

Woodchester Parish Council

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Minutes of the Finance Meeting held in the Village Hall on 1st November, 2012 at 6.15pm

Present: Cllrs. Bastin, Hamilton, Dunbar and Swait.

In attendance: The clerk.

2012/11 To receive apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

2012/12 To receive declarations of interest in items on the Agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

2012/13 To approve the minutes of June 27th 2012.

These were approved.

2012/14 To review budget versus expenditure for 2012/13.

This was reviewed, the only concern being the accounts for the Woodchester Word.

2012/15 To discuss and agree a budget for financial year 2013/2014.

The budget for the clerk's salary could be reduced by £200 as even with CiLCA training it would fall within this figure.

The budget for travel expenses will remain the same as Cllrs. Baldauf and Dunbar may attend training which would incur travel expenses. The clerk will provide the dates for relevant courses. The training budget was reduced by £50 as CiLCA training for the clerk will cost £225, which leaves £625 for other courses.

The clerk mentioned that the scanner on the printer does not work and photocopying is carried out by her husband at work. The PC agreed that a new printer should be purchased. The clerk will provide details to be agreed by the councillors.

The priority expenditure could therefore be reduced by £250.

In terms of secondary expenditure, the maintenance budget will be increased by £200 to £2200.

Two quotes have been received for work to an ash tree of Church Lane. Cllr. Bastin will investigate ownership of this land and will also look into obtaining a further quote. The clerk had driven around the village with Ian Smith who was concerned about the build-up of mud on Little Hill and the additional time this was taking to clear. Cllrs. Bastin and Hamilton will aim to speak to the landowner to ask that this maintenance be carried out. The clerk will contact Ian Smith about the removal of concrete posts beneath the notice board on Selsley Road.

The budget for the Woodchester Word will remain the same. The last issue was 16 pages which increased the cost of printing. Reducing production to three issues per year was discussed, but it was felt that the news would be more out-of-date and revenue from advertising would decrease. It was felt that it would be useful for Cllrs. Dunbar and Lead and Rod Harris to meet and discuss the advertising and looking at the possibility of creating additional revenue.

The cost of hosting the website will increase to £20 per month from December. The budget for the website was increased by £50 to £300.

The secondary expenditure was therefore increased by £250.

£1000 will be earmarked on account for election costs.

2012/16 To discuss and agree the precept required for financial year 2013/2014.

The finance committee recommends that the precept for 2013/2014 remains the same at £11,150.
The clerk will contact SDC to find out the tax base for this period.

2012/17 To discuss separating the accounts of the Woodchester Word from the Parish Council accounts.

This is not possible at present as the PC must still contribute to the costs of printing.

2012/18 To receive questions from members of the public.

There were no members of the public present.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm.

Signed

Date.....