

It was proposed by Councillor Gilbert, seconded by Councillor Holmes and

RESOLVED

That advice be sought from Breckland and that the Handyman be asked if he would be prepared to be trained to carry out the functions.

41 COUNCIL DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Various Members had asked that the Council decision making process be looked at as Committees did not have delegated powers to make decisions which prolonged the workings of the Council and made it over bureaucratic and ineffective.

Members discussed the report and felt that not enough time had been given to debate it properly. It was felt that all Members should have input and some Members wanting Finance Committee brought back. This was questioned by some Members as to the need for the return of the Finance Committee and felt very strongly that individual Committees should have delegated power to spend their budgets, which had been approved by the Full Council without further scrutiny by a Finance Committee as it was already scrutinised by the Full Council at the end of each month and would cause unnecessary duplication as had previously happened with Finance and General Purposes.

Some Members felt that the present Committee system was overly bureaucratic and ineffective causing inordinate meetings and taking too long in waiting for decisions made by Committee to be ratified by the Full Council and in some cases leaving decisions too late to be acted upon.

One Member said the system had worked for years and New Members should accept this when joining the Council. It was also pointed out that savings could be made by leaving meetings promptly so as not to extend the Clerks time.

It was proposed by Councillor Gilbert, seconded by Councillor Holmes and

RESOLVED

That the report be distributed to all Members incorporating Finance with an explanation paper and put on the Full Council Agenda for June 2009.

42 COUNCILLOR SURGERIES

The Chairman suggested that the Clock Tower be used for Councillors to hold surgeries so that Councillors could interface with the public proactively

Members felt that the Clock Tower was not big enough to accommodate the public and that there was no disabled access. Some Members stated that surgeries had been tried before and failed through lack of public interest.

Other Councillors said they interacted with the public already either by making visits to the electorate's home, use their own home or speaking to them on the street, on a daily basis.

Other Members felt that it would reflect well on the Council to hold surgeries and those Councillors who wished to do so should put themselves forward.

It was agreed to discuss this at the Full Council in June 2009.

43 APPROVED CONTRACTORS

Members agreed that a list of approved contractors be agreed by the Full Council and that an advertisement be placed in the Wayland News for companies to apply to be added to the list.

44 MEMBERS ROOM

The Chairman suggested that Members should have a room at the Council Office with access to a computer with Internet access, telephone access and access to the Clerk and paperwork.

It was pointed out that Breckland had in the past allocated a room for Members and that it had ended up being used as a meeting room.

Some Members felt that it was not acceptable for Members to interrupt the normal workings of the staff and that Members should not have access to the computers in the office. It was pointed out that there was not a room available and that the small office was used by the Clerk to hold meetings in private with Councillors and other visitors.

It was agreed that this was not suitable at the moment.

Members felt that a web site should be a priority with a Members section included. The Clerk was to check on the status of the new web site.

The meeting ended at 8.40pm

JS