

Ash Parish Council Finance Committee Meeting
Monday 8 November 2010 at 7.30pm Ash Village Hall Library
MINUTES

1. Present: Mr Foat (Chairman), Mr Busby, Mr Cooper, Mr Palmer.
2. Apologies: Mrs Bilham, Mr Pratt, Mr Whitburn.

It was proposed by Mr Palmer, seconded by Mr Cooper and agreed that: This Council accepts the reasons given for apologies from Mrs Bilham, Mr Pratt and Mr Whitburn.
3. It was proposed by Mr Cooper, seconded by Mr Foat that the Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 8 November 2009 were agreed as a true record and were signed by Mr Foat, the Chairman.
4. It was agreed to recommend drawing up a budget which would keep within an increase of 1.5% to £72,065 on last year's precept of £71,000.
5. Matters Arising:- the Designated Alcohol Signs had been purchased but were still to be put up
6. To be considered:
 - i) Current year spending to be completed was noted:-
 - a larger bin for Pound Corner and a second bin for The Street Car Park Bus Shelter
 - dog bin for Street End Field and two replacement dog bins on Recreation Ground
 - Burford's Alley Hedge Cutting was to be done in November
 - Welcome to Ash Village Signs – this was to be referred back to KCC Cllr Ridings
 - ii) It was agreed to recommend that earmarked reserves were to be – PCSO - £6,000, Youth - £3,000, Toddlers' Play Equipment - £2,000. The Clerk would look at additional grant funds to reach the estimated total of £6,000. Additionally an item of £2,500 to be put in the budget for Speed Reduction Actions.
 - iii) Elections – May 2011 DDC charge is estimated at £1,983 for a contested election. £2,000 to be allowed for in the budget.
 - iv) It was agreed to recommend administration costs at £3,300 with an increase in the amount allocated to training for possible new councillors after the May elections.
 - v) It was noted that the play equipment budget amount of £500 was for maintenance. Other maintenance items are as shown reflecting either current year actuals plus the additional re-chargeable waste removal items under Toilets.
 - vi) It was agreed to recommend allocating £250 to support the Ash Dog Action Group programme rather than spend this money on hiring the Dog Warden.

It was noted that the Pavilion Committee were installing an outside light at the Pavilion.
 - vii) It was agreed to recommend the following Grants
 - £2,600 to Ash Village Hall and £400 to Westmarsh Village Hall (noting that there is prior year grant yet to be paid)
 - £500 to Heritage Centre for revenue costs
 - £500 to Parochial Church Council for the maintenance of the Church Yard
 - £100 to BTCV for the Tree and Pond warden scheme
 - viii) It was agreed to recommend a budget item of £2080 be included to cover costs of having to deal with all Planning Applications electronically. This covers PC £800, Projector £350, A3 Printer £200 and possible Planning Sub-Ctte extra 4 hours a month for Clerk @ £11.55 per hour.
 - ix) It was agreed to recommend that a budget item of £300 to replace at least one Boundary Stone in the parish.
 - x) It was agreed to recommend a budget item of £500 for the Directory in 2011.
 - xi) LDF Site Allocations Consultation – if there were any costs they could be taken from existing meeting room hire budget or contingency funds.
 - xii) It was noted that the Tree work budget was held at £1,200 to cover any possible work or emergencies.
 - xiii) It was agreed to recommend acceptance of the C& W Groundcare quote for the Recreation Ground Maintenance and Mowing at the same price as for the current year.

It was noted that an amount for the annual cutting of Burford's Alley Hedge and the boundary hedges were included in this budget item.

- xiv) It was agreed to recommend a budget item of £9,165 for The Street Toilets as the figure provided by DDC Property Services for the actual costs for this year.
 - xv) It was agreed to recommend the continuation of the contract for the PCSO with the budget item including the 3.5% increase as required by the contract.
 - xvi) Staff matters – it was noted that local government employees' salaries are frozen. It was agreed to recommend that the Environment Assistant salary be increased in line with Agricultural Craft Rate as set by the Agricultural Wages Board from 1 October.
7. It was agreed that the Clerk adjust the draft budget according to the recommendations and bring to the December 6th Parish Council meeting. It was noted that the precept request must be with Dover District Council no later than Friday 4 February 2011.
8. Allotment charges
It was agreed to recommend no increase in the allotment charges for 2012.
9. Any other business
- i) The campaign for super broadband for Ash – Race to Infinity. To be eligible required a minimum of 1,000 responses and then the additional response is judged on the highest % of possible homes that can respond. Mr Cooper obtained the cost of printing a leaflet for Ash at £168. It was not judged to be essential and so the subject should come to the next meeting of the Parish Council.
 - ii) The map of the new sites for possible inclusion in the LDF for Ash was displayed. The link needs to be on the web-site and the map can be placed in the noticeboard when the additional copies are available.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.