

NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATING – APPLICATION FOR DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report refers to an application for Discretionary Rate Relief from the Foulness Island Village Hall Management Committee in accordance with Section 47, Local Government Finance Act 1988.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Members are reminded that Local Authorities have “*Discretionary*” powers to grant Rate Relief at levels between 1% and 100% to organisations which are not established or conducted for profit. In such cases any relief granted is funded 75% from the Government’s Rate Pool and 25% locally from the Council’s General Fund.
- 2.2 In addition, power is given to “top up” relief to registered charitable organisations which by right are entitled to 80% *Mandatory* Rate Relief. In these cases, any Relief granted is funded 25% from the Government’s Rate Pool and 75% locally from the Council’s General Fund.
- 2.3 The Council’s *Discretionary* Rate Relief Policy was reviewed by the Corporate Resources Sub-Committee on 3 October 2000 (Minute 366/2000), and the recommendations contained in this report take account of the decisions reached by the Sub-Committee)
- 2.4 *Discretionary* Rate Relief is designed primarily for voluntary and non profit-making organisations. Legislation describes these organisations as not being established or conducted for profit and whose main objects are charitable, or otherwise philanthropic, religious, concerned with education, social welfare, science, literature or the fine arts. It also includes premises used for recreation which includes clubs, societies or other such like organisations.

3 FOULNESS ISLAND VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE RE: VILLAGE HALL CHURCH END, FOULNESS ISLAND

- 3.1 The Foulness Parish Council has for many years managed the Village Hall at Church End but has decided that the premises should now be

run by a Local Management Committee and has by Deed of Trust transferred the management to this Committee.

- 3.2 In addition, this new Management Committee has with effect from 16 May 2002 registered themselves as a *Charity*, with the Charity Commissioners, their Registration Number being 1092067.
- 3.3 The new Management Committee now become the new Rated Occupiers of the premises and as a registered Charity are by right entitled to 80% *Mandatory* Rate Relief which has been granted. Their application now is for 20% *Discretionary* “Top Up” Rate Relief.
- 3.4 The Deed of Trust requires that all income must be applied for the purposes of the Village Hall, its use being for the inhabitants of Foulness Island.
- 3.5 The Head of Service in making the recommendation below has taken account of the main objects and purposes of the Trust.
- 3.6 Members are also reminded that present Council policy is to provide *Discretionary* “top up” relief to Charities who receive 80% *Mandatory* Rate Relief where the Charities’ aims is to meet the welfare needs within the community.
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| • Rateable Value | £1,156 |
| • Description | Hall and premises |
| • Registered Charity | Yes, Registration No. 1092067 |
| • Rate Charge:-
period 16 May 2002 to
31 March 2003 | £440.59 |
| • Discretionary Relief | Recommended 20% “top-up” Rate Relief be granted from 16 May 2002 |
| • Financial Implication | £66.08 to be borne locally for the granting of Discretionary Rate Relief as above |

4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 If *Discretionary* “top up” Rate Relief is granted, the cost to the General Fund will be £66.08 for which there is budget provision.

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Section 47 Local Government Finance Act 1988 provides Local Authorities with the power to reduce or remit Business Rates Liability.

7 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 If Relief is granted, it will help to ensure that the facility provided for the Parish of Foulness Island will remain within the Community.

8 RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES:-**

that 20% *Discretionary* “top up” Rate Relief be granted to the Foulness Island Village Hall Management Committee with effect from 16 May 2002 until further notice. (HRHM)

S J Clarkson

Head of Revenue and Housing Management

Background Papers:

Local Government Finance Act 1988
Application forms from the applicants

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