

Freckleton Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on Monday 16th November 2009

Present:

Councillor P Quinn, (Chair)

Councillors Mrs M Whitehead, Mrs. E Willis, Mrs S Delany, T. Threlfall, L Rigby and St J Greenhough.

- 1) **Apologies:** Councillors Mrs. M. Dowling and C Robb, (sick), Linda Burn, T Fiddler and Mrs M Foster.

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

- 2) **Declaration of Interest.**

There were no declarations of interest.

- 3) **To consider a donation to the Bowland Pennine Mountain rescue – searchlight fund**

It was resolved that no donation should be given

- 4) **To approve the cost of living increase for the Open Spaces contracts for 2010/11**

A member stated that the watering and grass cutting workloads have changed considerably with the introduction of more modern equipment. Therefore, the contracts should be renegotiated.

It was resolved that these contracts should not be increased.

In addition, it was resolved that the other contracts should be increase by 2%.

- 5) **To consider a donation to the Freckleton Village Memorial Hall Charity, Capital fund, for the next three years.**

It was resolved that the Parish Council should support this request in principle.

The amount to be allocated in the next financial year will be agreed under item 6 – 2010-11 Budgets.

- 6) **To agree the Precept Budget, including Open Spaces expenditure, for 2010-2011**

A member emphasized that the Council should not be seen to increase the Precept budget in excess of the cost of living.

All sections of the budget were discussed in detail and the following resolutions were passed:-

- a) It was resolved that £1,000 should be donated to the Freckleton Village Memorial Hall Charity, Capital fund.

The amount would be reviewed each year until the fund has been established.

- b) It was resolved that the each church should be asked to pay for the Remembrance Sunday wreath.

- c) It was resolved that the Cricket, football and Bowls sections additional expenditure should be capped at £1,700.

In addition, a member suggested that the sections should notify the Clerk before any work or materials are ordered and any expenditure above the capped limit should be paid for by the sections.

- d) It was resolved that the Playground equipment maintenance costs should be capped at £1,700.

A member suggested that the Clerk should write to FBC to request that the maintenance costs are kept within this limit.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Greenhough for his kind donation of food, drinks and presents to the Children's party, held after the Tree lighting and Carol service.

It was resolved that the Precept Budget, including Open Spaces expenditure, for 2010-11, should be set at £96,797. – see appendix A

7) To consider the Capital expenditure proposals for 2010-2011

It was resolved that up to £6,000 should be spent on providing new heating facilities in the Band, Scouts and Guides rooms.

The Clerk reported that he had received a request for the hire of the safety barriers, at 50p per barrier, per week.

It was resolved that the barriers should be hired out, initially, at a charge of 50p per barrier per week.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed.....Mrs. M. Whitehead, Chairman.....

Date.....7th December 2009.....

General Expenditure	2010-11	2009-10	Appendix A
Wages	£20,000	£17,600	
Insurance	£9,500	£9,000	
Stationery	£450	£400	
Postage/telephone/Internet & travelling	£1,600	£1,500	
LAPTC	£600	£600	
Audit fee	£650	£650	
Chair Allow	£100	£100	
Training	£200	£200	
Civic functions	£500	£2,200	
Election			
Reserve			
equipment	£300	£300	
Grants	£1,500	£500	
Section137	£420	£480	
Open Spaces Account			
Grass cutting	£20,571	£20,571	
Borders & Plants	£12,750	£12,500	
Watering	£2,865	£2,865	
Cleansing	£6,641	£6,511	
Maintaining Buildings	£5,000	£5,315	
Organisations			
cricket	£1,700	£1,650	
football	£1,700	£1,650	
bowls	£1,700	£1,800	
club day	£2,000	£1,000	
Hedge cutting	£350	£313	
Playground maintenance	£1,700	£1,700	
Electric & rates	£4,000	£4,853	
Total	£96,797	£94,258	
Overall increase -	2.69%		