

**PLAISTOW AND IFOLD PARISH COUNCIL
CLERK'S REPORT
FOR MEETING ON TUESDAY 15th JANUARY 2008**

4. Declarations of Interest by Members

Members may make any Declarations (personal or prejudicial) at this point of the meeting but they must, in any event, be declared before commencement of discussion of the relevant agenda item.

5. Chairman's Report

(a) CDC Local Character Enhancement Grant Scheme

Information has been received regarding the above established scheme 'to promote local distinctiveness by encouraging the restoration of locally important and distinctive features'. The scheme allows for a grant of up to £1500 (50% matched funding) and has covered such things as traditional fingerposts (signposts), village signs, clock restoration etc.)

There are grants still available for this current financial year and it is likely that the scheme will continue next year.

Members may consider that a possible project for consideration under the scheme could be replacement signposts.

RECOMMENDATION

Members' views are sought

(b) WSCC Bus Shelter Grants Scheme – 2008/2009

This scheme has been running since 2003 and allows for the purchase of new or replacement Bus Shelters, offering up to 50% of the total cost (including installation) with the remainder being provided by the Parish.

RECOMMENDATION

Members' views are sought

7. Situation Report on previously reported matters

(a) The Green, Plaistow

Due to the attendance of Daniel Duthie from the National Trust at the meeting, Members may wish to bring this item forward in the agenda.

(b) Play Area Repairs

The minor repairs will be progressed in drier weather. The issue of safety surfacing is part of the discussion on 2008/2009 Capital Projects (see agenda item 9(b) – separate papers provided).

- (c) **Notice Board at Kelsey Hall**
Most unfortunately, difficulties are again being experienced opening the doors of the large notice board. The company has been contacted and most strongly told that the expectation level is that a replacement board is provided. Mr Ray Fildes from Woodcon (the makers of the notice board) will be in attendance at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

Members' views are sought

- (d) **Parish Action Plan and Village Design Statement**
Councillor Ryder may wish to give an up-date on this matter
- (e) **Resurfacing of the footpath from The Drive to the River Lox**
Unfortunately, this matter has not been progressed. Again, Members are asked to confirm whether they wish to proceed with this project.
- (f) **Police Issues in the Parish**
The local Police will be invited to attend the next Parish Council meeting, in March.
- (g) **Plaistow Post Office**
Following the last Council meeting, the Parish Council's letter strongly urging reconsideration by Post Office Counters Ltd., to keep the Post Office open for five mornings a week, was sent in good time for the closing date of the consultation viz. Christmas Eve.

The letter was also sent to CDC, Action in Rural Sussex and Postwatch (the Post Office independent consumer watchdog). The only response received to-date has been a bland and standard letter from Postwatch.

The Clerk has no other information available.
- (h) **Post Box at The Ride, Ifold**
This has now been repaired
- (i) **Information regarding Dunsfold Park**
The Clerk has nothing to report

9. Finance

- (a) **Accounts for payment**
A schedule of accounts for payment from 27th November 2007 to 15th January 2008, also detailing monies received, will be available at the meeting

RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to approve payment of the accounts

(b) Council's Budget for 2008/2009

At the time of writing this Report, the Finance Committee has yet to meet (meeting to be held on Tuesday 8th January 2008). All Members have previously been circulated with a copy of the papers relating to the draft 2008/2009 Budget.

The Finance Committee will have considered the draft Budget and possibly have made amendments and have formulated Resolutions to Council in connection with the Budget.

It is anticipated that Members will receive the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting, the amended draft Budget and any additional notes, by Sunday 13th January 2008

RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to approve the Council's Budget for the financial year 2008/2009

(c) To set the Parish Precept for 2006/2007

At the time of writing this Report, the Recommendation of the Finance Committee as to the Precept requirement for 2008/2009 is not available. (See para. 9(b) above). Members should note that the setting of the Parish Precept is a Council function and not one that can be delegated to a Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Parish Council set a Parish Precept for the 2008/2009 financial year

**11. Date of next meeting –
Tuesday 11th March 2008 at Kelsey Hall, Ifold**

Members are reminded that as Council is now meeting on a bi-monthly basis, a monthly Information Sheet will be prepared and sent to all Members by e-mail. These will keep Members up-to-date on the progress of decisions from the last meeting, invitations to courses, conferences etc. Where a project is concluded or an issue resolved which has previously been recorded in the Minutes, this will still be shown on the agenda and incorporated into the Minutes, so that they follow on logically and the Council is seen to be acting transparently. The first Information Sheet will be e-mailed in the first week of February.

Sue Kemp – Parish Clerk
7th January 2008