

Freckleton Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on Wednesday 5th January 2011

Present:

Councillor Linda Burn, (Chair)

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

Apologies: Councillors Mrs S Delany, (sick), St J Greenhough (sick), P Quinn (other business) and J Winstanley (sick).

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

1. Declaration of Interest.

All members, as trustees, declared an interest in the Croft Butts and Bush lane allotments.

Councillor T Fiddler declared an interest in the Cricket section.

Councillors T Fiddler and L Rigby declared an interest in the Bowling section.

Councillor T Threlfall declared an interest in the Football section.

Councillors Mrs. Foster and Mrs. Willis declared a prejudicial interest in the Bush lane allotments.

2. To Consider renewing the Open Spaces Contracts for 2011-12

The Clerk reported that LCC had terminated the grass cutting contract with effect from 31/03/11 and he had submitted an “expression of interest” for the contract to be allocated to Freckleton PC from 01/04/11. He confirmed that LCC will make the decision prior to beginning of April '11. The Clerk recommended that the new Open spaces contracts should not be agreed until after the decision from LCC.

It was resolved, in principle, that John Garlick should be offered the Open Spaces contracts for the next three years.

It was further resolved that the contracts should be re-negotiated after the decision has been reached by LCC.

3. To approve the cost of living increase for the Open Spaces Contracts for 2011-12

It was resolved that there should be no cost of living increase in the 2011-12 Open Spaces contracts.

4. To agree the Precept Budget, including Open Spaces expenditure, for 2011-2012

It was resolved not to increase the overall Precept budget, including Open Spaces expenditure.

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

- a) Salaries – It was resolved that Julie Winstanley’s hours should be increased to 10 hours per week (from 8) and she be moved onto the Scale SP17 with no percentage increase, based on the figure quoted in the 2009/2010 pay scales. (£4,549, pro rata for hours worked)

Ken Armistead’s salary would be reduced by the same amount as the financial increase to Julie’s salary.

- b) Expenses - It was resolved that Julie Winstanley should be paid 25% of the broadband costs plus re-imburement for telephone calls.

- c) Organisations - It was resolved that the following limits should be set for the sections Open spaces expenditure:-

Cricket - £1,700,

Football- £600

Bowls - £2,200

It was further resolved that the overall Precept budget should be set at £96,797 – see Appendix A

5. To consider a review of the Allotment rents

The Clerk reported that he had obtained comparative figures for allotments charges in the rest of Lancashire and Freckleton were well below the other authority charges. In addition, over the last three years there had been a shortfall of £4K between the income and expenditure for the Croft Butts allotments and £167 for the Bush lane allotments.

It was resolved that the Croft Butts allotments should be increased to £40 per annum per full plot, with the half plots being charged at £20 per annum, with effect from 01/10/11.

It was further resolved that the Bush lane allotments should not be increased in the next financial year, due to the work being carried by United Utilities.

6. To consider the lease arrangements for the Guides/Brownies hut.

The Clerk reported that the Guides/Brownies had requested that they would prefer to pay a maintenance rent for the use of the hut, rather than the peppercorn rent currently being paid. This would mean that the Council would have to pay for the running of the building, including Fire and safety requirements and internal maintenance costs.

It was resolved that the existing arrangements, of paying a £1 peppercorn rent, should stand.

7. To consider the Capital expenditure proposals for 2011-2012

It was resolved that the following Capital expenditure proposals should be approved:-

- a) Two new tennis nets, including trolleys £1,500
- b) Assistance with the new supports around the bowling green £2,000
- c) Improved drainage on the Junior Football pitch £5,000

The Clerk reported that the three electric meters at the Rawstone centre had been removed and replaced with a single self reading meter. This meant that he was unable to isolate the AWS area electric charges from the main building use.

It was resolved that, from 1st March 2011, the Rawstone centre will be charged the full amount for the electricity consumed and they will be allowed to keep the money from the slot meter.

The Clerk suggested that the Rawstone centre members should be charged 50% of the AWS rental fee. In addition, the Council should donate 50% of the non-members fees to the Rawstone centre to financially help support the Centre.

It was resolved that, with effect from 1st April 2011, Rawstone Centre members should be charged 50% of the AWS rental fee.

It was further resolved that Council would donate 50% of the non-members fees to the Rawstone Centre to financially help support the Club.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed.....Cllr. C Robb.....

Date.....7th February 2011.....

General Expenditure	2011-12	2009-10	Appendix A
Wages	£20,000	£20,000	
Insurance	£9,500	£9,500	
Stationery	£450	£450	
Postage/telephone/Internet & travelling	£1,800	£1,600	
LAPTC	£600	£600	
Audit fee	£650	£650	
Chair Allow	£100	£100	
Training	£100	£200	
Civic functions	£500	£500	
Election			
Reserve	£700		
equipment	£200	£300	
Grants	£1,500	£1,500	
Section137	£420	£420	
Open Spaces Account			
Grass cutting	£20,571	£20,571	
Borders & Plants	£14,200	£12,750	
Watering	£2,865	£2,865	
Cleansing	£6,641	£6,641	
Maintaining Buildings	£5,000	£5,000	
Organisations			
cricket	£1,700	£1,700	
football	£600	£1,700	
bowls	£2,200	£1,700	
club day	£2,000	£2,000	
Hedge cutting	£350	£350	
Playground maintenance	£1,800	£1,700	
Civic events	£350		
Electric & rates	£2,000	£4,000	
Total	£96,797	£96,797	
Overall increase -	0%		