

Hardwick Parish Council
Meeting held on Tuesday 11 February 2014 in the School at 7.45 pm

Present: Councillors: I Storr (Chairman), C Oakes, P Joslin, R Worland, A Gill and J Humphries.

In attendance: Mrs Gail Stoehr (Clerk).

Open public session

No members of the public were present.

1. To approve apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies were received from Cllr Freeman (out of parish).

1.1 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda

All members present declared a pecuniary interest in the setting of the Precept as rate payers. Cllrs Storr, Joslin, Worland, Gill and Humphries disclosed the existence of their dispensations to allow them to speak and vote on the Precept.

1.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any)

Cllr Oakes applied to request a dispensation to allow her to speak and vote on the precept.

1.3 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

A dispensation was granted to Cllr Oakes to enable her to both speak and vote on setting the precept for the term of her office.

2 To review the budget for Financial Year ending 31 March 2014

The Parish Council

- Reviewed - the agreed budget for FY 2014 v receipts and payments to date.
- Noted - the more detailed monitoring of income & expenditure undertaken by the RFO of the individual transactions as detailed on the supporting papers.
- Noted - the overspend on repairs and assets maintenance budget which included Legionella testing, play equipment and skate park repairs, valuation office lease negotiations (to be taken from special projects), fire alarm and emergency lighting at the Pavilion, bin emptying and CCTV maintenance. With the move of the lease negotiations to the special project budget this brought this budget back within the parameters agreed.
- Noted – the Special Projects overspend by 12% (excluding lease negotiations) included all weather court refurbishment, recreation ground drainage (to be moved to grounds maintenance budget), community room refurbishment (consideration given to whether this should be S137 or not) plus the inclusion of the lease negotiation costs.
- Noted – the underspend on Hardwick Happenings due to non-publication of some editions, and likewise the loss of income due to loss of advertising. Already agreed increase in costs due to the new contract with LGS Services running the advertising.
- Re-evaluation of Pavilion value was carried out a few years ago therefore it is not required this year as it is index linked by insurers.
- Reviewed salaries – national pay award for the Clerk is to be back dated. The outstanding amount is to be paid with next pay salary.
- Noted – the underspend on grounds maintenance to include £180 P3 work and recreation ground drainage, outstanding verti-draining and top dressing, bringing this budget back in line with the anticipated amount at year end.

- Reviewed the reserves and the earmarked reserves. Any underspend at year end up to £3,000 is to be put in the Scout hut fund with the balance being moved to general reserves. Tim Tack is to be asked to provide an update report on the Scout building and what if any further funds might be requested from the council.
- RESOLVED to rename S106 Taylor Woodrow fund to S106 Taylor Woodrow village improvement fund and the lay-by by the village shop to Village Improvement Fund.
- The Parish Council's already agreed commitment to Cahills Corner if not fully funded by CCC.
- PARC fund – It was agreed to contact PARC to find out their requirements for the spending of this fund.
- Money received recently (not yet shown on print out) for S106 Lark Rise to be shown as an earmarked fund.
- Noted - the estimated receipts and payments outstanding.
- Agreed that given the assets and Council responsibilities that 1.5-2 x annual expenditure was a realistic level of reserves.
- Streetlighting payments were reviewed and it was noted that the two streetlights would be replaced by SCDC as part of its PFI funding project in due course.
- Monitored - Hardwick Happenings advertising receipts and that this still enabled the Council to be within HMRC's chargeable VAT below £1,000 dispensation. If advertising receipts rises to over £5,000 the Parish Council might have to change its VAT status. Agreed to monitor this and keep under review.
- Agreed – that if the Cahill's Corner project was not done by CCC then the Parish Council would consider spending some of its reserves on undertaking this work itself.

3 To approve the budget for Financial Year ending 2015

- Reviewed the draft budget as prepared by the RFO. This was reviewed line by line consideration given to the supporting notes in the report.
- Agreed with the figures for the budget for the receipts and the budget for the payments for Hardwick Happenings, Insurance, Salaries, pensions and PAYE. General Admin, Admin support, Accounts and Audit and income as detailed.
- Agreed- Sports Club's pitch hire to remain at £250 per annum for the FY2015.
- Noted – that the Parish Council had already agreed to contribute towards the costs of the planning for the new Pavilion changing rooms the cost of the works would be met by the sports clubs.
- Grounds maintenance – noted that this included top dressing, fertiliser, weed treatment and verti-draining and also grass cutting. Agreed to retain this at £15,200
- Grounds maintenance includes the tree maintenance already identified and agreed from the recent tree survey.
- Noted the grass cutting tenders had been opened by the Chairman and Clerk in line with Financial Regulations.
- RESOLVED ^(Prop PJ, 2nd AG unanimous) to award the grass cutting contract to Peter Round (Grounds by Rounds) for 2014 to 2016 inclusive at a cost of £3,030 on the basis that this was the best value to the Council as whilst a cheaper quote had been received Mr Round had included within his price a lot of enhancements such as weed spraying, strimming etc and having held the contract for a number of years had a proven high standard of service.
- Tenders for the remaining areas of the village will be considered and awarded at the next meeting.

- Increase the budget for Hardwick Happenings to £5,000 due to additional contract for the advertising role,
- S137 – It was agreed to budget £2,000.
- The sum of £10,544 was budgeted for special projects to include £6,000 towards a replacement perspex type bus shelter on St Neots Road near Cambridge Road. Costs are to include enlarging the base and a cycle rack if CCC can still provide the cycle rack free of charge and the £1,000 received for the refurbishment of this shelter can be used towards the new shelter instead.
- P3 work on the Millennium Footpath - CGM is to continue with the three cuts in 2014 and Cllrs Joslin and Worland have offered to level the soil around the badger sets this year.
- Receipts are to include £3,500 rent from HSSC for the Pavilion.
- RESOLVED to approve the budget the amount required to balance this being £51,649
- Noted the Council tax base for Hardwick is 922.1 which results in £56.01 Band D. In the current FY2014 the number of Band D properties was 921.3 = £56.06pa
- Agreed – the Chairman would inform the village of the precept in the Annual Report to the Annual Parish Meeting which would then be published in the newsletter.

4 To set and demand the precept required for the Parish Council to balance its budget

RESOLVED ^(AG,2nd PJ, unanimous) by resolution of the Parish Council the Budget for FY ending 31 March 2015 and the Precept demand was set at £51,649, this being the amount required to balance the budget.

6 Closure of meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm

SignedChairmandate.
