

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
22 JANUARY 2015**

Members Present: Derrick Ashley (Chairman) Heather Johnson
 Paul Osborn (Vice Chairman) Alan Searing
 John Bevan David Andrews (Sub for Valerie Metcalfe)

Apologies Received From: Valerie Metcalfe

In Attendance: Christine Hamilton, Ross Houston, Graham McAndrew, Gordon Nicholson,
 Mary Sartin

Officers Present: Shaun Dawson - Chief Executive
 Vivien Blacker - Corporate Director of Parklands & Venues
 Beryl Foster - Assistant Director of Legal & Property
 Simon Sheldon - Director of Finance & Resources
 Brian Daley - Assistant Director of Parklands & Venues
 Sandra Bertschin - Committee & Members' Services Manager

Part I

597 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

598 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2014 be approved and signed.

599 PUBLIC SPEAKING

No requests from the public to speak or present petitions had been received for this meeting.

600 2015/16 REVENUE BUDGET & LEVY Paper E/389/15

The report was introduced by Simon Sheldon, Director of Finance & Resources, highlighting the following:

- the priority areas and savings detailed in Appendix B;
- the required financing for the capital programme;
- the recommended minimum level of reserves;
- the proposal from the Budget Workshop to set aside £113K for the Community Access Fund;
- the options for reducing the levy and funding the Community Access Fund for one year;
- the risks and uncertainties facing the Authority; and
- the need to set a balanced budget.

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The Chairman sought comments and contributions from Members, highlighting that the proposal arising from the Budget Workshop had been finessed and proposing that continuation of the trend of a 2% reduction in the levy would symbolise to precepted local authorities that the Authority recognised the continuing financial pressures they faced.

All Members supported the Community Access Fund pilot scheme.

Some Members expressed concern that the proposal of the Budget Workshop for a 1% reduction in the levy and 1% to fund the Community Access Fund was not being endorsed. They considered that the Budget Workshop proposal was a compromise which achieved everyone's expectations, protected the Authority's reserves for such issues as Contaminated Land, and enabled the Authority to continue delivering high quality services

The Vice Chairman remarked that a prudent budget in terms of savings by the Trust in its first year of operation had been set and therefore there was scope to accommodate a 2% reduction in the levy, fund the Community Access Fund and protect delivery of Authority services for 2015/16.

The Chairman proposed a 2% decrease in the levy and to fund the Community Access Fund pilot scheme from reserves: For - 3, Against - 2, Abstention - 1.

- (1) a 2% reduction in the levy for 2015/16;**
- (2) additional net income, savings and priority areas as set out in Appendix B to Paper E/389/15;**
- (3) financing for the capital programme and revenue contribution to capital of £1.8m for 2015/16 as set out in paragraph 26 of Paper E/389/15;**
- (4) to introduce the Community Access Fund of £113K for a trial year to be funded from General Reserves in 2015/16;**
- (5) a net revenue budget of £11.192m;**
- (6) to fund £134K from General Reserves; and**
- (7) a minimum level of reserves of £4m be maintained as set out in paragraph 35 of Paper E/389/15 was approved.**

601 INSTALLATION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC CELLS ON BUILDINGS Paper E/390/15
 AT HOLYFIELD HALL FARM

The report was introduced by Beryl Foster, Assistant Director of Legal & Property Services.

It was advised that consultants had confirmed that the building structures would need to be strengthened but that this was not problematic.

In response to a Member's concern about loss of natural light from the southern roofs and the life span of the structures, it was advised that the cow sheds were open at both ends and the consultants had advised that the structures had a life span of 25 years.

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- (1) the installation of Photovoltaic Cells on buildings at Holyfield Hall Farm; and
- (2) release of capital for this project as outlined in the part 2 report, Paper E/391/15 was approved.

602 **EXEMPT ITEMS**

THAT based on the principles of Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the items of business below on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information again on the principles as defined in those sections of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act indicated:

Agenda Item No	Subject	Exempt Information Section Number
9	Installation of Photovoltaic Cells on Buildings at Holyfield Hall Farm	3

603 **INSTALLATION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC CELLS ON BUILDINGS AT HOLYFIELD HALL FARM** Paper E/391/15

The report was introduced by Beryl Foster, Assistant Director of Legal & Property Services.

- (1) **the release of the capital amount as outlined in paragraph 1 of Paper E/391/15 to undertake the installation of Photovoltaic Cells was approved.**

The Chairman requested a briefing note on the decreasing price of milk, automatic milking machines and the potential of added value produce.

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 11.00am and ended at 11.48am.