ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD TOWN COUNCIL GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Thursday **2nd April 2009** at Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood, starting at 18:30 hours.

PRESENT: Councillors: M Bright (Chairman)

E Butler, G Franklin, H David (first 30 mins.),

P Hedges, P Swallow

F Turner

In attendance: J Charin, Town Clerk

B Simon, Leisure & Entertainments Advisor

1 APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. M Heywood.

Mayor F Turner substituted for Cllr. J Heywood, from whom apologies were received and accepted.

All present sent there very best wishes to Cllr. M Heywood.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 February 2009 were approved and signed as a true record.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests.

4 REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Clerk outlined issues surrounding the very late submission of another bill from Sinclair Builders, relating to work on disabled access, dating from 2004. A meeting between Mr Sinclair, the Clerk and the Finance Officer had taken place in January 2009 with a view to settling the issue prior to the close of financial year 2008/9. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would write to Sinclair Builders enclosing a cheque for £1,694.27 [£1,441.93 + VAT at 17.5%], in full and final settlement. Cllr. H David kindly agreed to review the letter.

The Clerk reminded councillors that the grant requests from the Elstree and Borehamwood History Society and Hertsmere Community Action required consideration.

It was **agreed** to grant the Elstree and Borehamwood History Society its request for a £10,000 grant and for the Clerk to write expressing the Council's continuing support for the Society's work.

Some considerable discussion took place regarding the request made at the last Council meeting by Hertsmere Community Action for a doubling of their grant from £10k to £20k. Cllr. M Bright outlined the action he had taken over the last week to put Hertsmere Community Action in touch with other potential sources of funding. It was **agreed** to maintain the grant at its current level of £10k; however, the Council would be happy to review the situation in two years time if Hertsmere Community Action were unsuccessful in obtaining further funding elsewhere.

It was **agreed** that the Clerk would write to Hertsmere Community Action thanking Sue Pearlman for attending the Council meeting and informing her of this decision.

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5 REPORT OF THE LEISURE AND ENTERTAINMENTS ADVISOR

Ben Simon informed members that he had been asked to add further events to the Festival programme, including an Activities Day, a children's pool party at the Venue and a children's event at the library; and, that these would require further funding. He raised concerns that the existing budget may not be sufficient, particularly as some costs had already risen.

Cllr. G Franklin stated that irrespective of funding issues, time was short and consequently plans for expanding the Festival would be best left until next year.

It was **agreed** not to hold the proposed Activities Day this year, but it was **agreed** to proceed with the library day and pool event as they were relatively low cost and much needed children's events.

It was **agreed** that no further funding be provided for the Festival this year and that the Festival should keep within its proposed budget, but that a contingency of up to 10% of the £32k Festival budget be permitted.

Some discussion took place regarding the use of paid and unpaid volunteers. Cllr E Butler **recommended** asking special constables to assist with the Festival.

6 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Members received the financial statements for month ending 28th February 2009.

7 Exclusion of Press and Public

It was moved that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting, having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, publicity of which might be prejudicial to the public interest.

Current staffing issues were discussed.

8	CLOSURE
	Meeting closed at 21:00 hours.

Signed:		
Date:		