

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN BANSONS ON  
THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2015**

Present:        B. Surtees (Chair)    A. Kaye            D. Gambardella  
                  P. Gode\*                S. Jackman        R. Prosser  
                  D. Roberts              J. Rushton\*       A. Wingfield\*

\*Non committee members

Officers:        A. Middlehurst (Town Clerk)  
                  E. Gough (Admin Assistant)  
                  A. McKenzie (Jubilee Park Manager)

Other:            Two member of the press  
                  Fifteen members of the public

**ACTION**

**45/14 Apologies for absence**

No apologies for absence.

**46/14 Declarations of personal and or prejudicial interest**

None received.

**47/14 Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda**

Member of the public addressed the committee with regard to agenda item 52/14.

**48/14 To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October were agreed as a true record and signed by the chairman.

**49/14 Matters arising**

None received.

**50/14 Clerk's report**

**Water Supply to Ongar Social and Sports Club**

An Affinity Water representative and the Town Council's contractor are working to complete the upgrade to the water supply.

**CCLA Local Authorities Property Fund**

A dividend of £525.23 was received on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

**51/14 Financial reporting**

- The quarter three financial report for December 2014 was received.
- The details of financial payments over £500 for October, November and December were received.

**52/14 Parish Poll**

- The results of the Poll were noted as 163 for the Council, 252 against the Council, 1 void vote – Total 416 (total electorate of 5,234)
- The final cost to the Council of the Parish Poll has not been received from EFDC

The Chairman advised that all members were welcome to discuss this item but only committee members can vote.

Cllr Jackman **PROPOSED** and seconded by Cllr Kaye that the Council pursue the plan for the premises known as Ongar Social and Sports Club as the Jubilee Park and not renew the existing lease.

**AGREED** with one abstention.

**53/14 The Council is asked to RESOLVE to exclude the press and public for this meeting under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as the following items contain confidential information relating to staffing matters (54/14) and contractual matters (55/14 & 56/14).**

*(Manager – Angus McKenzie also left the meeting at 8.45pm)*

**57/14 The Council is asked to resolve to permit the press and public to return to the meeting under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.**

*(Nine members of the public and one member of press returned to the meeting at 9.15pm)*

#### **58/14 Mini Bus Budget**

The budget as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 was noted.

Cllr Surtees **PROPOSED** and Cllr Jackman seconded that the current hire fees remain unchanged.

**AGREED** – Unanimous vote received.

#### **59/14 Bansons Letting fees**

Cllr Surtees **PROPOSED** and Cllr Jackman seconded that the current letting fees remain unchanged.

**AGREED** – Unanimous vote received.

#### **60/14 Recommendation from Open Spaces Committee**

##### **Cemetery**

Cllr Surtees **PROPOSED** and Cllr Prosser seconded that no charge will be made for the interment of foetal remains.

**AGREED** – Unanimous vote received.

Cllr Surtees **PROPOSED** and Cllr Prosser seconded that the cemetery fees be increased over a number of years to bring the Council in line with other local authorities.

**AGREED** – Unanimous vote received.

##### **Greensted Road Play Area**

Cllr Surtees **PROPOSED** and Cllr Kaye seconded that the costs associated with the renewal of the lease for Greensted Road play area be taken from the Play area improvement budget.

**AGREED** – Unanimous vote received.

##### **EFDC Play in the Park Sessions**

Cllr Surtees **PROPOSED** and Cllr Jackman seconded that the Youth budget be removed from the Open Spaces Committee and a designated budget be set up in General Admin to facilitate six EFDC Play in the Park sessions.

**AGREED** – Unanimous vote received.

**Tree Works**

Cllr Surtees **PROPOSED** and Cllr Kaye seconded that the tree budget for 2015/16 be reduced to £6,000.

**AGREED** – Unanimous vote received.

(Items 58/14 – 60/14 to be recommended to Full Council).

**61/14 Local Council Tax Support Grant**

The reduction of £1,088 in the grant for 2015/16 was noted.

*(Cllr R. Prosser left the meeting at 9.30pm)*

**62/14 2015/16 Budget Recommendations to Full Council**

Cllrs Surtees thanked the committees for their stringent budget figures.

Cllr Surtees then **PROPOSED** and Cllr Jackman seconded that a recommendation be made to Full Council that the precept be set at £268,336 for 2015/16.

**AGREED** – Unanimous vote received.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

**Signed**

**Chair**

**Date**