

EUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held 11 November 2004 at 7.15 pm, the Black Hut, Euxton PC Community Centre, Euxton.

Present Cllrs D Wallbank (Chair), D Bateman, M Bateman, M Gray, E Sutton.

Attending: Cllr J Miles. CBM PC L Hackett.

1. Apologies

2. Minutes of last Meeting

Resolved: Minutes of the Leisure Committee held 8 June 2004 were proposed Cllr Gray, seconded Cllr Sutton and agreed to be accurate record of the meeting, signed by the Chairman.

3. Pavement Sweeping Machine and Service

The Clerk reported that the pavement sweeping machine had broken down and the manufacturers who service the machine recommended re-conditioning the machine and submitted a guideline price of £3,372 for the parts which are known to be needed up to £5,285 if other major parts need replacing on inspection. Councillors discussed the machine and lengthsmen service in the village at length.

It was proposed by the Chairman that the Clerk obtain prices for alternative machines and methods of carrying out the service. Renting a machine, contract leasing/hire of a machine, a manual cart. Also to ask the lengthsmen for their suggestions and ask the manufacturer of the machine if they would buy back the old machine.

It was noted by Council and commended that the Parish Council lengthsmen recycle all the leaf litter collected from the streets of Euxton.

4. Flowers, Planters & Troughs

The Committee all agreed they liked the Spring and Summer flower schemes and they were a big improvement on previous years. Further suggested sites for next year for permanent planters were Dawbers Lane, Pincock area, Euxton Lane.

5. Quality Parish Council Status and Charter

Councillors discussed again at length the scheme which was presented and to the Council 12 months ago. The scheme has not changed and in fact only one Parish Council in Lancashire has taken up and qualified to be a Quality Parish Council. The Charter suggested by Lancashire County Council was distributed to present Councillors and discussed. It was noted that LCC could not uphold promises made to Parish Council's on the Partnership Plan via the Environment Directorate. Also the Charter had a part 2 which was for Quality Parish Council's only which would exclude Parish Council's who chose not to, or were not able to achieve Quality Status - this appeared to create a 2 class system of service from LCC within the Parish Council structure.

The Committee saw no benefit to the Parish Council of pursuing the Quality Parish Council scheme although would like to know if the scheme is improved in the future to offer incentives or any type of leverage which a Council could use to assist its working.

6. Talbot Row Shops area, Highways Avenue

Councillors discussed the sketch and quotation for an ornamental fence on the land at the junction of Highways and Balshaw Lane. Clerk to have re-priced a new shaped fence at a higher level of 4 feet 6 inches.



7. Youth Council

Councillors discussed the forthcoming meeting to try to set up a Youth Council or Forum of young people to use as a liaison group between young Euxton residents and the Council. Councillors expressed an interest to attend the meeting but wanted to seek the advice of the LCC Youth and Community leaders as to whether their presence would help or hinder the meeting. The level of support and mechanisms between the group and the Council would need to be discussed once the initial meeting had taken place and/if a group was formed. This item to go on the next agenda.

8. Grants

Resolved: Proposed Cllr Wallbank, seconded Cllr Sutton and agreed that the ERASE grant of £1000 was coming from the emergency fund and grants of £250 would be given to:

Primrose Hill Primary School for an art project

Yarrow Nursery for furniture and equipment for reading area

Euxton Cricket Club for programme of indoor coaching sessions

The grant request from Euxton PC Community Centre was referred to the next Full Council meeting for its consideration as the sum sought would be well above the small project grant amount.

9. Christmas

The lights on the tree could now not be put on the tree and connected to the electricity supply by Chorley Borough Council. Four contractors, recommended by CBC were asked to supply quotations for the job.

Resolved: Proposed Cllr Sutton, seconded Cllr Gray and agreed that the quotation from Eccleston Electrical of £57.00 be accepted and they be asked if they can provide emergency call out cover in case of vandalism etc.

10. Bank Lane

The Clerk informed the Committee that Chorley Borough Council would not contribute anything to the Parish Council to maintain Bank Lane. When requested to clear the area, it is never carried out to a high standard and the path is often slippery with wet leaves.

Resolved: Proposed Cllr Sutton, seconded Cllr Gray and agreed that the path be worked on to bring it up to a good standard whilst the pavement sweeper is out of action but CBC still be asked regularly to come down to the area to carry out work.

11. Precept 2005/06

Councillors discussed at great length CCTV cameras for the village. Estimate have been obtained for one camera, at two locations on Balshaw Lane but it was the feeling of the Committee that if one camera were to be purchase for that area then another would need to be purchased for the North of Euxton. It was highlighted that the cost of a camera was very high and it could not cover all the problem spots in the area such as behind buildings for example. This item would be placed on the agenda for the next General Purposes Committee meeting.

12. Any other business

The next meeting would be arranged for January, after the 7th.

There being no further general business the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

