

OLD CATTON PARISH COUNCIL,
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY
COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 9TH NOVEMBER, 2006,
AT 7.30 P.M., AT THE PAVILION, CHURCH STREET

PRESENT: Mrs G Masdin – Chairman
Mrs A Chandler Mrs A Riches Mr D Thompson
Miss P Wilkin Mrs J Williams

APOLOGIES: Mr B Sabberton-Coe

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting.

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

37. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 12.10.2006

The minutes, which had already been confirmed and adopted by the Council, were signed by the Chairman.

38. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 34. AGM of NCAPTC. The Clerk had attended and reported that John Findley, of NALC, had spoken about the recent white paper on local government and its potential impact on Parish and Town Councils. It was proposed to give those councils with Quality Status greater powers but changes to financing would not be known until the Lyons report was published later in the year.

39. FINANCE, CHEQUES, PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS, COMPARISON WITH BUDGET

39.1. The attached list of vouchers numbered 341 to 384, with payments totalling £9,584.96 and receipts of £1,439.46 were approved and the comparison with the budget for 2006/7 noted, also the bank reconciliation as at 6.11.2006.

40. BUDGET FOR 2007/8

A draft budget was considered. It was noted that the Council's running costs were increasing considerably. The price of electricity had been increased by 50%, and allowance had to be made for the cost of the election in 2007. Detailed discussion took place about the level of precept to be levied. In recent years the budget had relied on using reserves to meet revenue expenditure rather than precepting for all that was needed. The internal auditor had criticised this practice and recommended that reserves should be increased significantly and should be enough to cover at least 6 months revenue expenditure.

It was unanimously AGREED that the Council be recommended to levy a precept of £148,000.00. This would be sufficient to cover all revenue expenditure, a small amount of capital work, and allow a modest addition to reserves. It was emphasised that it would continue to be essential to obtain grant funding for any major work, like the MUGA, disabled toilet and play equipment.

41. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Traffic in the Village had been hampered by gas works at the junction of White Woman Lane with Spixworth Road. Accessibility work was also in progress at the bus stops at Spixworth Road.

42. CORRESPONDENCE

The attached list was received and discussed.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting at 8.30 p.m.

Chairman, 11.1.2007