

PLAISTOW AND IFOLD PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2008

4. Budget Monitoring to 30.4.2009

The papers for this agenda item are enclosed.

5. Presentations by local Groups and Organisations

Those local Groups and Organisations who are given a grant of £200 or more have been invited to attend this meeting; and have been asked to submit a copy of their latest accounts.

Those under £200 have been invited to submit a written submission as to either (a) the adequacy of the grant or (b) whether there is need for the grant. These latter groups have also been invited to give a brief outline of how the money is used.

Sussex Air Ambulance has not been invited to take part, in view of the fact that a representative attended the Annual Meeting of Electors earlier this year.

All groups were asked to respond by 22nd October.

Winterton Hall Management Committee

John Barnes (Chairman) and Alan Copus (Treasurer) will be attending the meeting.

The Committee regard the Parish Council's grant as regular income which helps to cover the day to day running costs of the Hall. The grant is not used for large one-off items – these are funded by the Committee's own fund-raising ventures. If the grant were not paid or reduced, hire charges would have to be increased by an equivalent amount.

A Receipts and Payment Account and a Balance Sheet for the year ending 31.3.2009 have been produced.

Kelsey Hall Management Committee

There has been no response from the Committee

Plaistow Pre-School

Emma Dockerill (Chairman) and the Treasurer will be attending the meeting.

A Receipts and Payment Account and a Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the year ending 31.8.2009 have been produced.

Little Acorns PreSchool

Sally Jillians (Chairman) will be attending the meeting.

A Profit and Loss Account on an accrual basis from August 2008 through to July 2009 has been produced.

Community Minibus Association

Maxi Harvey (the Plaistow co-ordinator) will be attending the meeting.

The organisation is, in fact the Community Minibus Association (West Sussex). It is a registered charity (275787) with a fleet of twelve minibuses, allocated to six independent operating centre. Parish residents use the Petworth bus for one shopping trip per week.

The Association is registered with the Department of Transport as providing Community Transport, which entitles the organisation to a substantial rebate on fuel used. Also, the Association has recently become registered for VAT, which means that VAT can be reclaimed.

Changes are being made to the accounting of the Association and Petworth will become a separate Cost Centre. The gross cost of running the Petworth Bus in 2009 was £5,453. Allowing for income (£1389, which includes the £500 Parish Council grant), there is a balance of £4154 to be collected through fares.

The Petworth bus travels approximately 10,621 miles per annum which means that 39.11p has to be raised for every mile travelled.

Plaistow travel for 42.93 miles per week carrying 6.53 passengers for 50 weeks a year is 2147 miles at a cost to the Association of £839.52, giving a fare of £2.56.

With the Parish Council grant, the cost to the Association for the Plaistow bus is £339.52, giving a cost per mile of 15p i.e. each trip needs to raise £6.44.

Plaistow users currently pay £1 per trip and the Parish Council grant is saving each passenger in excess of £1.50 per week.

As an additional note, the Petworth Bus was replaced last year at a net cost of 24,531. The depreciation is £340.72, which is not being charged in the fares because of the overall financial position of the Association. The Association hopes to replace all its vehicles over the next 10 years.

Petworth Cottage Nursing Home

The Nursing Home has responded saying that previous support has been greatly appreciated but that currently the Home is on a secure financial footing and it is considered that, in the near future, with the assistance of the Home's team of fund raisers, there will not be the need for additional support.

Billingshurst Community Transport

There has been no formal written response from this organisation. A telephone message was left that it was hoped that someone would be able to attend the meeting.

Friends of Chichester Hospitals

The Friends are most appreciative of the Parish Council's grant. Their main source of income is from the Friends Shop and Ward Trolley Service, all of which is manned by volunteers and gives an annual income of between £60 and £70,000. Other sources of income are from legacies and fund-raising. The Parish Council is the only Council locally that makes a grant.

Examples have been given of areas of funding for equipment at St Richard's Hospital – (a) slide boards for post-operative exercise for hip and knee replacement patients - £110 for four boards; (b) a finger pulse oximeter - £139; (c) speech and language therapy assessment equipment - £5420; (d) trauma trolleys for A&E - £21,416; (e) D Difficile screening equipment for infection control - £19, 345.

The Friends are committed to further expenditure – (a) a new digital X-Ray room - £189,000; and (b) a robot dispenser for the Pharmacy (£154,000).

The distribution of funds is decided upon at quarterly meetings with the Hospitals' management.

Jane Rammage, the Chairman, is happy to attend a future Council meeting, to talk further about the work of the Friends.

Chichester and Bognor Regis Neighbourhood Watch Association

At the time of writing the Report, a response is awaited. The Treasurer has been away on holiday.

RECOMMENDATION

Members' views are sought

6. Community Reserve Fund grant application

An application has been received from Winterton Hall Management Committee for a grant in the sum of £460 for the provision of a new external notice board for the Hall (on the other side of the window to that containing the Parish Rights of Way Map).

The Committee has obtained a quotation for a wooden notice board in the sum of £472, including VAT, plus an engraved header board (Hall Events) at an additional cost of £38.40, plus VAT.

Committee members will be able to install the notice board themselves.

If the Parish Council were to order and take ownership and responsibility for the future maintenance of the notice board, the VAT can be reclaimed. The Parish Council cannot buy it on behalf of the Hall Committee and reclaim the VAT.

The Committee's decision will be a Recommendation to Council for the next meeting on 24th November 2009.

RECOMMENDATION

Members' views are sought

7. Budget 2010/2011 – first draft

The papers for this agenda item are enclosed.

9. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 8th November 2009 at 7.30pm at Kelsey Hall

Sue Kemp – Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer
25th October 2009