

LINDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **LINDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL** held on **THURSDAY 21 JANUARY 2010** at the King Edward Hall, Lindfield.

Present: Mr. W. Blunden (Chairman)
Mr. M. Allen
Mr. A. Gomme
Mrs. M. Hersey
Mr. M. Leach
Mrs. M. Nicolle
Mr. R. Pickett
Mr. C. Snowling
Mr. S. Willcox

Also present: Councillor Mrs. C. Field (WSCC)
P.C. G. Bennet (Sussex Police) (until 7.53 p.m.)
2 members of the public

In attendance: Mrs. C. Irwin (Clerk)
Mrs. S. Kolien (Responsible Financial Officer [RFO]) (from 7.55 p.m.)

354. WELCOME AND EMERGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS.

354.1 The Chairman welcomed those present and announced the emergency procedure for the King Edward Hall.

355. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

355.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Henton and the reasons accepted.

356. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

356.1 There were no declarations of interest from Members in respect of any item on the Agenda.

357. POLICE PRIORITIES – PC GEOFF BENNETT

357.1 P.C. Geoff Bennett had asked to be invited to speak about police priorities and the Chairman welcomed him to the meeting.

P.C. Bennett stated that he was the Community Constable for Lindfield and four other parishes. As he lived in Lindfield he was very much part of the community and wanted to be looked on as the traditional "Beat Officer". Councillor Allen had represented the Parish Council at the first meeting in the new format of the Neighbourhood Panel which had been held on 18 January, at which five parishes had been represented. These meetings would be held quarterly and would be a means through which the Police could report back to the communities through Parish Councillors, local notice boards, newsletters etc. The Police priorities could be found on the Sussex Police website. The three current priorities were:

- Speeding – the Police were trying to liaise with the different authorities to find solutions and were always happy to support Parishes wanting traffic calming measures
- Criminal damage – more prevalent in rural areas, although not always reported (e.g. fences, gates, stiles and water troughs damaged by walkers not familiar with the country code)
- Rubbish – applied in rural areas, but was also noticeable within village areas, for which the change to the street sweeping arrangements might be a factor. Areas which were already littered would attract fly tippers.

During the Summer months it was the intention to get together ideas for engaging the community and to address local issues. The Parish Council was also invited to suggest tasks such as litter clearance to be

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undertaken by people on the "Community Payback Scheme" for minor offences. Under this scheme people were fully supervised, equipped and insured.

PCSO Anika Arnold had been moved from Haywards Heath to be Lindfield's Police Community Support Officer. She would be working with PCSO Stuart Clough and would eventually take over from him when he began his training to become a Police Officer.

P.C. Bennett reported good news reflected in the crime data:

- from January to December 2009 crime in the Mid Sussex area had gone down by 243 crimes
- In the Lindfield urban Parish during this period there had been 35 fewer crimes
- The main crimes in Lindfield were criminal damage and theft from cars and sheds etc
- There was a general trend towards theft of machinery from outbuildings as houses were becoming more difficult to break into and the sentences were higher.
- The 21 violent crimes were mainly drink related and usually happened within a group rather than involving other people
- December had seen a drop of 56 crimes with only 5 taking place in Lindfield: 3 burglaries from sheds, 1 criminal damage and 1 theft. The severe weather may have helped by restricting the mobility of criminals from other areas.

During the snowy weather P.C. Bennett had been walking his beat in Lindfield and had felt that this had been the best policing he had done for several years in terms of engaging with the community. He had noticed how people had stopped to talk to each other much more and there had been a good sense of community despite the inconvenience of the snow and ice.

P.C. Bennett announced that he would be off duty for a stated period. PCSOs Clough and Arnold would be covering within their remits and P.C. Richard Wooding or Sergeant Rachel Mundy could be contacted for issues requiring a Police Officer.

It was important to deal with problems early and the Parish Council was encouraged to communicate with P.C. Bennett as matters arose and not to wait for a meeting of the Panel.

The Chairman stated that people had commented to him that it had been good to see P.C. Bennett out in the Village. P.C. Bennett replied that he and the PCSOs would be using most of their monthly surgery periods walking around the Village rather than sitting in the Parish Office as this might be more effective and a better use of their time.

Councillor Hersey asked whether the Community Payback scheme could respond to requests for snow clearance and P.C. Bennett replied that their work usually had to be pre-planned because of work commitments. This was a good project and the Council should be encouraged to put bids in for work.

P.C. Bennett left the meeting.

County Councillor Mrs. C. Field confirmed that the County Local Committee would be a forum for liaison with the police about speed limits and she undertook to contact him with this information.

358. QUESTIONS / COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

358.1 Budget and precept. Mr. N. Kerslake commented on the budget proposals.

- F&GP had produced a good budget
- he supported the increase in the reserves: Councils were not allowed to borrow to cover a shortfall as businesses could so they needed to be well covered by their reserves.
- the Grants budget should be increased by a further £1,500 and the Council should advertise the availability of this fund and invite applications in two tranches as a way of actively encouraging local organisations to apply

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- Litter on the streets was still an issue and the Council should start a fund with a view to sharing a street sweeper with another Council to ensure the village was properly maintained.

358.2 Cricket Club application to the Secretary of State (Defra) under Section 38 of the Commons Act 2006. Mr. Kerslake commented that the administration of this application by MSDC had been unsatisfactory, resulting in the submission documents not having been put on deposit for public inspection at the start of the consultation period which was to end on 12 February. It was illogical that the applicant was entitled to see any representations received and yet members of the public were being denied access to the submission. He had contacted the Senior Officer at the Planning Inspectorate who was dealing with this application and she had confirmed that there should be an extension to the 28 day period of consultation, which in effect would now be deemed to begin at the time when Mr. Kerslake had been notified by MSDC that the full submission was available for him to inspect.

359. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2009.

359.1 The Chairman called for approval of the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 12 November 2009. These were **AGREED** and the Chairman **SIGNED** the Minutes and Confidential Minutes as being a true record of that meeting.

360. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

360.1 The Chairman wished to record thanks to Councillor Leach, and all three of the Parish Office Staff who had cleared pavements outside the shops on one side of the High Street, and in Denmans Lane during the adverse weather conditions. Councillor Allen added thanks to the Chairman who had also done this.

360.2 The Chairman also commented on the fact that Compton Road was severely affected by the snow, ice and slush. As this was the through route to the Doctors' Surgery, Compton Road and the first part of Denmans Lane should be given higher priority for snow clearance and gritting. A gritting lorry had been seen going up Denmans Lane towards Compton Road during the first period of bad weather before Christmas, but it had been obliged to turn round at the car park entrance and go back as it was unable to get past the parked cars. This would be reported to Miles Davy at WSCC as he had rejected proposals to restrict parking along this stretch of road. Members voiced concerns that the pavements should have been gritted outside the homes for elderly residents and that if the gritting lorry could not get past the parked cars, neither could a fire engine.

361. ACTION LIST

361.1 The few items on the Action List for the Council's attention were noted without comment.

362. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.

362.1 Councillor Mrs. Christine Field (WSCC) reported as follows:

- Oathall Community College – planning application for floodlit all weather sports pitch. The meeting of the WSCC Planning Committee scheduled for 12 January had been postponed as the severe weather had prevented the site visit from taking place. The meeting had been rearranged for 9 February and a site visit would take place on 2 February at which Members of the Parish Council would be welcome, by appointment through the Planning Department at WSCC or through Cllr. Field. Cllr. Field had not been involved in any lobbying groups or made statements. She intended to take her full place on the Planning Committee and not declare herself to have predetermined the case.
- Severe weather. Councillor Field stated that WSCC personnel had done their best in extreme circumstances but that the response had not been good enough and there were lessons to be learnt. With regard to the order of priorities for gritting, it would appear that not enough account had been taken of local knowledge, particularly with regard to the access to the Doctors' surgery and Blackthorns School which had felt let down by WSCC. The next meeting of the Central Mid Sussex County Local Committee (CLC) was scheduled for 14 April and the central part of that

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meeting would focus on lessons learnt. Councillor Field requested details of problems experienced during this period. Councillor Field had been made aware of the various emergency planning groups and would take part if informed.

- Pot holes. After the snow thawed, a lot of pot holes had been revealed. WSCC had allocated £2.35 million for repair work. Pot holes could be reported on the hot line number 01243 642105, on the WSCC website or through Councillor Field.
- Finger posts. WSCC now had a limited amount of money available for renovation of finger posts for which applications were being received. Funding towards finger post renovation projects could also be considered by the County Local Committee.
- Freshfield Brickworks. An application for an inert waste landfill site had been made and the Freshfield Action Group was in action again. This was part of a process similar to MSDC's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment in that any site put forward had to be considered.

362.2 Councillor Christopher Snowling (MSDC) reported as follows:

- Core Strategy. There had been a timely but early conclusion on the recent discussions regarding the Core Strategy. There was some time before the final consideration would take place and the Parish Council was urged to continue submitting views on the proposals. There was some question as to whether it was permissible to grant permission for new development if there was no clear means of connecting to the sewer system. The Planning and Traffic Committee would continue to make the Parish Council's voice heard.
- Severe weather. Cllr. Snowling had attended a meeting on 8 January at which local initiatives regarding snow and ice had been discussed and positive comments had been made about the people who had been out clearing snow. It was hoped that clear guidance would be given on the legal position regarding snow clearing by individuals on public footways. Councillor Hersey added that MSDC received prior warning of bad weather and this could be shared with Parish Councils.

363. TO NOTE ANY CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS RECEIVED.

- Construction and Management Plan for the Newton Road Development – this had been looked at by the Planning and Traffic Committee and a strongly worded response had been sent to MSDC.
- Street naming and numbering policy (MSDC) was to be considered by the Environment and Amenities Committee at its next meeting
- Application by Lindfield Cricket Club under Section 38 of the Commons Act – was on the Agenda for this meeting (deadline 12 February)
- Community Governance Review of Haywards Heath Town Council (MSDC) - deadline 8 March 2010. As the response form was only applicable to residents of Haywards Heath the Parish Council would have to send comments by letter. **AGREED** that the Consultation Panel should liaise with the Clerk to draw up a response. Members were invited to feed in their comments.
- West Sussex Transport Plan – Initial Stakeholder Consultation (WSCC). Members of the Consultation Panel had agreed that because of the nature of the form, it would be difficult to come to a consensus on a Council response and they would respond as individuals. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk should confer with the Chairman on an appropriate response.
- Draft Mid Sussex Economic Development Strategy (MSDC) – a response had been sent.

364. ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE.

364.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2009. Councillor Blunden reported on several items before inviting the Council to receive the Minutes.

364.2 The Christmas Festival Night and Christmas Lights Working Group would be meeting with Clare Nibloe from the United Reformed Church on 25 January to review the event and make recommendations to the E&A Committee regarding future arrangements. A report would be going before the next meeting of the Committee.

364.3 Dropped Crossing and barrier at Hickmans Lane – after receiving five objections to the barrier, a site meeting had taken place attended by the Chairman, Councillor Davies, the Clerk, County Councillor Mrs.

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Field and Paul Stanford from WSCC Highways Department following which Jonathan Ullmer had been consulted. He had informed the Parish Council that each site was viewed individually with reference to the Department for Transport's guidance "Inclusive Mobility – a Guide to Best Practice on Access to Pedestrian and Transport Infrastructure" and risk assessed for perceived risk. It was at the Officer's discretion whether barriers were necessary and in this case Mr. Ullmer had determined that they were. In the light of this advice the Committee had agreed not to recommend any further action regarding the barriers. This was **CONFIRMED**. Councillor Davies stated that it would be nice if the paving was now finished nicely, although it was recognised that the crews had been diverted to more pressing jobs.

364.4 Litter bins. There had been some objections from a member of the public and the Preservation Society to the decision to introduce plastic litter bins with closed tops (to prevent the liners blowing out as they did in the case of the open topped bins). The E&A Committee had therefore agreed on an alternative style of bin for the locations where it had previously been agreed to put the Glasdon Topsy Jubilee bin. The chosen bin was a black metal bin ("Knight QR") from Iles Waste Systems which had been on display at a recent conference. Council **AGREED** unanimously to **CONFIRM** this recommendation to purchase four black "Knight QR" bins.

364.5 To receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Amenities held on 10 December 2010. **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Amenities Committee held on 10 December 2010 be received and their recommendations confirmed.

365. PLANNING AND TRAFFIC COMMITTEE.

365.1 To receive the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning and Traffic Committee held on 9 November, 1 December and 22 December 2009 and 19 January 2010. The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January were not yet available and would be received at the next Council meeting. Councillor Snowling had no matters to bring to the attention of the Council from the meetings held on 9 November, 1 December and 22 December 2009. He reported that the main item discussed by the P&T Committee at the meeting on 19 January 2010 had been the Construction Management Plan for the Newton Road development, following which a strongly worded letter had been sent to the Planning Department at MSDC with a copy to the Cabinet Member. This issue was of concern to a lot of different people, particularly as it was understood that similar issues had occurred elsewhere. Councillors Snowling and Hersey would be closely monitoring this and intervening on behalf of the residents of Lindfield.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning and Traffic Committee held on 9 November, 1 December and 22 December 2009 be received and their recommendations confirmed.

366. COMMONS ACT 2006 – SECTION 38 – LINDFIELD COMMON: TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE TO THE APPLICATION BY THE LINDFIELD CRICKET CLUB TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS FOR CONSENT TO CARRY OUT RESTRICTED WORKS ON LINDFIELD COMMON

366.1 Planning applications for an extension to the cricket pavilion and for new cricket nets on the Common had already been approved by MSDC in their capacity as the Local Planning Authority, but approval from the Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs was also required under the Commons Act 2006, Section 38, because of the restrictions on work that could be carried out on Common Land. A letter dated 4 January 2010 had been received from The Trevor Patrick Partnership, agents for the Lindfield Cricket Club, giving notice that this application had been submitted to DEFRA. The formal notice attached to the letter stated that representations must be sent to the Planning Inspectorate (acting for DEFRA) by 12 February and it gave two locations where the documents could be viewed by appointment: MSDC and the home of the Cricket Club Chairman. The Parish Council had not objected to the most recently submitted plans for the pavilion, but had objected to the cricket nets.

Following comments made at the P&T meeting on 19 January, the Clerk had spoken with Chris Coppens, the Property Lawyer at MSDC to request a copy of the full submission. MSDC had been

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provided with just one copy of this large submission, which had to be kept on deposit at MSDC for inspection. Mr. Coppens had informed the Clerk that the submission document claimed that the Parish Council had been consulted and advised that, as a consultee the Parish Council should have been provided with a full copy of the submission document, which had not been the case. Mr. Coppens had asked the Trevor Patrick Partnership to send a copy to the Parish Council and it was understood that this would also be sent by email.

It was noted that, in addition to the granting of planning approval by MSDC as Local Planning Authority, and DEFRA as stated above, the District Council's permission for this work was also required, both as landowners, which would be a Cabinet Member's decision and as managers of the Common under the Commons Act which would be a full Council decision. It was understood that these permissions would be considered once the Planning Inspector's decision had been received.

Without the information that was needed in order to make a response by 12 February, the Chairman suggested that Council might consider delegating a response to the Environment and Amenities Committee at the meeting on 4 February, by which time it was hoped that the submission documents would be available. Members felt that this matter should really be dealt with by the whole Council because of its importance, but were conscious of the deadline.

Councillor Nicolle stated that the District Council might be inclined to show support for sport but under the Scheme of Management they should keep the Common free from all encroachments, in the interests of the general public. Councillor Pickett supported this view.

Cllr. Davies reported that there had been discussion at the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 14 January regarding lack of toilet facilities on the Common and it had been agreed that the Parish Council should start building a fund for new toilets. He was not entirely convinced that the Parish Council should be against proposals such as the cricket nets and he felt that the broad issue of encroachment, facilities and community amenity should be looked at.

Cllr Davies stated that there had been a lack of joined-up planning but he was not in favour of a piecemeal approach. He **MOVED** that the Parish Council should initiate consultation between all interested parties before responding to the Planning Inspectorate, to find out whether better use could be made of the buildings on the Common through a joined-up approach and whether public toilets could be included in the scheme. The motion was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Allen.

The Chairman pointed out that there was no time to call a meeting of interested parties in time to meet the deadline and that for the purposes of the response to the Secretary of State (DEFRA) through the Planning Inspectorate, the Council could only comment on the proposal as submitted. Mr. Coppens had indicated that it was too late to ask for public toilets to be added to this particular application.

Cllr. Snowling stated that he sympathised with the views expressed by Cllr. Davies but a meeting would take time to arrange and if the Parish Council missed the deadline it would appear that Members did not care about the issues relating to the use of the Common. He had been hoping to move a resolution to authorise the Environment and Amenities Committee to act on behalf of the Council.

In view of these comments, Cllr. Davies **WITHDREW** his motion and stated that he hoped the Environment and Amenities Committee would take on board the issue of the need for wider discussion.

Cllr. Snowling then **MOVED** that the Environment and Amenities Committee be authorised at the meeting on 4 February 2010 to respond to the application made by the Lindfield Cricket Club to DEFRA to enable them to go ahead with the permission they had been granted. The E&A Committee should also consider the desirability of organising a meeting with interested parties to discuss the facilities on the Common. This was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hersey and **AGREED** by a majority of the ten members who voted on this motion, there being two abstentions.

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367. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.

367.1 To receive the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2009. There were no items to bring to the attention of the Council other than those otherwise on the Agenda. **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 26 November 2009 be received and their recommendations confirmed.

367.2 Meeting held on 14 January 2010. Cllr. Davies reported on the main issues from the meeting held on 14 January.

- i. External Auditor's opinion on 2008/09 Annual Return. Mazars had carried out an intermediate audit and had offered a few minor comments but had made it clear that there had been no objections to the documents produced and that the Council had a clean bill of health. Cllr. Davies thanked Mrs. Kolien, the RFO, particularly in view of the extra work this intermediate audit had entailed and it was noted that over the number of years she had been RFO, no faults had been found with Mrs. Kolien's work.
- ii. Review of the Effectiveness of the Council's Internal Audit and Internal Control Procedures. The Finance and General Purposes Committee had received a draft report from Councillors Davies, Henton and Willcox who had carried out the annual review of the Council's internal controls and internal audit. The final report had been circulated prior to this Council meeting with a recommendation from the F&GP Committee to accept the report.

Council **NOTED** that a review of the effectiveness of the Council's system of internal control had been carried out and that this had included a review of the internal audit. The reviewers had reported that they were confident that the arrangements continued to be entirely satisfactory for a Council of the size and turnover of Lindfield and they could with good conscience say that the Council had done what was required of it. No remedial actions were proposed.

RESOLVED to approve the Report of the Annual Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Audit and Internal Control Procedures, dated 5 January 2010.

- iii. Parish Clerk's re- registration for CiLCA. **CONFIRMED:** the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to support the Clerk by paying for re-registration and the forthcoming "CiLCA Fast Track" training session.
- iv. Councillors' Allowances and travelling and subsistence allowances. **NOTED** the Report of the Independent Panel on the Review of Members' Allowances 2010/11. **RESOLVED:** to adopt the recommendations of the Independent Panel, according to the Electorate Banding set out in the report. The maximum allowances to be made available to those Members who chose to claim would therefore remain at:

Councillors' basic allowance	-	£545 p.a.
Chairman's enhanced allowance	-	£814 p.a.
Car mileage allowance	-	40 per mile
- v. Lindfield Parish Directory and Year Book – The Finance and General Purposes Committee had received a full report from the Clerk on the 2010 edition of the Directory. There had been some consternation regarding the late delivery of the Directories, but residents had generally accepted that the problems lay with the printer. **NOTED:** that the F&GP Committee had agreed to seek quotations from three specialist diary printers, including GC Publishing, that a guaranteed delivery date should be required and that the print run should be increased to 3600, to allow for extra housing being built. Lindfield Rural Parish Council would be invited to make a contribution in proportion to the number of directories delivered in that Parish.
- vi. Payroll administration. The RFO had reported to the F&GP Committee that, from April 2010, all payments to HM Revenue and Customs would have to be made electronically. This would mean that

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the monthly PAYE and NIC payments, hitherto made by cheque at the Post Office, would have to be paid electronically. However current legislation prevented Parish Councils from making electronic payments and, although NALC and other organisations were working on a solution to this, it was envisaged that there would be some difficulties before this issue was resolved. The RFO had suggested that this would be an appropriate time to ask WSCC to provide a payroll service and the F&GP Committee had recommended this solution to Full Council for approval. It was noted that this would necessitate a minor change to the staff contracts as the payment date for salaries would then be 24th of the month .

RESOLVED: that West Sussex County Council be asked to provide a payroll service to Lindfield Parish Council. It was noted that the initial set up cost would be £25 per person and there would be a charge of £5.34 per payslip per month thereafter.

- 367.3 To receive the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2010. **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 14 January 2010 be received and their recommendations confirmed.
- 367.4 Statements of Account/Budget Progress and Bank Reconciliation for the periods 01.11.09 to 30.11.09 and 01.12.09 to 31.12.09. **RESOLVED:** to approve the statements of account / budget progress and bank reconciliation for the periods 01.11.09 to 30.11.09 and 01.12.09 to 31.12.09.
- 367.5 List of cheques for approval. The list of cheques for approval was tabled. **AGREED:** the list of cheques (numbered 104344 to 104403 inclusive) for the period 13 November 2009 to 21 January 2010 totalling £27,942.76. **NOTED** that the Petty Cash, as at 21 January 2010, had a balance of £157.92 and payments amounting to a total of £6,954.48 had been made under Section 137.

RESOLVED: that the Council, in accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure, which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure:

		£
W Blunden	Catenary wire and screw eyes for Christmas Lights	134.79
W Blunden	Cable reels for Christmas lights	46.94
Victim Support	Donation	100.00
West Sussex Crossroads	Donation	50.00
S J Wiggins & Son	Putting up cabling for Christmas lights	393.75
GC Publishing	Printing Village Directory	5400.00
M Leach	Floodlight / bulbs for Christmas lights	41.00
KPS Contractors	Put up /take down Christmas lights	588.00
St Catherine's Hospice	Donation	<u>200.00</u>
		6954.48

The Chairman signed list of cheques which is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes as Appendix A.

368. **TO CONSIDER ISSUES RELATING TO THE LEASE OF ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION AT DENMANS COURT.**
- 368.1 **AGREED** to defer this item to the confidential session as there were issues of commercial sensitivity.
369. **TO CONSIDER AND AGREE BUDGET AND PRECEPT REQUIREMENTS FOR 2010/11**
- 369.1 The Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee reported that the budget proposals had been fully discussed at the F&GP meeting held on 14 January 2010. Relatively minor amendments had been made to the E&A budget to make provision for salt/grit bins and spreaders. It had also been agreed that the General Reserve should be raised to a minimum of £50,000, in accordance with advice

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that this should be between a third and a half of the annual turnover, and new designated reserves had been set up for new toilets on the Common, a sinking fund for repair/maintenance of community assets, additional emergency equipment, and a sinking fund for unforeseen damage to the Denmans Lane toilets. The RFO had amended the relevant sheets and circulated them prior to this Council meeting, the amendments being shown in red. The total budget requirement for 2010/2011 was £156,395, which was only £2,000 more than the current year.

AGREED that the budget for 2010/11 should be £156,395, funded by a precept for £158,246.

370. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

370.1 No items of other business were raised.

This part of the meeting ended at 9.25 p.m. There followed a second period for questions / comments from members of the public.

Severe weather. Mr. N. Kerslake stated that there had to be a clear process for the emergency arrangements with all tiers working together.

Oathall Community College Planning Application for Floodlit All Weather Sports Pitch. In the event of Councillors taking up Cllr. Field's invitation to attend the site visit, Mr. Kerslake advised that the protocol for planning site visits was to see and listen but remain silent.

Finger posts. Mr. Kerslake stated that the grants were on a first come first served basis so late applications were unlikely to succeed.

Litter bins. Mr. Kerslake had been disappointed at the original choice of bin and recognised that the Council had now chosen a metal bin, but he commented that the Council had not attempted to work in partnership with the Preservation Society before coming to a decision.

Cricket Club application for restricted work on the Common. Mr. Kerslake stated that this application was not about planning issues, it was about the Commons Act and concerned enclosures and the impact on the reduction of space for general users of the Common. The Scheme of Management which was appended to the Act whereby the Common was registered as such, made it clear that the Common should be for the benefit of the general users of the Common and not specific interests. This was primary legislation and could not be changed without further primary legislation. The issues to be debated in the case of this application were about whether too much of the Common was enclosed for the benefit of specific interests. Mr. Kerslake considered that there was a good argument for public toilets as they would be of benefit to all users of the Common.

The confidential part of the meeting began at 9.35 p.m.

371. The following item had been deferred due to the commercial sensitivity of the matter to be discussed. The Chairman therefore moved under Standing Order No. 35(a) "that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw".

372. TO CONSIDER ISSUES RELATING TO THE LEASE OF ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION AT DENMANS COURT

372.1 Members noted that negotiations had not reached a satisfactory conclusion and by a majority of Members present, it was **AGREED** not to continue to pursue the matter.

The meeting concluded at 9.40 p.m.