



BRAMSHOTT & LIPHOOK PARISH COUNCIL

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**THESE ARE DRAFT MINUTES AND ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
AT THE NEXT MEETING ON 8th OCTOBER 2012**

**A MEETING OF BRAMSHOTT & LIPHOOK PARISH COUNCIL
FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE TOOK PLACE AT 8.00PM IN
THE HASKELL CENTRE, MIDHURST ROAD, LIPHOOK ON
MONDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2012**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Cllr M Croucher (Chairman), Cllr B Easton, Cllr J Poole, Cllr Hoskins and Cllr Jerrard. Cllr Evans, 5 members of the public and the press were also present.

66/12 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Croucher read out an announcement covering recording of the meeting, fire exits and hearing loop.

67/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology was received from Cllr Jordan

68/12 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

69/12 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2012. The minutes were unanimously approved.

70/12 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Easton confirmed she had completed the necessary paperwork to be a signatory on council cheques.

71/12 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Meeting adjourned

Public Questions not on the Agenda

A question was asked about any further developments on the clerk's suspension since the Council Meeting. Cllr Jerrard explained that in respect of motion 2, Councillors will be meeting a senior police officer next week.

Questions relating to business on the Agenda.

Mr Young asked whether the 10% maximum would apply to grants. It was stated that the old criteria would apply up to the point where the new grant arrangements are approved (minute 73/12)

Meeting Reconvened

72/12 APPROVAL OF GRANTS 2012/13

The clerk explained that grants to the value of £7,850 had so far been approved. At the meeting grants to the value of £19,760 had been requested against the remaining budget of £8,950. Difficult decisions would therefore need to be made. Not all the grants had been budgeted for as they were new such as that for the football club. In addition, a number of the organisations were seeking increases in their grant. It was suggested that we explore with St Mary's Church whether the council could provide support on grounds maintenance via our own team rather than providing a grant. It was also felt that with no budget provision for the football club and the size of the grant request that this be deferred until the new financial year. Other grants to be paid as budgeted as follows:

Liphook Carnival and Bonfire	£2,300
East Hampshire Citizens Advice Bureau	£6,000
Liphook Youth Club	£1,500
Senior Citizens Lunch Club	£989
St Johns Ambulance	£200

Proposed Cllr Croucher, Seconded Cllr Easton, Unanimously approved.

73/12 PETERSFIELD OPEN AIR SWIMMING POOL

Councillors considered a request from Petersfield Open Air Heated Swimming Pool for a regular grant of 2% of the Parish Precept. It was felt unlikely that many of the Parish residents would be using this facility. The economic climate and therefore pressure on the budget made this sum of about £4,054 unaffordable to the Council. It was agreed that the clerk should write to the organisation declining the request.

74/12 PARALYMPICS

Cllr Easton read out an emergency motion:

“Bramshott & Liphook Parish Council approve a sum of £50 to provide a gift token for Olivia Breen, a pupil at Bohunt School, to mark her achievements in securing a bronze medal at the recent Paralympics”

Following discussion it was agreed that the motion should be amended to read as follows:

“Bramshott & Liphook Parish Council approve a sum of £50 as donation towards sports Development (cup) to Bohunt School, to mark the achievements of Olivia Breen in securing a bronze medal at the recent Paralympics.”

Proposed Cllr Easton, Seconded Cllr Croucher, unanimously approved

75/12 NEW GRANT AID POLICY 2013/14

The clerk explained that the new grant policy had been written to improve the transparency and fairness of the system. All applications would be received by 31st October and be considered as part of the budget setting process for the following year. There would be no maximum set for grant requests, but any grant would have regard to affordability by the council and the balances held by organisations. Core status would disappear and each grant would be considered on its merits. There was discussion about some aspects of how this works including whether it should apply to individuals and whether there should be a maximum grant.

Proposal that new policy be adopted.

Proposed Cllr Croucher, Seconded Cllr Hoskins, Unanimously approved

76/12 BUDGET MONITORING

The chairman explained that future budget setting would be a more detailed process having regard to future repairs, replacements and renewals of property and equipment. This was being led by Cllr Jordan and work had already commenced on next year's budget.

The clerk explained the budget monitoring report. The council had set the budget before the grass cutting contract had terminated so there was a shortfall of over £20,000. However with careful managing of the budget the shortfall was now £9,500.

There was some concern about the cost of allotments compared to income received.

77/12 PROVISION OF HR ADVICE TO THE COUNCIL

Cllr Easton read out the following motion.

“To agree that the clerk sources at least 3 quotes, including one from HALC to include items such as HR advice and implementation, staff pensions, contracts, staff training and staff appraisals and report back to the F&P Committee”

It was questioned why HALC was being asked to tender as they provide free HR advice. It was stated that HALC would provide any service via an agent.

Proposed Cllr Easton, Seconded Cllr Hoskins, motion unanimously approved.

78/12 EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Motion: “In accordance with the provisions of section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted”

Proposed Cllr Croucher, Seconded Cllr Poole Unanimously approved.