

Freckleton Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on Thursday 30th November 2006

Present:

Councillor T. Threlfall (Chair)

Councillors Mrs M Whitehead, Mrs M Foster, Mrs. M. Dowling, Mrs. E Willis, L Rigby, T Fiddler, St J Greenhough and C Robb.

Apologies: Councillors Mrs. J. Maguire, M/s D. Morriss and Mrs S Delany.

1) **Declaration of Interest.**

There were no declarations of interest.

2) **a) To agree the Precept budget for 2007/08**

The Clerk gave a review of the expenditure to date in the current financial year and the projected expenditure for the remainder of the year. He indicated that the proposed budget for 2007/08 should be based on these figures with an increase for inflation.

Resolved: That a Precept budget of £9,750 be set for the year 2007/08 Financial year. – see Appendix A.

Proposed by Councillor T Fiddler, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M Foster and unanimously accepted.

The Clerk reported that the Assessor has indicated that a payment of £9,876 would be made in respect of the Claim for the fire at the old Youth Centre. Councillor Rigby enquired whether there would be any payment for the demolition and removal of the building. The Clerk stated that the payment was based on an insured figure of £10,126, less an excess of £250. The demolition would have to be met from the payment figure, leaving a net balance of £6,876.

b) **To agree the Open Spaces Budgets for 2007-2008**

Again, the Clerk gave a review of the expenditure to date in the current financial year and the projected expenditure for the remainder of the year. He indicated that the proposed budget for 2007/08 should be based on these figures with an increase for inflation. He stated that the indirect costs had increased because of the extra costs on the wages bill (his own hours had been increased and the AWS clerk's wages were now included in Open Spaces). In addition, the Council was paying part of the electricity costs at the Rawstorne centre. It was agreed that the Rawstorne centre should be invited to attend a future meeting to progress this issue.

Resolved: That an Open Spaces budget of £75,664 be set for the year 2007/08 Financial year. – see Appendix B.

Proposed by Councillor T Fiddler, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M Foster and unanimously accepted.

3) **To agree on alternative Precept budget for 2007/08, inclusive of Open Spaces expenditure (i.e. an Equitable taxation Budget)**

Resolved: That an Alternative Precept budget of £85,414 be set for the year 2007/08 Financial year.

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

4) To review the Open Spaces contracts for the forthcoming year.

The Clerk reported that the use of Contractors to do the Open Spaces work had, in the main, been successful and the fixed price contract procedure had worked well.. Only one contract was not fixed priced and this had run over budget. He recommended that fixed price contracts, for the workloads, should again be offered for the next financial year. He suggested that four contractors should be invited to quote, the two existing contractors plus Alan Newsham and Fylde Borough Council.

Resolved: That the Open Spaces work should be put out to quotations for the next financial year.

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

5) To agree the Capital expenditure for 2007-2008

The following items were considered:-

- 1 Open spaces – Replacement Tractor/Mower - £15,000
It was agreed that this should be referred to Fylde Borough Council.
- 2 Open Spaces – Machine for Picking up broken glass.
Agreed in principle and the Clerk to obtain the cost of a new machine.
- 3 Open Spaces – Upgrade the unit for watering the flowerbeds.
Agreed in principle and the Clerk to obtain the cost of upgrading the machinery.
- 4 Buildings – New fence on the south side of the Bowling green.
It was agreed that Bowling section should obtain costs before this item is considered. The Clerk agreed to contact the Bowling section.
It was suggested that the Pyracantha bushes, being removed from the Balderstone road play area, should be replanted in this area to stop youths trying to get into the Bowling green area.
- 5 Open Spaces – Replacement bushes for Balderstone play area.
The clerk reported that he had received a quote of approximately £700 to replace the Pyracantha bushes with 4ft Laurels. It was agreed that these should be replaced immediately.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed.....T Threlfall, Chairman.....

Date.....04th December 2006.....

Appendix A

Precept 2007/2008

Clerk's salary	£5,000
Insurance	£650
Stationery	£400
Expenses	£700
LAPTC	£600
Audit fees	£650
Chair allowance	£100
Training	£150
Civic Functions	£400
Section 137	£900
Equipment	£200
Election expenses - Reserve	£0

Total **£9,750**

Appendix B

Open spaces 2007/2008**Headings**

Grass cutting	£17,440
Borders & Plants	£10,303
Watering	£2,659
Cleansing	£5,665
Building Maintenance	£8,350
Outside Contractors	£7,690
Civic Events	£1,413
Indirect Costs	£22,144

Total **£75,664**