

**Hardwick Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 26 January 2016**  
**in the Community Room at the School at 7.45 pm**

Present: Councillors: S Rose (Chairman), J Stewart, J Humphries, A Gill, P Joslin, C Cracknell, R Worland and T Bhachu.

In attendance: Mrs Gail Stoehr (Clerk)

**Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors**

None.

**1. To approve apologies for absence and declarations of interest**

Apologies were received from Cllr Skingle (out of parish) and a resident.

**1.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda**

All members declared an interest in the setting of the precept as Council Tax payers. The Clerk outlined the advice from the Minister of State and NALC.

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

Requests for dispensations were received from Cllrs Stewart, Joslin, Cracknell, Humphries and Bhachu.

**1.3 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate**

Dispensations were granted to Cllrs Stewart, Joslin, Cracknell, Humphries and Bhachu to speak and vote on matters relating to the precept until the next elections in 2018. (Prop RW, 2nd AG (carried with 3 in favour and 5 abstentions))

**2. To review the budget for the financial year ending 31 March 2016**

The budget was reviewed. The following items were considered:

- The implications for tree works following recent complaints and a requirement in the next financial year for a tree survey or possible arboricultural report.
- Spending resulting from assets repairs due to vandalism.
- The costs of advertising for the Hardwick Happenings Editor and the Webmaster.
- The payments to S Marcus as former Editor are to be transferred to the salaries as this has to be declared to HMRC.
- Funding for the Parish Plan and S137 donations were considered. The S137 regulations were outlined by the Clerk.
- Implications for the Scout Hut funding.
- Consideration was given whether the CCTV should be replaced when the cameras reach the end of their life.
- Projected income was reviewed.
- Liabilities included Mel Pooley, weed spraying and grass cutting.

RESOLVED that any under-spend on grounds maintenance at the year end is to be transferred to earmarked reserves.

**3. To approve the budget for the financial year ending 31 March 2017**

The draft budget for FY2017 as prepared by the RFO was considered.

RESOLVED that

- Provision of £6600 be made for Advertising, i.e. £6000 for Hardwick Happenings and £600 for the Webmaster. The possibility of Hardwick Happenings becoming independent of the Parish Council is being looked into.

- The bench by the village sign may possibly require maintenance as it had gone green.
- When arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting are made, consideration will be given to discussion of S137 donations and residents are to be asked to suggest how S137 donations might be spent and make bids.
- Provision of £5000 be made for S137 donations, Special projects £5000, contingency of £2000, £15500 ground maintenance, grass cutting and trees, £7000 repairs and assets maintenance
- Income for Hardwick Happenings be reduced from £4000 to £3000.

## RESOLVED

- To adopt the budget for FY2017
- as the Cahills Corner project is going to cost approximately £25000 and would be covered by the S106 Taylor Woodrow (Cahills Corner Improvements) fund to release £9193.71 from this fund into General Reserves and £3000 into the Scout Hut fund (Prop SR, 2nd JS unanimous)

## RESOLVED

- To reduce the Parish Council's policy for the level of General Reserves to 1.5 times annual expenditure.

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

RESOLVED as expected spending amounts to £63,330.00 and expected receipts amount to £8,750.00 excluding the precept the difference being £54,580.00 that the balance of £7000 from the Cahills Corner Improvement be used to support the budget and reduce the precept and set and demand a precept of £47,580.00. (Prop CC, 2nd JS with 5 in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions)

5. **Closure of meeting**

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.38 pm.

Signed ..... Chairman ..... date.

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