

15.12.15

Summonses to a meeting of the Finance Committee of Sampford Peverell Parish Council to be held on Tuesday 15 December 2015 in the Committee Room of the Memorial Hall, Lower Town, Sampford Peverell, starting at 7.00 pm, were distributed with the agenda and supporting papers to all Members on 7 December 2015.

Agenda: as distributed.

2015/16/081

The Chairman, Cllr Colin Passey, opened the meeting at 7.02 pm and welcomed Members of the Parish Council present. In his opening remarks, Cllr Passey asked if the precept should be raised. He emphasised the importance of not eroding reserves. He felt that, given the additional matters to be financed in 2016/17, a 10% increase would be acceptable, but any increase must be justified.

2015/16/082

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

2015/16/083

Apologies: Cllrs D Sweatman and M Stott.

Parish Councillors present:

Cllr C Passey, Chairman

Cllr D Cutts, Vice-Chairman

Cllrs H Culpin, I Adlington, C Holland and C Mason and L Taylor.

2015/16/084

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.

2015/16/085

Current (2015/16) year-end balance: the Clerk presented his estimate of the balance of funds at current year-end (that is, 31 March 2016) as detailed in one of the supporting papers circulated with the agenda. The projected credit balance of £4,925.76 excludes funds held on behalf of the former Parish Plan Group and the unspent balances of allocated funds held under the various budgetary headings listed.

2015/16/086

Budget for 2016/17: the Clerk's estimate of expenditure for insurance, room hire, etc, totalling £1,644 was accepted. This includes £430 to meet audit fees expected to be incurred by high balances held because of the MUGA development, as well as an additional £250 to meet costs associated with the proposed social event ("Village Showcase") in April 2016.

Other (discretionary) items were then agreed (unanimously except where indicated) as follows:

- Parish church yard maintenance: correspondence from the Treasurer of the PCC, Mrs Claire Clarke, and statements of accounts for the Closed Churchyard and the Cemetery for 2014 and 2015 were examined by Members. Agreed no change in grant: to remain at £350.00 as 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 amounting to £86.01 in 2015 noted. Agreed on the proposal of Cllr Holland, seconded by Cllr Adlington, with 4 votes for and 2 against and with 1 abstention, that the grant to be increased to £70.00 in 2016/17 as a contribution to maintenance costs for the closed church yard.

- Village Hall & Recreation Ground Charity: agreed to give a grant to £2,000.00 as in 2015/16.

- Clerk's salary: the Clerk stated that he does not seek an increase of his salary. Salary to remain at £3,400.00 in 2016/17.

- "Parish News": agreed that the grant remains at £200.00 in 2016/17.

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2015/16/086 continued.....

- Charitable donations: agreed £50.00 as 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: agreed £200 to cover the welcome reception on 22 July 2016 (refreshments and hall hire) and a contribution towards the Association's Dinner for their French guests.

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

- MUGA: the meeting agreed a £500 contingency fund.

- Sports Field new disabled/pedestrian access: this emergency work in 2015/16 will be paid from contingency reserves, which must be replaced. It is hoped to secure grants towards the cost (£1200 from the TAP Fund, £600 from Cllr Radford's Locality budget) leaving about £700 to be found by SPPC. The meeting agreed to include £700 in the 2016/17 budget to cover this.

- Tree works (Recreation Ground): works required on 3 silver birch trees could not be carried out because of a Tree Preservation Order imposed by MDDC. Work on other trees was not done. £500 has been allocated for this work, but another tree has now been found to need removal. The Clerk to seek a revised quotation (advised to seek a quotation from a second tree surgeon (Stuart Britton) as well). An additional £250 to be included in the budget.

- Amenity car park support: £500 to be set aside, proposed by Cllr Holland, seconded by Cllr Cutts and agreed *nem con*, pending satisfactory answers to questions raised by Members (income from fines, electricity costs, inspection visits). There is a need for detailed discussions over the next few months to enable a decision to be taken on the future of the car park.

- Grass cutting: it is unclear what DCC's contribution will be if the cutting is done on a local basis. Cllr Passey believes that some £1743 will be necessary to maintain current standards with MDDC continuing to do the work. £1,700 to be ear-marked pending clarification and negotiation.

- bus shelter repairs: Andy Brown to be asked to replace the missing panel and clean the others. £500 from unused street furniture allocations to be used. No additional funds needed.

- Public toilets maintenance: agreed £500 as in 2015/16 (contribution to be paid to MDDC).

- No other provisions to be made under the headings of Canal support or street furniture.

- Contingency fund to be £2,562.

Summary:	Parish Council expenditure	£1,644	
	Discretionary items	10,420	
	Total projected expenditure for 2016/17	12,064	
	Contingency fund	2,562	(was 3,503 for 2015/16)
	Grand total required for 2016/17	14,626	
	Less b/f on 1.4.16	(4,926)	
	Precept required for 2016/17	9,700	

2015/16/087

Precept for 2016/17: agreed to be £9,700 by the unanimous decision of Members present.

2015/16/088

Planning matters: none outstanding.

2015/16/89

Other matters by leave of the Chairman: none.

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The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Appendix to the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 15 December 2015

Summary of projected expenditure for 2016/17 and calculation of the precept for that year

	£	
Insurance	400	
Meeting room hire	150	
GW Canal Trust	25	
Bank charges	39	
Clerk's expenses	300	
Training/travel	50	
Social event	250	
Election expenses	nil	
Audit costs	430	1644
Parish church yard maintenance	350	
Methodist church yard mtce	70	
VH & RG Charity	2000	
Clerk's salary	3400	
'Parish News'	200	
Charitable donations	50	
Twinning Association	200	
Computer equipment	nil	
MUGA construction	500	
Sports Field access construction	700	
Tree works	250	
Amenity car park support	500	
Grass cutting	1700	
Toilets maintenance support	500	
Street furniture	nil	
Total discretionary items		10420
Total projected expenditure for 2016/17		12064
Contingency fund		2562
Grand total required for 2016/17		14626
Less brought forward on 1.4.16		(4926)
Precept required for 2016/17		9700

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The increase of £1000 in the precept from 2015/16 is equivalent to £2.04 for the year (4p per week) for a Band D property in the Parish. It represents an 11.5% 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 £19.79 for the year, which is 38 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
2015/16	8700