

06.12.16

Summonses to a meeting of the Finance Committee of Sampford Peverell Parish Council to be held on Tuesday 6 December 2016 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 29 November 2016.

Agenda: as distributed.

2016/17/071

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 expressed the hope that any increase in the precept would be minimal this coming year.

2016/17/072

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

2016/17/073

Apologies: Cllrs C Holland, C Mason and B Husbands

Parish Councillors present:

Cllr C Passey, Chairman

Cllr D Cutts, Vice-Chairman

Cllrs H Culpin, I Adlington, L Taylor and T Leaman.

2016/17/074

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.

2016/17/075

Current (2016/17) year-end balance: the Clerk presented his estimate of the balance of funds at current year-end (that is, 31 March 2017) as detailed in one of the supporting papers circulated with the agenda. The estimated credit balance of £3,193.82 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. The meeting unanimously agreed this balance.

2016/17/076

Budget for 2017/18: the Clerk's estimate of expenditure for insurance, room hire, etc, totalling £1,384 was accepted by the meeting.

Other (discretionary) items were then agreed unanimously 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 2015 and 2016 were examined by Members. Agreed no change in grant: to remain at £350.00 as in 2016/17, but the Clerk to query the use of profits made at the cemetery.

- Methodist church yard maintenance: agreed that the grant will remain at £70.00 in 2017/18 as a contribution to maintenance costs. The Clerk to ask Mrs Margaret Dinnage, Treasurer to Sampford Peverell Methodist Church for grass cutting costs in 2016.

- Village Hall & Recreation Ground Charity: agreed to give a grant to £2,000.00 as in 2016/17, but the Chairman will ask to see the accounts and independent examiner's statement for the current year.

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2016/17/076: budget for 2017/18 continued.....

- Clerk's salary: the Clerk stated that he does not seek an increase of his salary. Salary to remain at £3,400.00 in 2017/18.
- "Parish News": agreed that the grant remains at £200.00 in 2017/18.
- Charitable donations: agreed £50.00 as in 2016/17 to the Royal British Legion, but in addition, £75.00 to the CAB and £75.00 to TDCTA in recognition that their grants from other councils have been cut, making £200.00 in all.
- Twinning Association: Members agreed to make a provision of £100.00 towards the anticipated costs of the welcome reception and dinner for the Association's French guests in 2018/19.
- Computer equipment: Members agreed to make a provision of £150.00 towards the purchase of equipment for a new Clerk, should the need arise. It was noted and agreed that the present Clerk uses his own computer which he maintains at his own expense.
- MUGA: nil (the project is now completed).
- Sports Field new disabled/pedestrian access: nil (the project is now completed).
- Playground improvement: the meeting agreed to make £500.00 available in support of the project.
- Tree works: Members agreed a provision of £500.00 towards any work found to be necessary in the parish.
- Tree wardens' expenses: the meeting agreed £50.00 to top-up the funds held to meet miscellaneous expenses incurred by the Tree Wardens.
- Amenity car park support: a further £500.00 to be set aside towards maintenance costs. Members noted that further discussions with MDCC will take place at the next business meeting of the PC, when Mr Andrew Jarrett will be in attendance.
- Grass cutting: the provision for expenses in the current year (£1,700.00) will be underspent. Members thus agreed a reduced provision for 2017/18 of £1,300.00.
- Public toilets maintenance: agreed £500 as in 2016/17 (this agreed annual contribution to be paid to MDCC).
- Telephone kiosk removal and refurbishment: £250.00 to meet expenses incurred.
- Defibrillator purchase and installation: £400.00 provision towards costs.
- Street Furniture: Members agreed a provision of £600.00 to include repairs to the steps at the Methodist Church and installation of a hand-rail, as well as the Turnpike seat.
- Litter-picking equipment: £250.00 for the purchase of equipment for the litter wardens.
- Contingency fund for 2017/18 to be £290.00.

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2016/17/076: budget for 2017/18 continued.....

Summary:	Parish Council expenditure	£1,384	
	Discretionary items	11,320	
	Total projected expenditure for 2017/18		12,704
	Contingency fund		290 (was 2,562 for 2016/17)
	Grand total required for 2017/18		12,994
	Less b/f on 1.4.17		(3,194)
	Precept required for 2017/18		9,800

2016/17/077

Precept for 2017/18: agreed to be £9,800 on the proposal of Cllr Passey, seconded by Cllr Cutts and agreed unanimously by Members present. This represents an increase of £100 (1.03%).

2016/17/078

Planning matters:

i) 16/01773/MARM: facilities building with parking, etc: land at J27. It is understood that this application has been made to keep the outline permission “alive”: it will not be taken forward if the Eden-Westwood scheme goes ahead. SPPC had previously supported the application and it was agreed that no further comment would be offered.

ii) Recycling and soil screening/storage facility: land at Ayshford. Details from DCC. This application involves development on agricultural land, on a site adjacent to the recently approved cattle transfer station. It is understood that the application is for stone crushing and soil screening operations. A planning sub-committee will talk to the applicant and examine the plans.

2016/17/079

Other matters by leave of the Chairman: none.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Following is an appendix to the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 6 December 2016. It provides a summary of the budgetary decisions made.

Summary of projected expenditure for 2017/18 and calculation of the precept for that year

		£	
Insurance	400		
Meeting room hire	150		
GW Canal Trust	25		
Bank charges	39		
Clerk's expenses	250		
Training/travel	nil		
Social event	nil		
Election expenses	nil		
Audit costs	250		
DALC membership	270	1384	
Parish church yard maintenance	350		
Methodist church yard mtce	70		
VH & RG Charity	2000		
Clerk's salary	3400		
'Parish News'	200		
Charitable donations	200		
Twinning Association	100		
Computer equipment	150		
MUGA construction	nil		
Sports Field access construction	nil		
Tree works	500		
Tree Wardens	50		
Playground development	500		
Amenity car park support	500		
Grass cutting	1300		
Toilets maintenance support	500		
Telephone kiosk	250		
Defibrillator	400		
Street furniture	600		
Litter-picking equipment	250		
Total discretionary items		11320	
Total projected expenditure for 2017/18		12704	
Contingency fund		290	
Grand total required for 2017/18		12994	
Less brought forward on 1.4.17		(3194)	
Precept required for 2017/18		9800	

The increase of £100 in the precept from 2016/17 is equivalent to £0.20 for the year (0.4p per week) for a Band D property in the Parish. It represents an 1.03% increase. It is understood that a 2% cap will not be applied to smaller local councils this year: this is now confirmed by the Government (information from DALC and confirmed by MDDC).

The share of Council Tax Reduction Grant passed on by MDDC is reduced from £428.20 in 2016/17 to £363.86 in 2017/18. The effect is to raise the precept by a total of 2%.

The Parish precept will require a payment of £19.99 for the year, which is 38.4 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
2016/17	9700