

Ash Parish Council Finance Committee Meeting
Monday 15 October 2012 at 7.30pm Ash Village Hall Library
Minutes

1. Present: Mr Foat (Chairman), Mrs Bilham, Mr Cooper, Mr Darvell, Mr Gregory, Mr O'Connell, Mr Palmer, Mr Whitburn
Apologies: Mr Busby
2. Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 24 October 2011 were proposed by Mr Whitburn, seconded by Mr Palmer, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
3. Matters Arising
It was noted that the pond and tree warden grants were not going to be made as the wardens were no longer active.
4. Report on current year spending to be completed:
 - generator awaiting further information from the Ash Rugby Club. The £947 has to be ring-fenced for this purpose.
 - projector was still to be purchased as it would be useful for the NDP Cttee as well as Planning. To be held in reserves.
 - toddlers' slide and rubbish bins still to be actioned and will be held in reserves until purchased.
5. Setting of Precept – Possible delay due to on-going Government Consultation. It was agreed to write to MP Laura Sandys asking her to clarify the position.
6. To be considered for coming financial year's expenditure budget
 - i) Recreation Ground: – adult fitness equipment to come to the November 2012 meeting;
 - it was recommended to continue to repair the fencing around the play area rather than replace;
 - it was proposed by Mr Gregory, seconded by Mr Palmer and recommended to go ahead with the see-saw repair at £400;
 - it was proposed by Mr Whitburn, seconded by Mr Palmer and recommended to make good the safety surface around the see-saw;
 - hedge cutting and Maintenance Contract – it was agreed to obtain a second quote for the maintenance contract for Ground;
 - three bins are to be installed
 - a new seat was suggested; once this had been costed it could be considered for the budget
 - ii) Grants – recommendations: Ash VH £,3000, Westmarsh Village Hall £100, Parochial Church Council £500, Heritage Centre £500
 - iii) PACE – Mr Darvell proposed, Mrs Bilham seconded and it was recommended to offer support to the PACE project. It was agreed that PACE could have use of the Recreation Ground when it was not being used by the Sports Clubs. More detail was to be requested on what amount of financial support was needed. It was proposed by Mr Whitburn, seconded by Mr Darvell and agreed to recommend £1,000 could be used from the Youth Reserves.
 - iv) Safe Driving Campaign, Speed Indication Devices, Traffic Calming Measures – it was agreed to see how SID works when it is available and then assess if the equipment should be purchased by the Council in conjunction with Wingham Parish Council
 - v) The Street Toilets - £10,497 was the actual charge for 2013
 - It was proposed by Mr Cooper, seconded by Mr Gregory and recommended that a tap be installed in the toilets that could be used for a pressure washer with the costs coming out of contingencies. Mr Gregory offered the use of a pressure washed to assess before taking a decision on purchase.

- vi) It was proposed by Mr Darvell, seconded by Mr Cooper and recommended to put £6,800 in the budget for possible Neighbourhood Development Plan costs for 2013 and £8,500 into the budget for 2014.
 - vii) Saunders Wood - £13,500 ring fenced in reserves
 - viii) Library Services – noted that this may be a future cost
 - ix) Local Security – it was recommended that the amount that would have been spent on the PCSO contract be held under Security
 - x) Cleaning and re-lettering War Memorials – it was agreed that Mr Darvell make an assessment on re-furbishment and that the Clerk to see about grants for any work needed.
 - xi) Staff matters – it was proposed by Mr Whitburn seconded by Mr Cooper and recommended that the National Agreement for Clerks and the Agricultural Wages Board for the Environment Assistant be followed.
7. Compile draft budget and precept for the November Parish Council meeting. Precept request to DDC by February 2013
 8. It was proposed by Mr Whitburn, seconded by Mr Darvell and recommended that the Allotment charges for 2014 be increased pro rata to £25 per full plot.
 9. Draft changes to Financial Regulations were tabled.
 10. Draft Changes to Standing Orders were tabled.
 11. Any other business – none

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.