

09.12.14

Summonses to a meeting of the Finance Committee of Sampford Peverell Parish Council to be held on Tuesday 9 December 2014 in the Committee Room of the Memorial Hall, Lower Town, Sampford Peverell, starting at 7.00 pm, were distributed with the agenda to all Members on 1 December 2014.

Agenda: as distributed.

2014/15/083

The Chairman, Cllr Colin Passey, opened the meeting at 7.04 pm and welcomed the Members of the Parish Council present.

2014/15/084

Open Forum: not held (no members of the public present).

2014/15/085

Apologies: Cllrs D Sweatman, C Mason and I Adlington

Parish Councillors present:

Cllr C Passey, Chairman

Cllr C Port, Vice-Chairman

Cllrs H Culpin, D Cutts, C Holland and C Rowley.

2014/15/086

Dispensations: the Clerk explained to Members that the dispensation agreed by the Parish Council at its meeting on 4 December 2012 permitted them to speak and vote on matters concerning the setting of the budget and the determination of the precept for the coming financial year.

2014/15/087

2014/15 year-end balance: the Clerk presented his estimate of the balance of funds at current year-end (that is, 31 March 2015) as detailed in one of the supporting papers circulated with the agenda. The projected balance of £4,272.23 was unanimously accepted. The Clerk explained that this balance excludes funds held on behalf of the former Parish Plan Group, funds held on behalf of the pavilion/sports club house project, as well as the unspent balances of allocated funds held under the various budgetary headings listed.

2014/15/088

Budget for 2015/16: the Clerk's estimate of expenditure for insurance, room hire, etc, totalling £2,409 was accepted. This includes £1,070 to meet election expenses, as advised by MDDC.

Other (discretionary) items were then agreed as follows:

- Parish church yard maintenance: correspondence, including e-mails, from the Treasurer of the PCC, Mrs Claire Clarke, and statements of accounts for the Closed Churchyard and the Cemetery for 2013 and 2014 were examined. Although there will be changes to maintenance work arrangements in 2015, probably involving additional expenditure, the Parish Council is not being asked for additional funding in 2015/16. Agreed no change in grant: to remain at £350.00 in 2015/16.

- Methodist church yard maintenance: correspondence from Mrs Margaret Dinnage, Treasurer to Sampford Peverell Methodist Church, including a statement of grass cutting expenses in 2014 noted. Agreed grant to remain as £60.00 in 2015/16 as a contribution to the maintenance costs.

- Village Hall & Recreation Ground Charity: letter from Dr Chesney, Chairman, requesting increase of £500 to assist with rising utility bills and anticipated increase in grass cutting bills in 2015, noted. Agreed to increase grant to £2,000.00 in 2015/16.

- Clerk's salary: the Clerk stated that he does not seek an increase of his salary. It was asked that the thanks of the Parish Council be recorded for his work. Salary to remain at £3,400.00 in 2015/16.

- "Parish News": agreed that the grant remains at £200.00 in 2015/16.

- Charitable donations: agreed that the allowance of £50.00 will remain in 2015/16. Members were not willing to increase this so as to be able to support the Tiverton and District Community Transport Association, which had written a letter of appeal: it is not clear how much this organisation actually assists parishioners: previous enquiries have failed to clarify the matter.

- Twinning Association: nil (no visit to SP this year).

- Computer equipment: nil (the Clerk uses his own equipment).

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2014/15/088 continued.....

- Higher Town improvement: nil (adequate reserves to meet PC liabilities within previous budgeted provisions).
- Grand Western Canal support: nil (adequate reserves held under previously budgeted provisions).
- Tree works: Members noted the information from Cllr Lucas regarding the condition of trees in the children's playground, Lower Town. Mr Christopher Mathews of "Solstice", Lower Town, is concerned that several trees alongside his property fence are overgrown giving potential danger. To be investigated by the Tree Wardens in the New Year. Agreed that £500.00 should be included in the budget for this matter.
- Street furniture: considering the wish to provide a seat on Turnpike (following the request of Mavis Farley) a provision of £500.00 to be made.

Summary:	Parish Council expenditure	£2,409	
	Discretionary items	7,060	
	Total projected expenditure for 2015/16	£9,469	
	Contingency fund	3,503	
	Grand total required for 2015/16		£12,972
	Less b/f on 1.4.15		(4,272)
	Precept required for 2015/16		8,700

2014/15/089

Precept for 2015/16: agreed to be £8,700 on the proposal of Cllr Passey, seconded by Cllr Holland and agreed *nem con*.

2014/15/090

Planning matters:

- i) 14/01941/CAT (tree works at Samara House, Lower Town): with planning sub-committee: report awaited.
- ii) 14/01932/MFUL (Wiseburrow Farm) and 14/01984/MFUL (Redhill Farm): applications for solar PV forms in neighbouring Parish of Holcolme Rogus: no comments to be offered.
- iii) 14/01721/FULL and 14/01688/FULL (agricultural tie at Goldsmore House): permission to remove tie refused by MDDC.
- iv) Correspondence on changes in Planning Obligations to be circulated.
- v) 14/01942/FULL (extension and new garage at 32 The Brendons (revised scheme)): new application passed to planning sub-committee.

2014/15/091

Other matters: a cheque in favour of the Royal British Legion in the sum of £50.00 as the PC's annual donation to the "Poppy Appeal" signed on unanimous agreement of Members.

2014/15/092

Next meeting of the Parish Council:

- Bimonthly business meeting on Tuesday 27 January 2015 at 7.00 pm in the Committee Room. (Cllr Passey gave his apologies: Cllr Port will Chair the meeting).

The meeting was closed at 8.30 pm.

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Appendix to the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 9 December 2014

Summary of projected expenditure for 2015/16 and calculation of the precept for that year

	£	
Insurance	600	
Meeting room hire	150	
GW Canal Trust	25	
Bank charges	39	
Clerk's expenses	350	
Training/travel	nil*	
Social evening	nil*	
Election expenses	1070	
Audit costs	175	2409
Parish church yard maintenance	350	
Methodist church yard mtce	60	
VH & RG Charity	2000	
Clerk's salary	3400	
'Parish News'	200	
Charitable donations	50	
Twinning Association	nil**	
Computer equipment	nil**	
Higher Town project	nil*	
GW Canal support	nil*	
Tree works	500	
Street furniture	500	
Total discretionary items		7060
Total projected expenditure for 2015/16		9469
Contingency fund		3503
Grand total required for 2015/16		12972
Less brought forward on 1.4.15		(4272)
Precept required for 2015/16		8700

The increase of £800 in the precept from 2014/15 is equivalent to £1.66 for the year for a Band D property in the Parish. It represents a 10.1% increase. It is understood that a 2% cap will not be applied to smaller local councils this year, although this has not yet been confirmed by the Government.

The Parish precept will require a payment of £18.01 for the year, which is 35 pence a week, for a Band D property.

Precepts levied in recent years

2006/07	6800
2007/08	7125
2008/09	7400
2009/10	7700
2010/11	7900
2011/12	7900
2012/13	7900
2013/14	7900
2014/15	7900

* adequate reserves held under previously budgeted provision

** see minutes for explanation of nil requirement