

Freckleton Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on Monday 17th November 2008

Present:

Councillor Mrs S Delany, (Chair)

Councillors Mrs M Whitehead, Mrs. E Willis, Mrs. M. Dowling, Mrs M Foster, Linda Burn, L Rigby, , St J Greenhough P Quinn and C Robb.

Apologies: Councillors T Fiddler and T. Threlfall (another meeting)

It was resolved that the reasons for absence should be accepted.

2) Declaration of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

3) To approve the cost of living increase for the Open Spaces contracts for 2009/10

It was resolved that the contract be increase by 5%.

4) To agree the Precept budget, including Open Spaces, for 2009/10

It was resolved that Precept budget of £94,258, previously circulated, be approved. – see appendix A attached.

5) To consider applying for a grant from the landfill Communities fund

The Clerk reported that grants of up to £15k are available from this scheme for community projects within a 10 miles radius of a land fill site.

It was resolved that the Council should apply for a grant of £10,000 to be used for the re-surfacing of the AWS area.

6) To consider the Capital expenditure proposals for 2009/10

a) Resurfacing the AWS area - £10.5k

The Clerk confirmed that this has already been approved.

b) Replace the Tractor/grass cutter - £18k

It was resolved that the Council agrees in principle to the tractor being replaced.

The Clerk agreed to obtain detailed costs and report back.

c) Purchase a new diesel tank for storing red diesel

The Clerk reported that the supplier was now charging for the barrels when red diesel was purchased. The cost per litre would be reduced by approximately 25p if the Council had its own storage tank and it would pay for itself within 3 years.

It was resolved that a storage tank, for red diesel, be purchased

d) Replace pathway in the Cenotaph

The clerk reported that the pathway is in need of repair and he was obtaining quotes.

It was suggested that this project would be reviewed when the costs were obtained.

e) Replace the water system on the Croft Butts lane Allotments - £3.3K

It was resolved that the Council agrees in principle to the water supply being replaced and awaits further estimates.

7) To consider the banking arrangements

a) Community Development fund.

The Clerk reported that discussions have been held with the Natwest bank and the £92k savings would not be covered by the Banking compensation scheme, as the Council is treated as a Corporation.

The Clerk agreed to check for more secure savings accounts, with a view to spreading the savings into more than one account and report back.

b) Rawstorne Trust Savings account

The Clerk reported that although this money is in respect of the Rawstorne trust, it is held with the Natwest in the name of the Parish Council and as such would not be covered by the Banking Compensation scheme. He recommended that the money be transferred to a new account in the name of the Rawstorne trust fund so that it would be covered by the scheme.

It was resolved that the Rawstorne trust saving monies be transferred in to an account in the Trust's name.

It was suggested that the Clerk arrange a meeting with the Hargreaves Hale, Brokers to discuss the financial implications of all the Councils savings. The Clerk agreed to progress.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed.....Mrs. S Delany, Chairman.....

Date.....01/12/08.....

2009/10 Budget proposal and Income summary

General Expenditure	2009-10	2008-09	Explanation of difference
Wages	£17,600	£17,000	Cost of living increase
Insurance	£9,000	£8,016	Premium increases
Stationery	£400	£400	
Postage/telephone/Internet & travelling	£1,500	£1,500	
LAPTC	£600	£600	
Audit fee	£650	£650	
Chair Allow	£100	£100	
Training	£200	£100	Additional training requirements.
Civic functions	£2,200	£2,156	extra toilets required for club day
Election		£1,817	One off expenses
Reserve			
equipment	£300	£200	Replace computer?
Grants	£500	£0	Parochial church Council grant
Section137	£480	£900	Less Parochial church Council grant + wreaths
Open Spaces Account			
Grass cutting	£20,571	£19,591	Cost of living increases
Borders & Plants	£12,500	£11,580	Cost of living increases + Hawthorns
Watering	£2,865	£2,729	Cost of living increases
Cleansing	£6,511	£6,201	Cost of living increases
Maintaining Buildings	£5,315	£5,062	Cost of living increases
Organisations	£8,113	£7,727	Cost of living increases
Electric & rates	£4,853	£4,622	Cost of living increases
Total	£94,258	£90,951	