

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 4 April 2011 at Callicroft House, Rodway Road, Patchway**

Present: Cllr. J. Thomas (in the Chair)  
L. Gray  
Mrs E. Martin (arrived late)  
P. Cottrell  
M. Grotzke  
Mrs L. Hodder  
B. Hopkinson  
K. Dando

**1. Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest not already recorded

**3. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 March were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**4. Matters arising from the Minutes**

a) Litter at Coniston Parade

The Committee noted that there had been a crisis at the Parade when neither SGC nor Merlin was collecting the litter for several weeks and there had been many complaints from residents. Hopefully the situation had now been resolved with SGC collecting the litter and Merlin paying for the service. The Committee suggested that the new Council might wish to hold a meeting with Merlin after the election.

b) Saturday Club

Cllr. Hodder was very distressed that the decision of the last Council meeting to refuse to make an increased contribution to Southern Brooks Community Partnership for youth work had resulted in the Saturday afternoon club for children aged 8-11 at Patchway Youth Centre being closed from the end of March. Councillors agreed, on the proposal of

Cllr. Hopkinson and seconded by Cllr. Hodder, that this club offered a very valuable service to Patchway children of this age group and asked the Clerk to send a letter to Southern Brooks Community Partnership asking Julie Close to try to find funding for the continuation of this project.

Cllr. Dando and the Clerk declared their interest as Trustees of SBCP.

Cllr. Martin was not present at this stage of the meeting.

Cllr. Dando took no part in the discussion or voting.

c) North Patchway Hall

The Committee noted receipt of the audited accounts and information on the insurance policy of the North Patchway Hall which the Council had requested in connection with their grant, which had now been paid.

d) Patchway Community Centre

The Committee noted that a further meeting had been held with representatives of the Community Centre's committee and David Pearce, architect with SGC, to hear the wish list of the Community Centre. It was noted that the Community Centre representatives had requested that the new building's footprint should include the grass at the rear of Callicroft House and the Casson Centre and the Clerk suggested that this decision would have to be taken by the Council. Councillor Hopkinson stated that the plans which the architect would be producing could be moved to any part of the site before a final decision was taken.

The Committee agreed that SGC should be instructed to carry out a feasibility study for the replacement of Patchway Community Centre for a maximum fee of £7,500.

e) Flying Start Pre-School

The Committee noted a press report that the former chairman of Flying Start pre-school had received a prison sentence for fraud. It was noted that the new pre-school was operating successfully.

## **5. Current financial position**

The Committee noted that the bank balances at today's date were:

Current account:	£1,000.00
Business Reserve account:	£269,470.76

The Committee noted that the loan of £200,000 from the Public Works Loan Board had been received.

**6. Monthly summary of expenditure**

The Committee noted the summary of expenditure for the month of March which completed the financial year.

**7. Grant applications**

The Committee noted a letter requesting financial assistance and the annual accounts from Patchway Community Association showing a deficit on the year of almost £5,000.

After discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Gray and seconded by Cllr. Dando that a recommendation should be made to the Council that an emergency grant of £5,000 to the Association should be made.

It was also agreed to suggest to the new Council that it should give urgent consideration to the future of the community association and the possibility of the two community associations working more closely together or amalgamating.

**8. Accounts payable by the end of the financial year**

The Committee noted a circulated schedule of accounts payable by the end of the financial year and agreed to sign the cheques. The list would be included in the papers for the Council meeting with other accounts payable in April.

**9. Patchway Sports & Social Club**

Cllr. Gray left the room during discussion of this item.

The Committee noted the report of a meeting held on 24 March with Trustees of Patchway Sports & Social Club to discuss the future maintenance of the changing rooms in the Club, which had been circulated. After discussion it was agreed to recommend the following to the Council:

- 1) Lighting of car park and footpath beside Club: The Club would pay for the electricity and the Council would pay for the maintenance of the lights. (This was the current situation.)
- 2) Changing Rooms: The Council would pay for cleaning of the changing rooms. The Club would keep the changing rooms in good decorative order or pay the Council to do so.
- 3) Changing Rooms: The Council would pay for maintenance of plant, fixtures and fittings, cost of services and the costs of installation of sub-

meters. The Club would not make any claims for back payments in this regard. (The Committee noted, as a comparison, that the quarterly charge for utilities at Scott Park Pavilion was around £600.)

- 4) If these recommendations were ratified by the Town Council, the Council's Solicitor would be asked to draw up a schedule to attach to the Lease.

The Clerk was asked to check the legal position with Councillors who had connections to the Club voting on this issue.

The Committee agreed to suggest to the new Council that it consider the installation of wind turbines in Scott Park or The Tumps and solar panels on Council buildings which would generate electricity to cover the running costs of Council facilities and create a new income stream.

#### **10. Date of next meeting**

It was agreed to cancel the May meeting of the Finance Committee due to the proximity of the election.

It was noted that under Standing Orders any urgent matters would be decided by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.