

Freckleton Parish Council

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on Monday 16th January 2006

Present:

Councillor T. Threlfall (Chair)

Councillors Mrs S Delany, Mrs. J. Maguire, Mrs. E Willis, T Fiddler, and C Robb.

Apologies: Councillor Mrs. M. Dowling.

1) **Contracts for Open Spaces workload 2006-07**

a) **2006-07 Open Spaces Budget**

The Clerk summarised the proposals for the way the Open Spaces budget should be controlled during the financial year 2006/07. He suggested that there should be seven main Headings based on the workloads that have to be undertaken.

He indicated that the non-labour costs would be allocated based on the 2004-05 expenditure, as the amount spent in this year was very similar to the budget requested from Fylde Borough Council for 2006-07.

It was suggested that the Contractors hourly rate should be £10.00 per hour, except when the Contractors used their own equipment and then a rate of £11.00 should be used.

Resolved: That the following budget allocations be set for the 2006-07 financial year:-

Grass cutting	£18,926
Maintain Borders & Planting out	£8,567
Watering plants	£2,625
Keeping Village tidy	£5,500
Maintenance of Building	£11,550
Annual contact work	£5,809
Civic Events	£1,135
Indirect costs – insurance etc.	£15,000
Reserve	£2,011
Total	£71,123

Proposed by Councillor T Threlfall, seconded by Councillor Mrs. J Maguire and unanimously accepted.

b) **Contracts for the 2006-07 Financial year.**

Councillor Threlfall informed the meeting that Ted Threlfall did not want be considered for any work this year.

The Clerk suggested that, where possible, the labour costs should be set on a fixed price basis, to ensure efficient control on the expenditure. He had estimated figures for each of the new contracts, based on the work-study exercise undertaken in 2001 and the times recorded on the current year's worksheets.

Councillor Threlfall suggested that the contract for grass cutting should include a clause that states the contractor will be responsible for keeping the Council's machinery in good order and it will be cleaned and maintained after being used. In addition, the machinery should be used solely for Council business.

It was agreed that the contract for planting out should be the responsibility of Mr. G Danson, but he should be assisted by the Garlick brothers. Councillor Threlfall requested the contract should also indicate that Glyn should liaise with the Freckleton in Bloom committee to agree the format of the plants to be used.

It was agreed that the contracts should commence on 1st March 2006 and run for a 12 month period.

It was recognised that for the first year the contracts would be operated on a trial basis

and may have to be adjusted as the year progresses. It was agreed that this would be made clear to the Contractors.

Resolved: That the following contracts be allocated for the 2006-07 financial year.

Grass cutting	£13,100	Glyn Danson
Maintain Borders	£1,200	Glyn Danson
Planting Out	Hourly rate	Glyn Danson, assisted by Richard & John Garlick.
Watering plants	£2,625	John Garlick
Keeping Village tidy	£5,500	John Garlick
Maintenance of Building	Hourly rate	Richard & John Garlick & Glyn Danson

Proposed by Councillor T Threlfall, seconded by Councillor Mrs. J Maguire and unanimously accepted.

The Clerk agreed to interview the Contractors, with the Chairman of Open Spaces and then draw up the contracts.

2) Bush lane – Letting of allotment 2a

It was agreed that this should be offered to the next person on the list and it would be made clear that this would be a temporary letting and any buildings erected may have to be taken down if the Council require the land. The Clerk agreed to contact the next person on the list.

3) Correspondence

a) Lancashire Playing Fields Association annual subscription

It was agreed that this should be paid.

b) Cricket Club – provide a bench for the Youth club veranda

It was agreed that this request should be turned down, but the bench that is currently being moved, from the Ribble Ave end of the cricket field, should be fastened down.

4) Oak tree – memorial gardens.

The Chairman reported that the oak tree, that had been planted to commemorate the BAD2 visit, had died and he had provided a replacement tree. It was agreed if this tree did not survive then the Council should purchase a new tree, preferably in a pot, before the next BAD2 visit in July 2006.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed.....T Fiddler, Chairman.....

Date.....06/02/06.....