

# **FLADBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2010 at the Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Fladbury.

Present:                   W P Llewellyn (Chair)  
                              I Southcott (V/chair)  
                              G Mills  
                              A Stephens                   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 24<sup>th</sup> November 2009. It was proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by V/chair Southcott that these be signed as a true record.
4. Matters Arising – none
5. Following points of clarification regarding the meeting materials, the Clerk/RFO opened the discussion indicating that for 2011/12 the ‘gross’ expenditure was of the order of c£20845 made up of running costs c£7500 (including c£3000 for insurance), recreational ground c£5750, lighting c£4000, grants c£525 and amenities c£3070 (including mowing c£2100).

The Parish Council has finally obtained an answer with regards to its contract maintenance over the past four years which resulted in the refund of £4000 of which nearly £3000 was used to finance the Speed Activated sign. There is still an on-going issue with no bills for regular maintenance and a plan is underway to look at WCC taking over maintenance and electricity usage for the Parish Council. This is likely to offer savings particularly with regards to electricity costs of around 50% using WCC’s bargaining power. However there is expected to be an initial cost of ensuring that all lights conform to WCC standards. The overall situation on lighting finance is very unclear but the clerk indicated that he was protecting enough funding to sort the situation out once and for all.

Offsetting these expenditures was ‘net’ income of the order of c£4050 made up of interest c£10, wharf rent c£280, recreational ground user charges c£3200 and c£555 of contribution to mowing from WCC. This led to a shortfall of c£16800 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.

Recent experience has shown that planning applications which affect multiple parishes warrants a sharing of resources in reaching a response with regards to local consultations. The latest of these included £750 in 2009/10 with regards to a highly visible wind farm in the Lenches particularly with regards to parishioners in the northern part of the parish which represented 1/6 of a Working Party Fund.

Additional, 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, £3000 contribution to upgrade the Pool Garden play facilities in conjunction with 'Friends of Pool Garden', £2000 for one major incident involving the aging recreation trees and £1960 regarding lottery funding of the pavilion are also being carried forward.

All in all these general and specific reserves total c£22960 which leaves a 'free balance' of c£5929 at the end of the current 2010/11 fiscal year on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 as the best estimate possible 4 ½ months in advance

The meeting then considered various line items in the proposed income and expenditure budgets and agreed that all should remain unchanged from the RFO/Chair exercise circulated and as presented to the meeting.

Taking into account the proposed reserves, potential 'net expenditure' of c£16800 and 'free balances' of c£5929 it was proposed by V/chair Southcott, seconded by Cllr Stephens that the new precept for 2011/12 should be recommended to the full Parish Council on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010 at £15,000 representing a holding at its current level for the fifth year running and effectively using up about 30% of the identified 'free balances'. The meeting passed this proposal.

The clerk notified the meeting that Evesham Utd Juniors/Ladies had not taken up the Parish Council offer to use the Recreation Ground for the current 2010/11 season. This cessation was expected, but in a year's time after the new facilities at Cheltenham Road Evesham are completed. This would have an effect on all the numbers above of about a £700 reduction in free balances over the next two year ends and would be reflected in the budget/precept to be presented in December. The clerk will talk to Cllr Anderson re the football vacancies which are running at 50% of capacity with Saturday/Sunday afternoons vacant and Saturday /Sunday morning contracted for. There are some concerns over Fladbury Junior and Cricket club usage going forward.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm.