

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 7TH JANUARY 2016 AT 1.30 P.M AT LISSIAM LODGE MILL LANE TAPLOW

Present

Cllr. John Bamberg (Chairman) Cllr. George Sandy

Cllr. John Kennedy

Mrs. Hilda Holder –Clerk

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 1.30pm.

FC/01/16 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Zoe Hatch. There were no declarations of interest.

FC/02/16 To approve minutes of the meeting held on 16th October 2015

These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

FC/03/16 Matters arising from the previous minutes

In response to an enquiry relating to item FC/21/15 from the Chairman, the Clerk confirmed that following a further revision of the financial position £90,000 rather than £100,000 had in fact been placed on deposit for 18 months from October 2015.

FC/04/16 To review income and expenditure and consider the budget for 2016/17

4.1 A summary of income and expenditure to the end of December 2015 was presented to the meeting. The Chairman commented that the overall situation was healthy and there was currently an £8,500 surplus with a quarter's income and expenditure to go. Indeed he anticipated a surplus by the financial year end. He commented on a few 'oddities' in the figures. In particular hall hire was about £1,000 less than last year.

4.2 A draft budget was presented to the meeting. The Chairman advised it would be prudent to reduce the expected hall hire income to £17,000 and to recommend a 2% increase in salaries. It was anticipated that some work would need doing to window frames and to re-oil the Perkins Room door but it was recommended that a re-inspection of the trees could be put off for another year. The Chairman proposed that in the light of the revised budget a precept of £16,000 would be sufficient to allow a break even position and avoid a surplus.

4.3 Hall hire costs were reviewed and it was agreed to recommend to Council that hall hire charges should be increased across the board at a rate of 3% except for the special rate for children's parties which could stay at £60.

FC/05/16 To agree a precept for year to 31st March 2017

The Chairman proposed the precept be reduced to £16,000. It was agreed to recommend this to full council.

FC/06/16 Any other business

6.1 Cllr. Sandy advised that Cllr. Hatch would be putting forward a debate about the location and timings of future finance committee meetings at the Council meeting on 26th January. He enquired whether the Chairman had a view on this issue as he would wish to propose that – since the finance committee did not make decisions but had an advisory role only – the committee could be disbanded and replaced with a working party which were not public meetings. The Chairman said he objected strongly to any

suggestion that the finance committee was operating in secret. Meetings were legally held at a private home and properly advertised. He reported back at APMs and no resident had once mentioned having an issue with this. He said he did not think there was a problem with the system and would prefer to keep things as they were.

6.2 The Clerk reported that she had had great difficulty contacting the bank by phone as she was not a signatory. A form was signed that allowed the Clerk to make enquiries only by telephone.

FC/07/16 Date and time of next meeting and items for the next meeting

The next Finance Committee Meeting would be on 6th May. Items should include approval of the accounts and annual return as well as review of performance to date.

The next full council meeting was scheduled for 26th January.

The meeting closed at 2.28pm.

This concludes the Minutes