

Ash Parish Council Finance Committee Meeting
Monday 24 October 2011 at 7.30pm Ash Village Hall Library
MINUTES

1. Present: Mr Foat (Chairman), Mr Busby, Mr Cooper, Mr Darvell, Mr O'Connell, Mr Palmer, Mr Whitburn
Apologies: Mrs Bilham, Mrs Martin, Prof Swingland
2. Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 8 November 2010 were proposed by Mr Busby, seconded by Mr Palmer, agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.
3. Matters Arising
 - i) The Clerk apologised to the Council for not having sourced the fixings for the Designated Alcohol Area signs. This would be done as soon as possible.
 - ii) It was explained that the BTCV was a scheme that supported tree and pond volunteers to develop interest and support for existing and new schemes. The Parish Council has at different times made a contribution. Wardens for Ash need to be confirmed with the BTCV.
 - iii) The boundary stone project was continuing and further information was being sought on what would be the most suitable type of marker and the best place for it to be replaced so that it would be less likely to be removed.
4. Report on current year spending:- the directory / welcome pack would be completed in this financial year; the Clerk had spoken to the Rugby Club about the generator and was asked to re-confirm the position; the purchase of new IT equipment was being delayed until the actual introduction of the electronic DDC planning system so that the equipment would be as up to date as possible; the toddlers' slide money would be held in the reserves until sufficient grant funding had been obtained to make the purchase.
5. Request for Ash Jubilee Bash Grant of £1,054 for booking bouncy castle, sumo suits and bungee run deposits - £600, paying insurance - £454, was moved to the November meeting so that the group could submit a draft budget for the event.
6. To be considered for coming financial year's expenditure budget:-
 - i) Recreation Ground – it was agreed to leave the play area unfenced and to ask for the assistance of the Dog Action Group to stop the dog fouling of this area. If it was not possible to prevent fouling then the Council would need to consider re-imposing the requirement that all dogs be kept on leads while in the Ground. The general condition of the fencing was to be checked.
 - ii) Grants – it was agreed to budget as follows: Mr Darvell outlined the unexpected costs facing the Ash Village Hall and it was agreed to increase their grant to £3,000, £100 to Westmarsh Village Hall and it was noted that they could approach the Parish Council if there was a need for a special item of expenditure, £500 for the Churchyard Maintenance to the St Nicholas Parochial Church Council, £500 to the Ash Heritage Centre for revenue costs.
 - iii) Safe Driving Campaign and Speed Indication Devices proposal from Mr O'Connell to be taken at the November meeting
 - iv) Tree work agreed to include the suggested maintenance figure; Ground cutting contract would be taken at the November meeting; Recreation Ground Hedges would continue to be done by the current contractors
 - v) The Street Toilets - £9,374 was the actual cost from DDC and this was agreed
 - vi) Other Items – it was agreed that the £241 in reserves from the Parish Action Plan could go towards funding the Welcome Pack / Directory; that the costs of the A257 project could come out of general reserves rather than the precept. It was noted that KCC Officer, Mr Alan Riley, may be able to offer assistance to lease this land; that the Council should seek grant funds for as many of its projects as possible.
 - vii) PCSO – it was agreed to continue the contract

- viii) Staff matters – it was agreed to budget for the annual increase as per the Agricultural Wages Board Craft Rate for the Environment Assistant and it was noted that at present there was no planned increase in local government wage scales which applied to the Clerk. There was an additional £600 included should there be need to introduce a separate monthly meeting for Planning
 - ix) The general running costs as shown on the outline budget were agreed.
7. It was agreed that the Clerk compile the draft budget and the setting of the precept be taken at the November Parish Council meeting. It was noted that the precept request was to be made to DDC by February 2012.
 8. Allotment charges for 2013 – it was proposed by Mr Darvell, seconded by Mr Whitburn and agreed to raise the annual charge to £25 per full allotment.
 9. Any other business – the light on the access road to the Pavilion on the Recreation Ground was not working; the hedge on the path to Chilton Field was raised.

There being no further business the meeting closed.