

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCILS FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 12TH JANUARY 2004 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE METHODIST PRIMARY ROOM

PRESENT: Cllrs. Boyle, Crawford, Mrs Cresswell (Chairman), Cresswell, Gardner, Poole, Shead, Street & Whiteside

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs K Bell (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Bearman & Mrs Curry

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllrs. Mrs Cresswell and Cresswell declared an interest in the consideration of the budgetary allocation in respect of the Sports Hall and Playing Fields and did not participate in the decision making process on that item.

2. TO CONSIDER THE PCs BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2004/05

As the PC was required to notify TMBC of its precept requirement for the financial year 2004/05 by 23rd January, the Clerk had prepared and circulated to member's the following:

- a. Details of expenditure for 2002/03
- b. Details of expenditure for the period up to 31.12.03 less items which would appear on the PCs bank statement for the period up to 31.12.03, which had not been, received at the time the estimates were prepared.
- c. Details of anticipated expenditure for the period up to 31st March 2004.
- d. Suggested budgetary estimates for the financial year 2004/05. Within the estimates the following allowances had been made.

Financial arrangements with Parish Councils (S136 concurrent functions).

1.	Playing Field	
2.	Village Halls	£5,830
3.	Churchyard	£2,363
4.	Lighting	£1,367
5.	Open Spaces (Pound Scheme Debt Charge)	£0
Total Financial Arrangements with TMBC		£9,560

Note: Expenditure in respect of items 1 – 5 inclusive is met & fixed by the TMBC (Section 136 Concurrent functions) under the Scheme of Financial Arrangements with PC's. Members will need to decide how to split the amount allocated towards the Playing Fields & Village Halls. The Clerk reported that the sum of approximately £312 would be outstanding on the PWLB loan in respect of the Pound Scheme debt charge however it was noted that in TMBC's notification of the grant awarded under S136 this had not been included. In previous years the PC had received the sum of £668 towards the debt and at the time the estimates were prepared, an enquiry was taking place to ensure that the PC received an additional sum of £312 in which case the total amount received under S136 would be increased from £9,560 to £9,872.

Parish Council Budgetary Requirements for the year 2002/2003

6.	Sports Hall	£12,794
7.	Lighting (Parish Council)	£3,933
8.	Loan Repayment (Playing Field)	£1,289
9.	Grasscutting (Village)	£776
10.	Churchyard (in addition to TMBC funding)	£657
11.	Audit Fees	£600
12.	Bank Charges	£75
13.	Insurance	£500
14.	Subscriptions	£920
15.	Hire of Hall	£429
16.	Stationery/postage	£840
17.	Office Equipment/telephone	£923

18.	Clerks Salary	£8,693
19.	Clerks NI & Superannuation	£794
20.	Office Costs	£1,292
21.	Parish Council Website	£0
22.	Village Design Statement	£0
23.	Free Resource	£1,454
24.	Village Litter Clearing	£2,000
25.	Contingency Fund	£7,500
26.	Election Expenses	£0
27.	New Lighting Provision	£1,000
28.	Allotments	£0
29.	Garden of Remembrance Grant	£300
30.	Community & Police Working Group	£100
31.	Chairman's Allowance	£150
32.	Members Expenses	£200
33.	Training	£200
TOTALS		
Parish Council Precept		£47,419
TMBC (S.136)		£9,560
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE		£56,979

Note: In view of the fact that it had been estimated that the PCs reserves would be in the region of £50,738 at 31st March 2004, it was:

AGREED: That a contribution from reserves in the order of £5,253 would be made in respect of repaying the amount outstanding on the playing field PWLB debt charge. This would mean that the budgetary estimate of £1,289 for that item would not be required and could either be vired to another item head or placed in the PCs reserves.

Following a discussion, it was:

AGREED:

- (i) That the estimates as indicated above be approved.
- (ii) That the Parish Council's financial requirements for the year 2004/2005 be fixed at £47,419.
- (iii) The PC would receive the sum of £9,560 (subject to change) from TMBC under the scheme of Financial Arrangements with PCs (Concurrent Functions S.136). The total budgetary requirement for the year 2004/05 was therefore set at £56,979. The PCs Tax Charge for 2004/05 calculated on the tax base of Band D equivalents (1,323.54) was therefore £35.83, which represented a decrease of £1.52 per Band D equivalent (just under 4%).

3. MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Councillor Mrs Cresswell

Drew attention to the KPA Public Meeting on Policing in East Peckham which had been arranged to take place in the Village Hall on Wednesday 28th January 04 at 7.30 p.m. It was noted that the Pc had received no consultation on the meeting arrangements and that the Clerk had sent a letter to KPA expressing the PCs concern.

Councillor Street

Drew attention to the acoustic problems associated with the Methodist Primary Room. It was agreed that in order to ascertain whether improvements could be made to the existing room or the possibility of holding PC meetings at an alternative location the matter would be considered at a future meeting.

The Clerk was thanked for her work in preparing the estimates and there being no additional business, the meeting was closed at 2020 hours.