

HALSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 2 JANUARY 2014 in THE PAVILION, STATION ROAD AT 18.30

PRESENT: Cllr. Chris Ford, Chairman
Cllr. David Taylor, Chairman of Council
Cllr. Jeff Baldwin
Cllr. Terry Brooker

IN ATTENDANCE, Clerk,
The meeting convened at 18.45

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Taylor proposed Cllr. Ford, seconded by Cllr. Brooker and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: Cllr. Ford was elected Chairman of the Finance Committee.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr. Blundell who was unwell. Members signed the register.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Brooker: non-pecuniary interest. He is a member of the Cricket Club and licences are to be discussed.

4. UPDATE ON GRANT FROM SDC

No decision has been made as to whether there will be a grant this year

The Tax base for the year had increased to 743.16 from 713.52.

5. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

The Committee discussed the prepared draft budget.

A. **Recreation Ground:** it was agreed to amend the budget moving £1000 from ground maintenance (weeding and fertilising) to vertidrainage. The Clerk will ascertain the cost of vertidrainage.

B. **Open Spaces:** discussion took place on who is responsible for cutting the hedge behind the bus shelter: the owner of the land behind the hedge to be contacted. The tree by the Millennium Village Sign needs pruning. The draft budget includes funds for both of these.

C. It was noted that a provisional figure had been included for the installation of the car park at the allotments. Cllr. Brooker was not in favour of continuing with the freighter service. – *Agenda item January Parish Council meeting.*

D. **Section 137:** reduced to £400.

E. Licences:

Cricket Club had requested a £100 reduction in the licence fee. This is to compensate for loss of income when the football matches and cricket fixtures clash. The Committee felt that this was not viable due to the loss of income following the departure of the Junior Football Club. The clash of fixture dates to be looked into.

Cllr. Brooker proposed that the Cricket Club be given a £50 reduction for season 2014 as a one off gesture; seconded by Cllr. Taylor, carried unanimously. This will be put to full Council – *Agenda item January Parish Council meeting.*

Football Club. It was suggested that the licence fee should be increased by £50 to £575; agreed. *Agenda item January Parish Council meeting.*

Netball Club. It was suggested that the licence fee should be increased by £15 to £220; agreed *Agenda item January Parish Council meeting.*

Income

Cllr. Taylor suggested that hirers should be asked to book a whole year in advance rather than in 3 – 6 month blocks. He suggested they could be given a discount as an incentive. Regular hirers already have a reduced rate per hour - *Agenda item January Parish Council meeting*

6. INFORMATION

The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on Wednesday 8 January at 18.00 in the Pavilion

The meeting closed at 21.00

61/13-14