

SCOTTER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 5th December 2006

PRESENT: Councillor C. Day (Chairman), Councillors M. Brown, J. Allen, M. Armstrong, B. Billam, J. Bullivent, J. Fillingham, S. Rayner and A. Sheardown, M. Brown (Clerk).

86 2006/07 : To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor D. Capes. Proposed by Councillor Allen, seconded by Councillor Rayner and agreed by all, it was

RESOLVED : To accept and approve the apology from Councillor Capes.

87 2006/07 : To receive declarations of interest

Councillor Bullivent declared an interest in relation to the subject of minute reference 88 2006/07. Councillor Sheardown declared an interest in relation to the subject of minute references 93 2006/07 and 96 2006/07. Councillor Fillingham declared an interest in relation to the subject of minute reference 91 2006/07. Councillor Day declared a prejudicial interest in relation to the subject of minute reference 93 2006/07 and stated he would withdraw for this item. Proposed by Councillor Fillingham, seconded by Councillor Bullivent and all being in agreement, it was

RESOLVED : That the Vice-Chairman act as Chairman for the agenda item considering the request from Scotter Junior Football Club to include an amount in the 2007/08 Precept to cover the cost of grass cutting at the playing fields.

88 2006/07 : To consider and approve the purchase of furniture, equipment and services to enable the opening of a Parish Council office in January 2007.

The Council considered the paper circulated with the agenda in support of this item and discussed potential arrangements for the secure receipt of post at the village hall. Proposed by Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Billam and all being in favour, it was

RESOLVED : That an amount of up to £2500 exclusive of VAT may be spent on goods and services necessary to open a Parish Council office in January 2007.

89 2006/07 To resolve whether, in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press should be temporarily excluded from the meeting due to the sensitive nature of the next item of business.

Proposed by Councillor Fillingham, seconded by Councillor Allen and unanimously agreed, it was

RESOLVED : That the public and press be excluded for the next item of business and be instructed to withdraw.

With the public and press excluded :

90 2006/07 To consider and approve a new rate of pay for the Village Person with effect from 1st November 2006.

The Council considered the paper circulated with the agenda in support of this item. Proposed by Councillor Fillingham, seconded by Councillor Sheardown and all being in agreement, it was

RESOLVED : That, with effect from 1st November 2006, the pay rate of the Village Person will be as set out in the third option of the paper.

The Clerk was asked to pass on the Council's thanks to the Village Person for the excellent work carried out during the year and to encourage the highest possible standard of performance in relation to health and safety.

With the public and press able to return :

Initialed Chairman

91 2006/07 To consider a request from Scotter Village Hall Association to release the donation provided for in the 2006/07 Precept and to include a further donation to the Association when setting the 2007/08 Precept.

The Council discussed the request against the background of the current and proposed projects in relation to the hall, which include the replacement of carpets upstairs with cushioned vinyl floor covering (c. £3k), replacement of main hall fire doors (c. £3k), modernisation of the toilets (c. £5k), replacement of the central heating boiler and provision of increased storage (not yet valued). It also considered the financial situation of the Association as at 30th September 2006. Proposed by Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Sheardown and with all in agreement, it was

RESOLVED : To donate to the Association the £4000 set aside for this purpose in the 2006/07 Precept and to include the same sum when setting the 2007/08 Precept.

The Clerk was asked to prepare the cheque in favour of the Association for signature at the December Council meeting.

92 2006/07 To consider a request from Scotter War Memorial Playing Fields Committee to include an amount in the 2007/08 Precept to cover employers liability and public liability insurance at the field for the year commencing 1st February 2008.

The Clerk reminded the Council that it had previously approved requests to cover this insurance, with an amount included in its Precept for 2006/07 to meet the expected premium in February 2007 (estimated at £788). Whilst the cost in February 2008 is not known, the Clerk suggested that the level of annual increase imposed by insurers would suggest an amount of £825 may be appropriate.

Proposed by Councillor Rayner, seconded by Councillor Sheardown and unanimously agreed, it was **RESOLVED : To include an amount of £825 to cover the cost of employers liability and public liability insurance at the playing fields when setting the 2007/08 Precept.**

Councillor Day left the meeting room and Councillor Brown took the Chair for the next item of business.

93 2006/07 To consider a request from Scotter Junior Football Club to include an amount in the 2007/08 Precept to cover the cost of grass cutting at the playing fields.

The Council discussed the application from the club which explained that, whilst it would expect the annual cost of cutting the existing fields to be a maximum of £1200 in an optimum growing season, it is hopeful that the new field will also be completed for the 2007/08 season and this would add an additional £360 to the cutting costs. It requests the Council set aside a total maximum of £1560 for 2007/08, with requests for recompense being supported by actual invoices. As the very mild weather during the autumn of 2006 has significantly extended this year's growing season, the club has had no option but to expend monies (£705) in excess of the maximum amount allowed by the Council for grass cutting during 2006/07 and would appreciate any further financial assistance that the Council could make towards this, reminding the Council that the club has never before spent the maximum amount allowed. The Council then considered the financial situation of the club at its last financial year end. Proposed by Councillor Rayner, seconded by Councillor Allen and with all present in agreement, it was

RESOLVED : To make an additional payment to Scotter Juniors FC to cover the actual amount expended during the 2006/07 season and to include a maximum sum of £1560 when setting the 2007/08 Precept to cover grass cutting costs during that season, all as substantiated by invoices.

The Clerk will ask the club to submit a formal request, substantiated by invoices, for the payment of the additional monies related to the 2006/07 season.

94 2006/07 To consider a request from Scotter Bowls Club to include an amount in the 2007/08 Precept to cover the cost of the biennial top dressing of the green.

The Council considered the club's request to cover the cost of surface dressing during 2007/08, expected to be £500 and examined its accounts for the last completed financial year. Proposed by Councillor Fillingham, seconded by Councillor Brown and unanimously agreed, it was

RESOLVED : To include an amount of £500 when setting the 2007/08 Precept as a donation to Scotter Bowls Club to cover the cost of surface dressing of the bowling green.

95 2006/07 To consider and approve the Council's Precept requirement for the financial year 2007/08.

The Council considered the paper circulated with the agenda in relation to this item which included an evaluation of payments expected for the rest of 2006/07 and an estimate of payments expected to be made in 2007/08, an evaluation of the income expected for the rest of 2006/07 and an estimate of income expected in 2007/08 (excluding the Precept amount) and an evaluation of the costs of running Scotter Cemetery. The expected payments figures were amended in light of the resolutions already passed at the meeting. The Council then considered the proposed payments and receipts on a line by line basis and made the following specific resolutions in support of or to amend the paper :

Proposed by Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Fillingham and unanimously agreed, it was **RESOLVED : To replace the ride-on mower during 2006/07 with a new model at a maximum part exchange price of £3000 exclusive of VAT.** The Clerk is to establish whether there is room for further negotiation on the price and/or an ability to extend the warranty period on the machine, which is to be delivered in time for the commencement of the cutting season in March 2007.

Proposed by Councillor Rayner, seconded by Councillor Sheardown and agreed by all bar Councillor Day who abstained, it was

RESOLVED : To include an amount of £50 in the 2007/08 Precept for minor maintenance work on the War Memorial

Proposed by Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Billam and unanimously agreed, it was **RESOLVED : To include an amount of £3000 in the 2007/08 Precept to cover community projects, £1000 of which is a donation to the Eau Community Centre for landscaping costs.**

Proposed by Councillor Sheardown, seconded by Councillor Rayner and all agreed, it was further **RESOLVED : That, in accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Council intends to incur expenditure during 2007/08 on a skip service and to make donations for a poppy wreath and to assist in the landscaping of the Eau Community Centre which, in the opinion of the Council, are in the interests of the inhabitants of the Parish and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure.**

Proposed by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Brown and unanimously agreed, it was **RESOLVED : To include a provision for an additional 25 paid hours for the Clerk in the 2007/08 Precept to enable the completion of the portfolio of evidence for accreditation.**

Proposed by Councillor Bullivent, seconded by Councillor Sheardown and all agreed, it was **RESOLVED : To submit a request to the District Council for net cemetery expenses in the amount of £3729 for 2007/08.** The Clerk added this amount to the expected income during 2007/08, taking the total expected income (excluding the Precept) to £7469.

On the conclusion of the line by line examination and taking into account the resolutions already passed, the Clerk summarised the position as follows :

Initialled Chairman

Opening Cash Book Balance at 01.04.2006	8,739.42
Add Projected Receipts to 31.03.2007	<u>52,165.02</u>
	60,904.44
Less Projected Payments to 31.03.2007	<u>53,216.79</u>
Projected Closing Bank Balance at 31.03.2007	<u><u>7,687.65</u></u>
Opening Cash Balance at 01.04.2007	7,687.65
Less Budgeted Payments for 2007/08	<u>42,033.00</u>
	-34,345.35
Add Budgeted Income for 2007/08 (excl. precept)	<u>7,469.00</u>
Nett Expenditure (excl. precept)	-26,876.35

The Council then considered and discussed an appropriate level of contingency to be applied to this figure to cover unexpected expenses and to allow for a year end bank balance. Proposed by Councillor Fillingham, seconded by Councillor Sheardown and unanimously agreed, it was **RESOLVED : To submit to the District Council a Precept for 2007/08 to cover general expenses in the amount of £32000.** The necessary paperwork in support of this and in support of the resolution to request an additional £3729 for 2007/08 to cover net cemetery expenses was completed and signed at the meeting.

96 2006/07 To permit Scotter Junior Football Club to uplift suitably-sized Christmas trees from Scotterthorpe allotments and to sell these for its funds.

Proposed by Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Bullivent and unanimously agreed, it was **RESOLVED : To permit Scotter Junior FC to sell Christmas trees from Scotterthorpe allotments for its funds.**

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.53pm.

Clerk:

Chairman:

Date: