

CLAY CROSS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held in the Clay Cross Parish Council office on Thursday 4 January 2007 at 6.00pm

Present: Councillor K G Savidge Chair
Councillor J Holmes Vice Chair

Councillor Mrs M Bacon Councillor P Riggott
Councillor Mrs K M Holmes Councillor G Smith
Councillor M Holmes Councillor B Wright

368/07 Apologies for Absence

Clerk reported that Apologies for Absence had been received from Councillor Mrs A Bradley.

369/07 Declaration of Interest

Members are requested to declare any personal or prejudicial interest they may have in any item of the evenings business, to explain the nature of the interest and to withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

370/07 Precept 2007/08

The following report was discussed in detail. A number of items were queried and clarified satisfactorily by the Clerk and Councillor J Holmes, Chair of the Finance Sub-Committee.

Administration: Page 2

Wages: an increase of 3.5% from 1 April 2007 has been allowed along with an increase in Employers Pension Contributions from 375% to 390% again from 1 April 2007.

Heating/Lighting/Water: we have under budgeted this year, as the cost is an average of £481 per month now so this budget has been based on average of £500 per month.

Purchase of Cleaning Materials: we have over budgeted this year, as the cost is an average of £84 per month now so this budget has been based on a average of £100 per month.

Watersafe Management Contract: this budget has been based on the current spend with an inflationary increase.

Rates: we have increased this budget by 4%.

Building Maintenance: we have increased this budget to include for the replacement and re-wiring of 16 light fittings and 9 recessed spot lights in the main hall; all the lights in the main hall are the original fittings.

Postage Stamps: on August 21st mail fell into three main formats of letters, large letter and packet so this has had an impact on the cost of sending out Minutes etc so this budget has been increased based on this years current spend.

2007 Election Expenses: advise has been given that contested election costs will lead generally to a 25% increase in costs on the 2003 figure due to new election requirements; £1,500 has been budgeted this year so we feel it prudent to budget £1,500 again.

General Expenditure: Page 3

Citizens Advice Bureau: grant to be discussed as Parish Council representatives has not been invited to attend management meetings over the last two years. We have been made aware that this organisation intends to alter its management structure, will the Parish Council be given representation on the new management committee?

Dog Fouling Bins Purchase/Maintenance: we have under budgeted for this year. NEDDC empty our bins once a week and we currently have 23 bins sited around the Parish so this budget has been increased to accommodate the cost to empty the bins and to purchase a couple of bins next year.

Section 137: Page 4

For information, the Section 137 cash limit for 2007/08 shall be £5.64 per elector; as at 1.12.06 the number of electors is 7,330 giving a maximum spend of £41,341.

OAP TV Licences: the total payments made in the year ended 31.3.06 was £8,262 and based on payment made so far this year we feel that this budget can be reduced to £8,700.

School Christmas Parties: this year there were 549 pupils in total for which £3.70 per child was donated. Next years budget has been based on a increase of £4 per child and a total of 560 pupils; if the number of pupils is lower than 560 the amount per child can be adjusted accordingly.

School Milk: we currently pay £325 for a four month supply of milk two days per week at Clay Cross Infants, Danesmoor Infants and Holmgate Primary so this budget has been reduced accordingly.

Community Expenditure: Page 4

Remembrance Day: this year the payments will be a total of £535.50 so this budget has been increased to £550 for next year.

Hanging Baskets: this budget is for our existing scheme on High Street and Market Street including the cost for Plantscape to maintain the **whole** scheme; this budget can be reduced by £1,620 if our Cemetery staff continue to maintain the Market Street scheme.

Christmas Lights: this budget is for our existing scheme and is part of our three year agreement with Blachere Illuminations. This budget also includes the cost to purchase/install/take down a set of pea lights in the tree at the Nursing Home as there are only two lights on that side of High Street; if you do not want to go ahead with the pea lights this budget can be reduced by £1,200.

Cemetery Expenditure: Page 5

Wages: an increase of 3.5% from 1 April 2007 has been allowed along with an increase in Employers Pension Contributions from 375% to 390% again from 1 April 2007.

Rates: we have increased this budget by 4%.

Buildings/Ground Maintenance: this budget has been increased to include tree work next year; this budget includes an estimate for consideration.

Machine Purchase/Maintenance: this budget has been reduced as no new equipment is required next year but we have allocated £2,000 to service our existing machinery.

Heating/Lighting: as the cost is an average of £123 per month now we have based this budget on an average of £150 per month.

Cemetery Income: Page 5

Purchase Plots etc: we have based this budget on an increase in fees of 3% from 1 April 2007.

Cemetery Lodge Rent: we have based this budget on this years rent of £200.14 per month with December being rent free. We feel that any decision to raise the rent from 1 April 2007 should be a Parish Council one, once the District Council rent increase is known.

Market Street Toilets: Page 6

Wages: we have increased this budget by 3.5%.

Rates: we have increased this budget by 4%.

Playing Fields/Play Areas: Page 6

Ground Maintenance to NEDDC: we have increased this budget by 4% on the actual amount paid this year.

Income: Page 8

Social Centre Hire: we have taken the opportunity to increase this budget for next year based on the current income received.

Allotment Rent: we have based this budget on rent for 64 plots at £11 per plot plus £50 rent received for the lease of land at the rear of our allotments on North Street.

Resolved That:

1. the Building Maintenance budget is kept at £3,750; work to replace and re-wire 16 light fittings and 9 recessed spot lights in the main hall be carried out from monies in this years and next years budget
2. a letter is sent to the Manager of the Citizens Advice Bureau requesting information on their future intentions so that their grant allocation for 2007/08 can be finalised
3. the Hanging Basket budget is reduced by £1,620; our Cemetery staff to continue to maintain the Market Street scheme
4. the Cemetery Ground Maintenance budget is reduced by £1,080; work to the hollies is not essential and can be reviewed again next year
5. the purchase of plots etc at the Cemetery is increased by 3% as from 1 April 2007
6. all other budgets, expenditure contained therein and recommendations be approved and accepted
7. the Clay Cross Parish Council Precept 2007/08 is set at £190,000