

FLADBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 22nd November 2011 at the Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Fladbury.

Present: I Southcott (Chair)
G Mills (V/chair)
W P Llewellyn
D Day Clerk/RFO – R J Coles
B Carter

1. No apologies for absence
2. Declarations of Interests – none but noting Chair & V/chair allowances.
3. Minutes of the Finance Committee held on Tuesday 23rd November 2010. It was proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Llewellyn and the meeting agreed that these be signed as a true record.
4. Matters Arising
 - a) The current football contracts, Fladbury Athletic (Sunday Morning) and Fladbury Juniors (Saturday Morning), are running at 50% capacity for the field but given the poor state of the pitch due to weather (cold and drought) over the past two years it has been agreed to give the pitch a ‘rest’ before any consideration of advertising vacancies will be considered.
5. Following points of clarification regarding the meeting materials, the Clerk/RFO opened the discussion indicating that for 2012/13 the ‘gross’ expenditure was of the order of c£23600 made up of running costs c£8300 (including c£3500 for insurance), recreational ground c£6000, lighting c£4250, grants c£650 and amenities c£4400 (including mowing c£2100).

There is still an on-going issue with no bills for regular lighting maintenance and the plan underway to look at WCC taking over maintenance and electricity usage for the Parish Council appears to be ‘bogged’ down at County Hall.

Offsetting these expenditures was ‘net’ income of the order of c£4845 made up of interest c£10, wharf rent c£300, recreational ground user charges c£2950 and c£585 & c£1000 of contribution to mowing & lengthsman respectively from WCC. This led to a shortfall of c£18755 that would have to be funded mainly by the precept with some variation according to internal council resources.

Internal resources were presented showing that the council had set aside recommended reserves of a general nature as recommended by CALC at £10000 made up of day-to-day contingencies £2000, elections £2000 and legal/all other general unforeseen risks of £6000.

More specific reserves of £3500 for two additional street lights, £1000 for street lighting transfer to WCC project upgrade handover, £500 received from Mother & Toddlers cessation of activities, £1000 for one off playground maintenance, £2635 Pool Garden play facilities residual project funding, £2000 for one major incident involving the aging

recreation trees and £1700 regarding lottery funding of the pavilion are also being carried forward.

All in all these general and specific reserves total c£22335 which leaves a 'free balance' of c£6711 at the end of the current 2011/12 fiscal year on 31st March 2012 as the best estimate possible 4 ½ months in advance. The budget set would potentially draw upon this level of free balance to the tune of approximately 55% if fully spent assuming that the precept remained unchanged.

Following discussion during which the Chair recommended that the precept remain the same for the forthcoming year – itself representing a real terms cut in the region of 5% over this year and between 10 and 15% over the past five years - Cllr Llewellyn proposed, seconded by Cllr Carter, and the meeting agreed that the recommendation to full council should be to maintain the precept at its current rate of £15000.

The meeting closed at 7:50pm.