

Freckleton Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on Monday 19th November 2007

Present:

Councillor Mrs. M. Dowling, (Chair)

Councillors Mrs M Whitehead, Mrs. E Willis, Mrs S Delany, Linda Burn, L Rigby, T Fiddler, T. Threlfall, St J Greenhough P Quinn and C Robb.

Apologies: Councillor Mrs M Foster.

1) **Declaration of Interest.**

There were no declarations of interest.

2) **a) To agree the Precept budget for 2008/09**

The Clerk reported that the Finance sub-committee had reviewed the expenditure to date in the current financial year and the projected expenditure for the remainder of the year. In addition, he stated that he had received an invoice, from Fylde Borough Council, for £1817.65, in respect of the costs for the May 2007 Parish Council elections in the East ward. He indicated that the proposed budget for 2008/09 should be based on these figures with an increase for inflation.

Resolved: That a Precept budget of £11,917 be set for the year 2008/09 Financial year. – see Appendix A.

Proposed by Councillor Linda Burn, seconded by Councillor Mrs. S Delany and unanimously accepted.

Councillor Fiddler suggested that £1,000 should be included in the future years Precept budget, to pay for any elections costs in the future.

b) **To agree the Open Spaces Budgets for 2008-2009**

Again, the Clerk reported that the Finance sub-committee had reviewed 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 2008/09 should be based on these figures with an increase for inflation. He stated that he had discussed the workloads with the Contractors and where there had been an increase in the work this had been reflected in the budgets. In addition, the Rawstorne centre electricity bill had increased substantially and therefore the indirect costs had been increased as the Council was paying most of these costs. It was agreed that the Chairman of Fabrics should meet with the Rawstorne centre to resolve this matter.

Resolved: That an Open Spaces budget of £79,034 be set for the year 2008/09 Financial year. – see Appendix B.

Proposed by Councillor L Rigby, seconded by Councillor St J Greenhough and unanimously accepted.

3) **To agree on alternative Precept budget for 2008/09, inclusive of Open Spaces expenditure (i.e. a Differential taxation Budget)**

Resolved: That an Alternative Precept budget of £90,951 be set for the year 2008/09 Financial year.

Proposed by Councillor L Burn, seconded by Councillor Mrs. L Willis and accepted by a majority of ten for and one abstention.

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

The Clerk reported that he was pleased with the work that had been undertaken by the Garlick brothers and apart from the additional workloads that had been identified, the pricing had been successful. In addition, the Contractors had undertaken repair work on the machinery, at a much lower costs than the service engineer. This had resulted in the machinery being in better condition and the costs had been kept down.

Councillor Fiddler suggested that the contracts should be extended for a three year period, in order to give some continuity to the workload and the new contracts should include increases for inflation, each year.,

Resolved: That the Open Spaces work should be offered to the Garlick Brothers for the next three years and the contracts for 2008/09 should be for £28,630 (see Appendix C).

Proposed by Councillor T Threlfall, seconded by Councillor Linda Burn and unanimously accepted.

5) To agree the Capital expenditure for 2008-2009

The following items were considered:-

- 1 Open spaces – Replacement Tractor/Mower - £20,000
It was agreed that this should be referred to Fylde Borough Council.
- 2 Open Spaces – Repair to the AWS area - £10,500.
Agreed in principle.
- 3 Open Spaces – Replace 50% of the trees at the Western end of the cricket field.
Agreed in principle. The Clerk to obtain quotes.
- 4 Community Development – Purchase land adjacent to 9, Preston Old road.
It was agreed in principle subject to the cost. It was suggested that the owner of 9, Preston old Road, Mr. David Barlow should be invited to the next meeting to discuss his plans for this area.
- 5 Buildings/Open Spaces – Replace Balderstone Road noticeboard with the one adjacent to the library and create a new feature at the library area.
Agreed in principle subject to cost.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed..... Mrs M Dowling, Chairman.....

Date.....3rd December 2007.....

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|-------------------|----------------|
| Clerk's salary | £5,000 |
| Insurance | £650 |
| Stationery | £400 |
| Expenses | £800 |
| LAPTC | £600 |
| Audit fees | £650 |
| Chair allowance | £100 |
| Training | £100 |
| Civic Functions | £700 |
| Section 137 | £900 |
| Equipment | £200 |
| Election expenses | £1817 |
| Total | £11,917 |

Appendix B

Open spaces 2008/2009

Headings

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Grass cutting | £19,951 |
| Borders & Plants | £11,580 |
| Watering | £3,229 |
| Cleansing | £6,201 |
| Building Maintenance | £5,062 |
| Outside Contractors | £7,727 |
| Civic Events | £1,456 |
| Indirect Costs | £24,188 |
| Total | £79,034 |

Appendix C

Contractors 2008/2009

Headings

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Grass cutting | £13,668 |
| Borders & Plants | £5,700 |
| Watering | £3,262 |
| Cleansing | £6,000 |
| Building Maintenance | £10.30 per hour |
| Total | £28,630 |