

ROOTHERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Working for the Community

in Rotherfield, Town Row, Mark Cross, Eridge Green, Boarshead and surrounding areas

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2014 IN THE PARISH COUNCIL ROOM, ROTHERFIELD VILLAGE HALL

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Cllr. L. Pike (Chair)
Cllr. D. Thomas
Cllr. R. Harris

Cllr. C. Clibbens
Cllr. N. Wickenden
Cllr. P. Dixon
Cllr. J. Kitchenham

ABSENT

None

ALSO PRESENT. The Parish Clerk, Trevor Thorpe.

- 1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LGA 1972 s 85).**
- 2. TO RECEIVED DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

None. Clerk reminded the meeting that a dispensation had been agreed at the December 2012 monthly meeting for the duration of this Council. This was necessary as the current Code of Conduct makes no formal dispensation of Councillors interests when discussing and agreeing the Precept.

- 3. TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 22ND APRIL 2014 & MATTERS ARISING.**
- 4. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS**

- a) Approval of the budget for grants and subscriptions.**

Clerk reported the details of current subscriptions below:-

- i. Wealden District Association of Local Councils (WDALC).** This year's subscription was £30.
- ii. Sussex Association of Local Councils/National Association of Local Councils (SALC & NALC).** SSALC indicate that sub due in March 2014 will be £730.11 with a further £143.86 for NALC. Figures are based on number of electors.
- iii. Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE).** £36 subscription paid in July 2014.
- iv. Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC).** Sub is based on Clerks salary – figure for 2014 £187.
- v. Ashdown Forest Tourist Association**
It was resolved at the November meeting of the Council to join at a cost of £130 for the year with membership reviewed annually.

RESOLVED that subscriptions to the above organisations will continue for 2015/16.

ROTHERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Working for the Community

in Rotherfield, Town Row, Mark Cross, Eridge Green, Boarshead and surrounding areas

Clerk summarised grants made to various bodies and it was RESOLVED that the following sums be included in the 2015/16 budget for payment from within a total allocation of £6000 for grant payments.

Organisation	Amount	Purpose
Sports Club	£1500	Annual pitch maintenance
Rotherfield St Martin	£1000	General support
Rotherfield Pre School	£500 to be paid during this financial year, £1000 in 2015/16	General support
Wealden Citizens Advice	£300	General support
Eridge Village Hall	£1000	Grant toward refurbishment of Hall toilets and provision of disabled facility.
	£4800	Total

A grant request from “Way finder Women” was considered at the meeting and it was RESOLVED that no grant be made as it is wished to keep grant allocations for organisations within or serving the Parish.

b) Review of Council’s reserves and allocation.

Clerk reported that the policies of other similar Councils regarding contingency reserves have been investigated and these generally fall into the following categories:-

- i. 50% of annual precept – £36084 in the case of this Council.
Or
- ii. A third of general expenditure, this being total expenditure less grants, VAT and capital works. If this method is applied current indicative reserve figure for Rotherfield would be £21730.

Clerk recommended that £3350, representing the total paid by ESCC for ground rent for the Pre School since opening, be transferred from General Reserves to a new designated “Car Park repair/resurface” reserve. When eventually received the sum paid by insurers in respect of the oil spill damage claim is to be paid to this reserve. RESOLVED CLERK to action this.

c) Approval of the Council’s total expenditure and income budget for 2015/2016.

After discussion it was RESOLVED that the provisional budget, which appears as a supplement to these minutes be presented to Full Council to be considered for adoption.

d) Approval of the Committee’s Precept figure recommendation for 2015/2016, to be considered for final approval by the Full Council at the December 2014 Council Meeting.

Total expenditure budgeted for 2015/2016, after taking into account underspends, projects budgeted for but not yet undertaken and Precept Support Grant, the provisional precept figure for 2015/16 is £79236 (2014/15 £70566). RESOLVED that this precept figure be presented to Full Council for consideration.

WDC have confirmed the Precept Support Grant figure for 2015/16 will be £1319 (£1602 2014/15), the figure for the Council Tax Base and subsequent “Band D” rate calculation is not yet available.

ROTHERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Working for the Community

in Rotherfield, Town Row, Mark Cross, Eridge Green, Boarshead and surrounding areas

Cllr. Clibbens withdrew from the meeting at this point (21:40) as he had risen at 04:00 and driven to Holland and back on business prior to the meeting.

e) Review of existing banking arrangements and cheque signatories.

CLERK to review and obtain forms to add Cllr. Harris to signatory list.

f) Arrangements for review and update of Council policies and other governance documents.

CLERK to devise timetable to spread review work throughout the year for review by working group and consideration by full Council.

5. URGENT ISSUES FOR NOTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA.

CLERK to add items to agenda of forthcoming Highways Committee and SLR meetings to discuss repair working to rural junction "triangles" and measures to discourage future damage.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Provisionally arranged for 14th April 2015 at 19:30 in the Parish Council Room.

The Chairman declared the formal business of the meeting closed at 21:45.

7. PUBLIC FORUM.

None.

Confirmed as a true record at the 14th January 2015 meeting of the Committee

.....Chairman's Signature.....Date