

Freckleton Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on Thursday 8th December 2005

Present:

Councillor T Fiddler (Chair)

Councillors Mrs M Whitehead, Mrs M Foster, Mrs. M. Dowling, Mrs. J. Maguire, M/s D. Morriss, Mrs. E Willis, L Rigby, T. Threlfall, St J Greenhough and C Robb.

Apologies: Councillor Mrs S Delany.

1) Declaration of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

2) a) To agree the Precept budget for 2006/07

The Clerk gave a review of the proposed budget for 2006/07.

It was agreed that Section 137 grants should continue to be made to the Fylde Hospice and the Air Ambulance charities, as both these organisations were of benefit to the whole of the community in the village.

Councillor M/s Morriss queried whether the subscription to the LAPTC would be reduced next year because of the change in the method of charging. The Clerk indicated his understanding of the change was that there would be a slight increase for the larger Parishes. He agreed to check this out with the LAPTC.

Resolved: That a Precept budget of £9,450 be set for the year 2006/07 Financial year. – see Appendix A.

Proposed by Councillor St.J Greenhough, seconded by Councillor T Threlfall and unanimously accepted.

The request for the Council to contribute towards the luncheon for the BAD2 2006 re-union was accepted. The Clerk agreed to write to them to obtain their plans.

The request for a donation from the Bowland Pennine Mountain rescue team was rejected, as this did not directly benefit the community of the village.

b) To agree the Open Spaces Budgets for 2006-2007

The Clerk indicated that the current year's budget has been increased by 3% to allow for inflation.

Resolved: That an Open Spaces budget of £71,123 be set for the year 2006/07 Financial year. – see Appendix B.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. J Maguire, seconded by Councillor T Threlfall and unanimously accepted.

It was agreed that the wages for the booking Clerk, at the AWS, should be charged to Open Spaces and not the Community development account.

The Clerk suggested that the break down of the budget should be by the various work schedules, instead of the current allocation. This would give a better control on expenditure. This was unanimously accepted.

3) Staff matters – to review the Open Spaces supervisor's interview

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Open Spaces supervisor had recently been interviewed regarding his attitude to work. During the course of the interview, it was suggested that he should work as a contractor instead of being employed by the Council. The Supervisor was agreeable to this suggestion.

The Clerk stated that this would allow a tighter control on the expenditure, as payments

would only be made for work actually completed (as with the other Contractors). Holidays, sick pay and other expenses related to the employee would no longer be payable.

The Supervisor would be given voluntary redundancy and then offered an annual contract, for the some of the Open Spaces workload. The contract would be drawn up to ensure there was continuity of work, with a clause to indicate that the contract may be terminated by either party by giving one months notice.

The Clerk indicated that there would be seven work schedules, that would form the basis of the contracts and these would be allocated to the most suitable Contractor. The terms and conditions and the hourly rate would be the same of all the Contractors employed.

Resolved: That the Open Spaces Supervisor be given voluntary redundancy from a mutual agreed date and then offered an annual contract.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. J Maguire, seconded by Councillor T Threlfall and unanimously accepted.

The Clerk agreed to meet with the Open Spaces supervisor and report back to Council. The Clerk suggested that the seven work schedules should form the basis of the sub headings within the budget controls.

4) To review the presentation of the Accounts

It was agreed that the Accounts should continue to be presented in the current format. - See appendix C.

5) To approve the expenditure for an extension to the Gardener's store

Councillor Threlfall reported that a quotation of £5,129 plus VAT, from Structural Manufacturing Services was, by far, the cheapest quote for the erection of an extension to the Gardener's work store. Additionally, the Freckleton in Bloom committee were prepared to donate £2,000 towards this cost, as they would like to use part of it for the storage of their equipment.

Resolved: That the Extension to the gardener's storeroom should be undertaken within this Financial year.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. J Maguire, seconded by Councillor Greenhough and unanimously accepted.

6) To agree the Capital expenditure for 2006-2007

The following items were considered:-

1 Parish Plan - New Notice Board

It was agreed that a quote should be obtained from Kirkham prison for a new notice board, to incorporate a map of the village.

2 Parish Plan - Temporary accommodation for a Youth Centre

A meeting is being arranged with the village hall committee.

3 Parish Plan - New Multi-purpose Centre

A meeting is being arranged with Community Futures.

4 Parish plan - Nature Trail towards Naze point

It was agreed that the LCC should be contacted, requesting that this nature trail be developed and suggesting that Parish Council will assist with the cost.

5 Bowling Club - Water supply piping to be replaced. + New meter on outside wall.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Bowling club requesting that they obtain an estimate for this work.

6 Bowling Club - Grant for part payment of a new Aeration machine. - £1,750

The Chairman suggested that the sporting sections should be treated the same with regard to financial support. It was agreed that no action should be taken with this request.

- 7 Club day committee - Improve sewer drains on Bush lane playing field
It was agreed that the cost of a new sewer should be obtained.
The cost of inspecting the drains, by camera, should also be obtained.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed.....Trevor Fiddler.....

Date.....12/12/05.....

Appendix A

Precept 2006/2007

Clerk's salary	£3,800
Insurance	£800
Stationery	£600
Expenses	£650
LAPTC	£700
Audit fees	£750
Chair allowance	£100
Training	£150
Civic Functions	£600
Grants	
Section 137	£900
Equipment	£200
Election expenses - Reserve	£200
Total	£9,450

Open spaces 2006/2007

Headings

Wages	£20,079
Sub Contractors	£10,609
Repairs & Maintenance	£16,092
Energy	£5,092
Equipment	
Furniture & Materials	£2,737
Miscellaneous e.g. Insurance	£7,119
Freckleton in Bloom	£9,395
Total	£71,123

Income & Expenditure Account Appendix C

Month Oct. 2005

Open Balances	
Current	£9,957.88
Savings	£83,707.37

	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Precept	£9,450.00	£5,904.75	£3,545.25
Open Spaces	£69,051.20	£62,372.39	£6,678.81
Allotments	£1,076.50	£1,002.80	£73.70
Community Dev.	£16,947.13	£3,055.04	£13,892.09
Parish Plan	£2,023.00	£4,139.50	-£2,116.50
Playground Fund	£1,310.37	£0.00	£1,310.37
VAT	£7,476.74	£4,560.21	£2,916.53
Total	£107,334.94	£81,034.69	£119,965.50

Closing Balances	
Current	£33,370.80
Savings	£85,721.39
sub total	£119,092.19
Unpresented cheques 2004-05 cleared	£6.00
Unpresented cheques	-£867.31
Total	£119,965.50