

MINUTES of a MEETING of SURFLEET PARISH COUNCIL held in the FRAISER ROOM on TUESDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2008, starting at 7.00pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: G. Waltham (chairman), Mrs M Hurst (vice-chair), B Templeman, M Chapman, D Bright, Mrs G Gerrans, Mrs F Healands, J A Dobney
District Councillors: M Bamber, D Best

ITEM		ACTION
1	<p>Apologies for absence Malcolm Dennis</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of Interest AD, GW, MC, BT declared personal interest in Surfleet United Charities</p>	
3	<p>Outside Green Gym Equipment GW- Councillors were asked to go away and speak to residents of Surfleet and in the shop about green gym equipment, GG - decided not to put anything in shop, not a fare way to decide as not everyone asked, if want whole village views we it needs to go on village parish plan survey. FH - if cost added to council tax we need to know how much as most spoken to did not mind £10 but object to £1000, hard to know if willing to contribute if price unknown. GW – Councillors were just asked to ask if residents would use equipment. We have had e-mails from Green Gym Chairman, GW thought it was appalling to speak to someone in that way if they want money from us. AD - Surfleet residents would have to put hand in pocket as using precept money, e-mail saying not but would be beneficial to village. MH - if Gym was there it could be used by anyone, good for youngsters too. AD - are we getting priorities correct if there are other things on agenda? GW – We need decision if we donate money or not first, then how much later in agenda. AD - need to think about what spending on own parishioners, gym equipment possible used by outside bodies same as football field, he likes to see it being used. DB - don't think we should finance Gym at all, SPARC has had £1000's in past, if they want it they should finance it. FH - don't know how she feels, people think good thing but if their council tax increases then they are more wary, most people seem behind it. GG - son said good idea, no use in winter, partly good idea, which generation would use it? MH - extra facility in village, freely available to anyone in village as any facility is in the village, but can be used by people not in village, but then we also use facilities outside of village, if we decide to fund then a suitable appropriate amount should be decided and not a huge sum. MC - agree with MH, we also have trim trail already so there are already facilities for exercise in village if wish to use them. MH – parents can use Gym but can also still keep eye in children. BT - not in favour to finance from Parish Council monies for outside use, we were not elected to make decision in that direction, we were elected to keep costs down, which we have, this would be an opening to lots of other things, votedown. AD – it would be trouble, opens door to so many things, it is on SPARC'S field, if they need £20k then they should organise remainder to get what they want, nothing to do with us, sports field not ours. AD - Proposed Surfleet Parish Council does not support the Green Gym as it opens doors to so many other things, not Parish Council's job to find money, DB seconded. FH - proposed Surfleet Parish Council fund Green Gym quipment, MH seconded</p>	

	<p>DB – there are other ways of finding funding, not from Parish Council, other organisations advertised at funding day, if everyone puts 10% in then fare to ask but that isn't the case.</p> <p>MH – it would be a loss to village if we decided not to fund.</p> <p>FH – as most projects like this match funding is required.</p> <p>AD - e-mail said no cost to residents, but it would be.</p> <p>GW asked for vote – 2nd proposal to fund Green Gym, 3 in favour, 5 against. 1st proposal, not to fund, who in favour, 5 in favour, 3 against.</p> <p>LB to write to green gym to inform them of decision.</p>	LB
4	Discuss Parish Council Budget for 2009/10	
4.i	<p>MH - Move Surfleet Parish Council contribution to Parish Planning of £250 to Parish Planning Funds section on spreadsheet.</p> <p>How often millennium beacon painted? GW - not frequently, only done this year since it was erected.</p>	
4.ii	<p>Provision of Bus Shelter</p> <p>GW - Wooden shelters, £6k plus £500 for base, AD - are we asking for one per year GW - each year we need to apply for next one. AD - we need to inform LCC we can't find money to do all 3 in one year, do over several years. GW - we need to reapply each time. AD – we need to write and explain that our finances are not great and explain we need the grant.</p> <p>GW - All assessments and planning ready so just need to apply each time.</p> <p>MC - need at least £3k.</p> <p>MH - proposed £3500, MC seconded.</p> <p>FH – a lot of money to spend on bus stops.</p> <p>DB - possibly not get any funding.</p> <p>AD – a lot of money to find without funding.</p> <p>GW – that decision would be made at a later date if no funding. We have to have the shelters they specify if we want funding.</p> <p>All agreed £3500 to be put into 2009/10 budget for bus shelters.</p>	
4.iii	<p>Allotments</p> <p>GW – Money should be available if opportunity to purchase land comes along.</p> <p>MH - how much for acre of land?</p> <p>MC – Allotment Committee only wanted 100sq yards each, 16 people interested, 1/3 acre approx.</p> <p>GG – they said they wanted 1 acre.</p> <p>GW – doesn't think their calculations correct, it does not match to 1 acre.</p> <p>DB – do we need to budget for 1 acre, if not all interested parishioners get an allotment immediately, then there would be a waiting list but atleast it would keep it going.</p> <p>GW - difficult to know price for land.</p> <p>MC – approximately £5-7k</p> <p>AD - £7k, disappointed South Holland District Council granted planning permission near sewerage works, if we had got Surfleet United Charities to purchase it, then they could let it to Parish Council on 5-10 year lease to then re-let for allotments, Surfleet United Charities does not want lots of small business transactions like a Parish Council could have, but we will not get chance to purchase now.</p> <p>MH – we have got address to purchase from planning application if needed.</p> <p>GW – this was discussed at last meeting and we decided not best to send letter.</p> <p>DB – land was turned down for Gypsy site because of sewerage works, so surely it is not suitable to work allotments next to.</p> <p>GW – Allotment Committee said they want to buy the allotments themselves eventually, we need something in budget for it.</p> <p>MC - are there grants for allotments?</p> <p>GW – At moment Allotment Committee can't get the grants.</p> <p>MC – need to put in budget money for 1 acre of land.</p>	

<p>4.iv</p> <p>4.v</p>	<p>DB - what is price for 1 acre? MH – approximately £7k per acre. AD – we also need to consider solicitor fees, transaction fees of approximately an extra £1500, possibly write to Surfleet United Charities for help. GW – we need to find piece of land first. DB – can we lease land near SPARC? AD – Lincolnshire County Council will say already let and cannot turf person off it. MH - if land designated as allotment land, can someone use it for commercial reasons? AD - tenants swap land between themselves. GW - contracts for old allotments don't say what use for, new ones do. DB – he is sure this is correct and above board but morally wrong. MH - £6k already in our funds, £5k of unallocated funds, approximately £1k left over, could we be cheeky and ask Surfleet United Charities for the extra £2k? AD - uncertain, Surfleet United Charities cannot be certain of getting rents, difficult to forecast funds. MH - we have almost got enough to get acre already. GW - if opportunity came up then we could go to someone for extra money if needed. AD – United Charities could not guarantee money would be available. MH - supporting allotment idea, but does not think we should give it to them, they must pay proper rent, so we are not seen to be misusing money. GW – he has explained we would be looking for an amount of money for the allotments rent, but allotment committee said they can't afford that, it would be needed to cover costs of rental agreements, fees and purchase. We are doing what we can by writing to Lincolnshire County Council and South Holland District Council etc. MH – proposed we put in the Surfleet United Charities surplus from previous years that we have at moment as it is not needed for bus shelters, change to earmarked reserve for allotments, AD seconded, all agreed £5200 to be earmarked as reserve for allotments.</p> <p>Earmarked fund for community events AD Proposed to be topped up by £250, MH seconded, all agreed to top up fund by £250.</p> <p>Precept Level AD proposed precept level to stay at £1000, MH seconded. AD – would like to see come to nil in future but it depends on what we receive from Surfleet United Charities. All agreed to keep precept at £1000</p>	
<p>5</p> <p>5.i</p> <p>5.ii</p>	<p>AOB Dates of 2009 Meetings passed around, all happy. GW - Allotments Association has request copies of minutes and letters where allotments are discussed, we can't not give them to them as it is their right to have them but we should make a charge for the work needed to send them out, we can't give out minutes or letters until they have been agreed and discussed at the following meetings and we have received replies. What do the other Councillors think about making a charge? AD – can't work for nothing. MC - provide information and Clerk to note time used. MH – they can be sent via e-mail so not cost too much. GW – suggest a nominal fee of hourly rate of clerk. Clerk would need to write and tell them that is what we will do. DB - how much time? GG – hourly. GW - £10 - £20 a time for information. MC – information sent by e-mail, charge time at hourly rate. GW – do all agree with minimum charge of hourly rate?, all agreed. Clerk</p>	

	to write to explain. DB – proposed we write a letter of condolence to Ambrose Garner, he puts lots of effort into Surfleet, very sad time, AD - seconded. All agreed	LB LB
5	Date of next meeting Tuesday 20 th January starting at 7.00pm with a 15 minute public forum, in the Fraiser Room	

The meeting was declared closed at 19.48pm

Signed.....Chairman Date.....