

ROTHERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Working for the Community
in Rotherfield, Town Row, Mark Cross, Eridge Green, Boarshead and surrounding areas

MINUTES OF AN EXTRARODINARY MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14TH JANUARY 2015 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).**
None.
2. **TO RECEIVED DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**
None.
3. **TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 2ND DECEMBER 2014 & MATTERS ARISING.**
4. **TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS**

- a) **Review Council reserves levels and consider if these are at an appropriate level to cover any anticipated risks, or if some may be utilised to reduce the level of precept requirement for 2015/16.**

There is no specific sum set down for these but from Clerks enquiries Councils appear to base levels on one of the following:-

- i. 50% of annual precept – £36084 in the case of this Council for current financial year and is the method currently used.
- 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.
- iii. “Bespoke” level based on a financial risk assessment.

Receipts and payments summary generated by our account software is enabling a more professional view of our reserve levels and makes it simpler to earmark funds for specific projects. RESOLVED to leave reserve policy as per 4a)i above.

- b) **Review recommendation of this committee made at its 2nd December 2014 meeting regarding 2015/2016 budget and precept level for consideration by Full Council; this in view of possible extra expenditure identified since that meeting to support village projects and receipt of final Tax Base figures from Wealden DC. Decision regarding recommendation to be considered at the 29th January 2015 Council Meeting.**

Projects to consider for funding

1. **Support for Scout Hut refurbishment - £12K originally requested.**

Cllr. Thomas outlined the proposals discussed at the recent meeting between representatives of the Council and Rotherfield Scouts.

- Council to arrange work in partnership with Scouts.

ROTHERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Working for the Community

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

- Grant funding from Rotherfield Trust to be paid to Council.
- Scout Hut is owned by the Council and is on Council owned land and it is considered that Vat may be reclaimed on the work.
- Council will be responsible for payment for work undertaken and will control spending at each stage.
- Scouts will fund balance of cost of work via fund raising events and possibly contributions from local businesses. The Pre School may provide a contribution in return for agreement for use of Hut during the day.
- Agenda item is to feature at the January Council meeting to consider approval of these arrangements.

2. Support toward Bowls Club safety netting.

RESOLVED to consider within figures budgeted for removal of bank by Play Area and provision of new entrance to bowls green which will mean modification or postponement of these projects.

3. Grants agreed for recommendation to January Council meeting.

Organisation	Amount	Purpose
i. Sports Club RESOLVED Sum agreed for recommendation for approval at the January Council meeting.	£1500	Annual pitch maintenance
ii. Rotherfield St Martin RESOLVED Sum agreed for recommendation for approval at the January Council meeting.	£500	General support
iii. Rotherfield Pre School RESOLVED Sum agreed for recommendation for approval at the January Council meeting.	£500 To be paid during this financial year, £500 in 2015/16	General support
iv. Wealden Citizens Advice RESOLVED Sum agreed for recommendation for approval at the January Council meeting.	£300	General support
Total grants proposed	£2800	
v. Eridge Village Hall	£1000	Grant toward refurbishment of Hall toilets and provision of disabled facility.

CLERK to investigate and report progress with their grant application to Wealden District Council for this project so that sum above may be considered at the January meeting.

- RESOLVED that 2015/2016 budget attached as an Appendix to these minutes be recommended for approval at the January Council meeting

ROTHERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Working for the Community

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

- RESOLVED to recommend to the January Council meeting that the Parish Council's Precept for 2015/16 be £75236.00. After taking into account the Precept support grant this will lead to an annual cost of £48.52 for a "Band D" property, equivalent to 93p per week and representing a 3.73% increase to the cost of the Parish element from last year's Council Tax bill.

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

- CLERK to arrange for cutting of hedge by entrance to car park as this is overgrowing the pavement.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Tuesday April 14th 19:30 in the Parish Council Room, Rotherfield Village Hall.

The Chairman declared the formal business of the meeting closed at 21:00.

7. PUBLIC FORUM.

None.

Confirmed as a true record at the 28th April 2015 meeting of the Committee

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