbs – Western Approach	426.41
500440	St Christopher's Church	Room Hire	25.00

b) Members are asked to approve the Statement of Accounts to 31st December 2008 (enclosed)

6. DONATIONS

Members are asked to consider the following draft policy statement concerning Donations and either approve, amend or reject as appropriate.

Donations will only be approved by this Council providing they meet the following criteria:

That the donation is to a parish based or non parish based non profit making organisation or group who can clearly evidence 'specific' benefit (excludes general donations) to the parish area or some of its residents and who can evidence such expenditure if required and generally do not have sufficient other resources to deliver the specific benefit for which the funds are to be used or would likely not deliver the benefit outlined without additional financial support.

7. CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS

Comment was received last year that the number of 'festoons' used (2) was inadequate. The Clerk has made enquiries and an additional set would cost approx £400 which would include the additional transformer needed.

Members are asked to consider this additional expenditure.

8. SURGERIES

Surgeries were introduced almost 12 months ago on a trial basis as part of the Council's communication policy. Attendance by the public at these events run bi-monthly has been poor despite local advertising. Only two members of the public have attended and these were at the first event in March 2007.

Members are asked to consider whether this Council should continue with these surgeries.

9. SKIPTON EAST LANCASHIRE RAIL ACTION PARTNERSHIP (SELRAP)

This Council has been requested to pass a resolution in support of the campaign to re-open the Colne to Skipton railway. (Papers enclosed)

Members are asked to pass a resolution that Lea and Cottam Parish Council join 11 Town, 9 Borough and 42 Parish Councils in supporting the SELRAP campaign to re-open the Colne to Skipton railway.

10. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

In 2007 this Council provided a wreath and officially attended the wreath laying ceremony at the flag market in Preston.

Members are asked to consider involvement on the same basis for 2008 which will involve a suggested cost of £50.00 for the wreath itself payment if approved to be done under S137 LGA 1972.

11. PRECEPT & PROJECTS 2008/9

Members are asked to note that the contribution from Preston City Council to the amount directly claimed from the residents of the parish by way of Precept has this year been 'capped' at a figure of £7.50 per band 'D' property or 50% of the Precept whichever is the lower. In the past the amount was simply 50% of the Precept. This does not affect the amount received by the Parish Council since the Precept is levied against the residents of the Parish however it may result in a different figure being shown on the Council Tax bills since the contribution from PCC may be reduced resulting in residents seeing what is ostensibly a higher increase in their contribution. In the case of Lea and Cottam PC the PCC contribution will be capped as above at what will be a figure of 49% of the total Precept. The only change this will create is in the way the Council Tax bills will appear in that the % increase for the Parish element will appear at slightly over 5% whereas in reality we have only increased our Precept by 3%. This system may see a gradual switch of funding whereby PCC contributions may reduce over time relative to the amount raised by the Parish Council. In many ways this is a fairer system since it will provide a PCC contribution based on the electorate numbers rather than the spend of the Council itself. Residents in small parishes with large spends may see a significant reduction in the PCC contribution and thus a higher direct resident contribution than previously.

The Precept for 2008/9 was recently set at a figure of £31800.00 based on a budget forecast produced by the Clerk which incorporated certain project expenditure.

Members are now asked to formally approve the projects listed below so that appropriate actions can be taken by the Clerk within the agreed budgets.

- **Lengthsman Contract Renewal on the basis of 11 hours per week average (52 weeks) at a rate of £11.50 per hour with Peter Greenwood to include Dodney Drive grass cutting as previously agreed. This will utilise £6578.00 of budget leaving £214.00 in reserve in case of need.**
- **Renewal of the Newsletter printing arrangements with our existing supplier to include 4 quarterly issues and the production of an Annual Report total budget £1400.00**
- **2008 Christmas Tree budget £1000.00**
- **Lea Town Hanging Baskets budget £500.00**

Members are further asked to authorise that the Clerk and Chairman sign the Lengthsman contract and Miller Green Grass cutting contract for 2008 subject to changes in the case of the latter in respect of the number of grass cuts to Miller Green being amended to 15 per year and the contract price being amended to £1950 as previously approved.

12. WESTERN APPROACH BULB PLANTING

Last year a further 10000 bulbs were planted on the verges by the Western Approach to the Parish as part of a project considered 2 years ago to enhance the appearance of this area. The costs involved were lengthsman time taken from within the existing contract and the purchase of the bulbs at approx £400.00 both costs being partially offset by a grant of £500 from the Green Partnership Awards Scheme. Consideration needs to be given to extending further the planting arrangements although it may not be possible to obtain a further grant for what is an extension of the same scheme.

Members are asked to consider a continuation of the planting along the verges by the purchase of a further 10000 bulbs to be planted in November 2008 at a cost of say £450.00 (labour costs to be absorbed into the lengthsman contract)

13. LANCASHIRE LOCALS CLIMATE CHANGE FUND

To consider the following motion:

'That this Council note the availability of funding for climate change projects through Lancashire Locals, that they seek to identify projects for the benefit of the parish in which they may become involved either solely or in partnership with other community groups and apply to access these funds whenever appropriate'

14. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday the 31st March 2008.