

BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED Minutes of a meeting of the Finance Committee held on Tuesday 6 December at 7.30 pm in New Hall, Biddenden

Present: Cllr H Ruse (Chair)
Cllr D Boulding
Cllr E Cansdale
Cllr P Harris

Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)

1 parishioner attended

1. **Chairman's opening remarks**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr J Tydeman who was on holiday.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2011**

There being no comment upon the unapproved minutes presented it was proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and proper record. Proposed by: Cllr E Cansdale Seconded by Cllr T Lupton. **Unanimous.**

4. **Matters arising from the minutes**

The Clerk reported that she had accompanied Cllr Cansdale on a walk round noting the assets. A valuation by researching replacement prices was to be done.

The query regarding subsidence cover was discussed. The Clerk had received a subsidence questionnaire which needed to be completed before a quotation for the additional cover could be given. A reply from the insurance company was still awaited with regard to any discount.

It was noted that the Annual Accounts had not yet been approved due to an objection to the 2010/11 Annual Account presented to the Audit Commission.

5. **To consider the 2012/13 Budget**

- a) It was explained that the budget had been done on a 5% inflationary basis. The CPI forecast a 5% increase in October 2011.

- b) It was RESOLVED to recommend to full Council that 5% increases be applied to the following fees with effect from 1 April 2012 and that the affected organisations be advised in good time:

Football pitch fees
Charges for use of facilities
Income for Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow
Allotment rents

Proposed by: Cllr T Lupton Seconded by Cllr D Boulding **Unanimous**

- c) It was noted that the lease for the Post Office was due for renewal in July 2012. Rent is currently revised annually according to the RPI.
- d) The Clerk was asked to review figures again for the following cost centres:
- Electricity
Website
Grounds Maintenance
Water
Rates – the Clerk was also asked to check the level
- e) It was noted that there would be costs associated with instability of the squash court embankment.
- f) **It was agreed** that the Clerk would carry out the review of the items noted in point d) above and would then circulate the revised budget to the Chairman and Cllr Lupton for agreement prior to circulation.

6. Post Office Lease Renewal

The Post Office lease is due for renewal in July 2012 and the Clerk asked that it be recommended that agreement be sought from the full Council for her to approach the solicitors for advice on the next steps.

7. Items for future consideration.

There were no items for future consideration.

The meeting closed at 2045

Alison Swannick 07783 223450
Parish Clerk