

CLAY CROSS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Clay Cross Parish Council meeting held in the Clay Cross Parish Council office on Wednesday 5 February 2014 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillor G Morley Chair
Councillor M Holmes Vice Chair

Councillor A Jackson	Councillor F Rodgers
Councillor E Mansbridge	Councillor K Savidge
Councillor Mrs T Reader	Councillor D Skinner
Councillor A Reader	Councillor B Wright
Councillor P Riggott	

Also Present: Dawn Kershaw, Parish Clerk
Shelagh Shaw, Administrative Assistant

1345/14 Apologies for Absence

Parish Clerk reported that there were no Apologies for Absence.

1346/14 Precept 2014/15

Letters received from Bryan Mason, District Council Director of Operations (circulated) were discussed and noted. Councillor Riggott stated that he felt the content of the letters were double standard and that Bryan Mason was more or less saying that Parish Council's should not raise their Precept.

Councillor Morley gave a resume of details discussed at the Finance Sub-Committee meeting held on the 22 January 2014. Parish Clerk proceeded to go through the projected budgets and commented on the following:

Administration

Wages: our Accountant, John King has reviewed this budget and feels that it needs to be increased by £4,200 to take into account the extra bar staff hours and to allow for a 1% (8p per hour) pay rise for employees from 1 April 2014

Heating/Lighting/Water: budget increased based on spend to December

Watersafe Management Contract: due to the installation of a new 300 litre unvented domestic hot water cylinder and the de-commissioning of the water storage tank in the roof space, this budget has been reduced in line with the new Contract costs

Rates: increased by 3% in line with this years increase

General Expenditure inc Environment

Cenotaph Cleaning/Maintenance: this budget is for the Danesmoor War Memorial and has been reduced based on spend to December.

Purchase of Bar Stock: a new budget has been created for this purpose following the Parish Council taking back the management of the bar in September 2013

Section 137 and Community Expenditure

OAP TV Licences: based on spend to December, this budget has been reduced by £400 to £9,500

School Christmas Parties: this budget has been based on the maximum number of children at both Holmgate and Sharley Park and to enable the Parish Council to retain its £5 per child contribution

School Milk/Snacks: this budget has been based on the maximum number of children at both Holmgate and Sharley Park and to enable the Parish Council to retain its £2 per child contribution

Remembrance Day: this budget has been reduced by £300 to reflect only paying for one band at the Danesmoor service and two wreaths

Hanging Baskets: this budget has been increased slightly based on spend to December

Cemetery/Street Cleaning

Service Provision Costs: this budget has been increased by 1%

Rates: increased by 3% in line with this years increase

Heating/Lighting: increased by £400 to reflect spend to December

Cemetery Internments: zero this budget as the Parish Council do not receive this income. It was agreed to recommend that the Cemetery Fees & Charges are increased again by 2% (or nearest £) from 1 April 2014

Cemetery Lodge Rent: this budget has been based on the rent being increased again by 2.5% to £75.38 per week from £73.54 per week from 1 April 2014

Town Centre Toilets

Building Maintenance: increased by £200 to reflect spend to December

Rates: only £1,501.50 paid by the District Council this year so even with provision made for a 3% increase this budget has been reduced

Wages: our Accountant, John King has reviewed this and feels that a budget of £4,800 is appropriate allowing for our employee to receive a 1% (8p per hour) pay rise from 1 April 2014

Cleaning Materials: this budget has been based on current spend to December

Playing Fields/Play Areas

Ground Maintenance to NEDDC: this budget has been increased by 1% based on this years actual cost of £24,713 plus vat

Kenning Park/Meadow Farm Fishing Pond

Councillor Mansbridge requested that Kenning Park be taken into consideration with the Fishing Pond - General Maintenance budget increased to £1,000 so that projects can be considered in this area next year

Special Expenditure/Projects

It was felt that any Special Expenditure/Projects should be funded via the Capital Projects account. The possibility of 'topping up' this account could be discussed once the year end balance is known

Income

All income budgets have been amended where necessary based on current income to December.

Resolved That:

- 1. wages to be increased by a flat rate of 15p per hour for all employees as from 1 April 2014. Parish Clerk to amended budgets appropriately***
- 2. following recommendation from the Finance Sub-Committee, the cost to clean up the War Memorial at St Bartholomews Church is taken from the Capital Projects account – it was noted that this would be a one off project this year***
- 3. the Parish Clerk contact Tupton Hall School to request the number of children from the Parish who have taken part this year in their 'Cool Stuff for Kids' holiday activity programme so the Parish Council contribution can be discussed further***
- 4. following a vote of 6 in favour and 2 against, the Parish Hanging Baskets budget is increased to £6,200***

- 5. the Parish Clerk make arrangements with the Co-operative Bank to move £50,000 from the Business Select 14 Day account into the Capital Projects account**
- 6. all other budgets, expenditure and income contained therein and any recommendations from the Finance Sub-Committee be approved and accepted**
- 7. the Clay Cross Parish Council Funding for 2014/15 is set at £215,920**