

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade on Monday 15 August 2016 commencing at 4.00 p.m.

Councillors present: Mr Ivor Davies (Chairman), Mrs L Clarke, Mr P Dengate, Mr Bob Hinder, Mrs S Martins and Mr M Radcliffe-Godfrey together with the Clerk and a member of the public.

The Chairman informed members that as the Estates Committee chairman was unable to attend and he himself was vice-chairman of that committee, Cllr Dengate would be answering questions on the project.

1. Apologies and non-attendance

Cllr Vic Davies (family commitment) and Cllr Wendy Hinder (family commitment).

2. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying.

None declared.

The meeting was not adjourned as the member of public was just visiting.

3. Beechen Hall Extension – Financial Report

Members received a briefing note on the procedural and financial background to the Estates Committee request that the F&GPC consider whether to recommend to full council that funds be made available for a possible extension to the committee room and associated works at Beechen Hall.

A lengthy discussion then took place covering

- Whether the demand for a larger room existed or had been properly investigated.
- The possible financial return from having a larger room available for hire.
- The additional costs in office time, consumables, heating etc, resulting from greater use of the facilities balanced against administrative savings elsewhere.
- The fact that the project was about investing for the future and providing better facilities for the local community rather than as being profit-making.
- The fairly urgent need to refurbish some of the existing facilities, e.g. the toilets and the front doors.
- The current general uncertainty due to Brexit and whether it was right to proceed with any large-scale projects at this time.
- Whether this was prudent use/allocation of parish council reserves.
- Whether there was a need to canvass community opinion before any decision was taken.

After due deliberation but before proceeding to vote on the matter, members thanked Cllr Dengate for the time and effort he had devoted to this project and for his invaluable reports which had greatly assisted members in reaching a decision.

The Chairman then proposed on behalf of Cllr Vic Davies seconded by Cllr Dengate **that the F&GPC recommends to full council that this project, Beechen Hall committee room extension, be considered financially sustainable and an appropriate use of parish funds and may be partly funded by a £60,000 Public Works Loan if available.** Voting, 2 in favour, 3 against and the Chairman abstaining. **Motion lost.**

4. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 13 September 2016 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Meeting closed at 4.50 p.m.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman.....

Date.....